

W. E. Brooks

Chilliwack Feb. 6-1888
British Columbia
6th Feby 1888

W. H. Brewster

Dear Sir

Mr. Steate of Somersetshire
England in a letter received the
other day gives me the addresses of
several "good collectors" including
yourself, with whom he thinks we
might exchange specimens.

My son Allan skins very well
and from time to time we get hold of
some good birds.

I believe you may have one bird
that I greatly wish to possess, and
for even a single characteristic
example will give you an abundant
return, much beyond specimen for
specimen.

Of the genus Acornthis I have examples
of all but a rostrata. Dr. Stejneger
lent me 4 and I took their measure-
ments and made a coloured sketch
of a characteristic male in red
plumage. Can you possibly spare me
a male, either red or in the adult
grey plumage? One is also very much

Very welcome examples of Acornthis you can spare I shall be very glad of. I do not
know if the rostrata for my own satisfaction but I am afraid I shall
never get the
material.
I hope it is a
very
fine
specimen.
Yours truly
W. E. Brooks

wanted by John Hancock for the
Newcastle N. exim. I told him all
about this fine species & sent him a
sketch of the head, but in spite of all I
said he does not think there can be
a fine large redpoll of the size of hornemannii
& yet most thoroughly distinct.

Of course it is a thoroughly distinct
species; this is apparent at a glance, &
Stegener is very wrong in thinking other-
wise. There is no room for any such thing
as a trinomial here.

I don't know how it is that so many ornithologists speak of intermediate forms and hybrids. I have worked amongst small birds as much as most of them, and I have never seen a clear case of interbreeding, except that of the two crows Corvus and Corone, and also a few cases between Pheasants & Black grouse. Stegener sent me a lot of Redpolls some of which he thought showed interbreeding, but I found them all easily separable.

The difficulty is this; a ragged bird in late summer plumage is not easy to determine, and thus a worn faded a. exilis looks somewhat unlike itself when more than half the white is gone.

The very great difference between summer & autumn plumage is very conspicuous in many of the genus Phylloscopus. I have seen all the blue and yellow of P. affinis ~~and~~ destroyed by the sun except a little on the supercilium, and out of a worn summer example of P. plumbeitarsus some made his new species "Seebohmi". As soon as I saw the description in print I asked him to send me the type, or one or two of the lesser wing coverts. I found remains of the upper wing bar. Plumbeitarsus has 2 wing bars. It is found in Burma & on to China. Seeborn on afterwards examining his name sake decided it was P. vindarus. He missed the faint remains of the upper wing bar. P. vindarus has several times been stated to occur in Burma, but the examples sent to me were a faded plumbeitarsus. The stouter bill of the latter is I think sufficient to separate it. I only mention the case of Phylloscopus to show how different the same species sometimes is in late summer. I have seen a steel blue black crow a light rusty brown, all his metallic lustre being gone!!

With regard to the Redpolls u. holboellii is the only species I am doubtful about for the bill of Linaria is very variable as to length. I am almost sure it is only Linaria. Stejneger sent me some characteristic examples including Swedish ones from the discoverer but I consider them

only Linaria. As well as I remember one of my Ontario birds had quite as large a bill as that of the Cuckoo-hobbler.

I suppose you know that the rosy plumage of the male of all the species only occurs the first and second year. The next autumn, it's first autumn, assumes rosy plumage which gets brighter the following spring and summer as the ends of the feathers wear away, but the next autumn it puts on plumage similar to the female which it ever after retains. Carpodacus and other similar genera do the same. Hancock has often shot male and female ^{together} at the nest colour alike, and I have frequently seen the old breeding birds of Carpodacus in the same plumage.

Crowsbills too once they moult the pure red they wear again it but pass to orange pale pinkish & finally to a green & yellow streaks like the female. So also Piricula, Killan & I got many grey & yellow males. I once shot a male of this species of a fine autumn colour but it was so shattered I did not skin it.

Mr Davison who used to collect from Heron is now Supt. of the Raffles Museum at Singapore. He is going to send me a box of small birds collected in India Pipit Phylloscopi Scirpa & straits birds as well from time to time - and I have to send him what he calls cosmopolitan species from this.

We get numbers of Amphispiza formosa here & in summer a cedrorum breeds here - the other goes North. Two species of Otocoris occur here. A yellow headed one is when the is usually placed, with brownish back and a larger head greyer with absolutely no yellow. I have not yet compared the yellow one with the Ontario birds.

Have you *Otocoris arundinacea*, Girardi's
Chrysolocoma, and *rubra* to spare?

Chilliwack,

15. 2.
Mr. William Brewster Apr. 18, 1888.

Dear Sir

I received your letter of the
8th March which was delayed by one of
the snow blockades so common on the
C.P.R.

I am sorry you have not a spare
A. cauthis rostrata. When you do get
any I should be glad of one for myself
and another to send to the Newcastle
Museum. In England hardly any one
believes in this very distinct species
except because they have not seen it.

We have got a few of the common
Linaria here but my youngest son
Allan declares he has twice seen
a much larger bird and that it is
not a white bird like *hornemannii*
but of darker tone with very deeply
forked tail. He says the note is distinct
Once he shot one but it fell in the snow
and he could not recover it & the
other time he ~~too~~ missed it & never saw
it after. I wonder what species it could

it seem. It has broad base of breast lower on the tail & is a much lighter tone than *Columbianus* you say
J. B. B. B.

W. G. 1

W. G. Brooks Apr. 18 = 1888

have been? Dr. Stejneger did not believe that a *Salix* occurred in Europe till I sent him a Siberian bird from the Petchora river collected by Seeborn.

You say you would like resident Chilkewack birds - You don't mean by this the few birds that are found here all the year round?

Of the mountainous birds we have not got any as yet - except the rufous backed tit and a leucosticte which may be *L. leucosticte* as it appears to answer to the description. The black Chinned Hummingbird & Bairds Sandpiper are found here so is a Red Hummingbird with brilliant crimson throat. I am not well up in the American birds and fear I never shall be so as to quote the Latin names without referring to the book. I should be glad of a few examples of *Otocoris* so as to determine our Ontario and B. C. ones. Both the B. C. ones appear to be distinct from the Ontario ones. This last week only the pale toned one without any yellow is to be seen. Allan shot a fine one today. Yesterday he got some *Anthus pinestramicus*

in spring plumage. This pupit appears close to A. aquatica
and a blastostomi but does not lose its spots in summer
the way the latter two do. The cloudy winter spots being
exchanged for ^{a few} small well defined summer ones. Its habits
prefering marshy places corresponds with those of the other
two. Another truly aquatic pupit is A. roseacea of India:
which has bright sulphur yellow axillaries.

I made a large collection of birds in India which are now
most of them in the British Museum - Others went to Seebother
J. Hancock & Canon Tristram. The types of the few birds?
named are in the British Museum. One of the last
birds I shot was a new Phylloscopus exceedingly like P. tristis
but with an utterly different voice. P. tristis has sulphur yellow
axillaries but this bird (P. scindianus) has them pure white.
I found both frequenting the same places in Sind down to
Sutchen and Schwan but at Multan and Lahore I only
met with P. tristis. I also found Hirundo Lesser Whitthroat
& C. cinerea & the common C. affinis were plentiful in Sind
but in the Punjab I only saw C. affinis.

The two small owls Scops. Henicotti and S. jamaica are
found here, Nyct. olivaceus, the common & blue winged
two are common, Columba fasciata common in the summer.
There is a Quail here like Q. virginianus but the rufous on the
breast is replaced by black the throat white. I shot it last
summer do you know what it is?

If you want good specimens of Strophocitta virens and Chaetura
viridis, and the North western Fluff (Colaptes) we can
get them for you. Allan is getting examples of all the birds
he meets with so whatever this valley produces we may
be able to send you except the Vulture (C. aura) which
won't fall to any charge of shot I give them. I thought
they were Eagles they look so unlike our Indian Vulture.
I have killed V. monachus, V. bengalensis & V. barbatulus but
this enormous Vulture has not fallen as yet. As far as I can make
out we have Falco richardsoni here in the summer. I hope we shall have

N. S. Brooks

Aug 3. 1888 Chilliwack

British Columbia
3rd August - 1888

Dear Sir

Of the birds you mention Allan has them all ready except Falco richardsoni and Scops Kerriocotti both of which he expects to get this fall. He has one of the last but, though we have frequently seen Falco richardsoni it has escaped us so far.

There is a black merlin here F. suckleyi, do you want it? It differs from F. columbarius in having hardly any light marking on the under surface of the outer primaries, just a little pale spot instead of the usual cross bar. The western sandpiper Greenotes occidentalis, and Tinga bairdii are on hand; also very fine examples of Macrosom ^{Scops} scopaceus.

Two species of Greenotes are found here, a

long and a short billed one, quite distinct I think.

Of the Otocorys Allan would like characteristic examples of Alpestris, aromica, giraudi, Chrysalasma and if you would also put in a characteristic example of pratensis I can return it or send you an Ontario example in its stead, whichever you prefer. We have a lot like bird McIlhenny terms pratensis but as his "aromica" is certainly the same species I have not much confidence in his identification. Of other birds Allan wants he notes some waders, such as,

- Agrius montana
- " nivosa
- " wilsonia
- " - meloda

Neocorys spraguei (don't include this one
Microfalma himantopus "wader")
Lophus tricolor and the other
2 Phalaropus if in summer plumage.
Are any of your examples of Otocorys

Alpestris European ^{ones} exemplis? If you cannot spare a European one I should be glad of the loan of one to compare with an Ontario one to see if any are that species. When in England I had many given me by Mr Craemors of Mechangel, but Home & Seaborn got all my Indian collections with which they were incorporated.

Before long Allan will make out a list of all this new country has produced so far & you will see them what you would like best.

There is a marsh wren here which Allan calls Cistothorus — ? It is larger than the Eastern bird and differs as follows 1. Under tail coverts strongly barred with brown, 2. Top of head strongly marked down each side with black, 3. Super ciliary more conspicuous, 4. Bill more slender and shorter though a larger bird, 5. Tail more ample & more vividly barred, 6. Wings ditto, 7. Back with a black patch streaked with white, very marked & strikingly different from the Eastern Marsh wren. We have also its nest of 6 eggs. From this description can you name it? The foot is smaller than that of the little one (C. palustris)

Have you a spare Cistothorus stellatus?

Is our bird here Baird's C. planchicola? Why is the latter omitted from the last A. O. C. Check list?

Yours very truly

W. E. Brooks

W. G. Brewster

Chilliwack, Aug. 30-1888.

British Columbia

30th August 1888

Dear Mr Brewster

Many thanks for the Box of
Skins which arrived the day
before yesterday. It had gone
to the custom house hence the
delay. Your letter arrived long
before. This Canadian Surt
Charge 20 % duty on Specimens
of Natural History: does
your Surt charge duty on
Nat-Hist specimens?

Other boxes I had from Dr
Styger were not-charged.

I don't understand this.

I don't either see the items of
bird skins in the Tariff published
list for 1887.
I was much interested in the
Otocores. No one would dream
of uniting Chrysolæma and Alpestris
but Siraudi, pratensis, aromida
and I think strigata seem a
good deal alike. I should like
to midsummer examples of
Alpestris. As far as I can see we
only get pratensis at Milton
in Hallow Co.

The branch you appear to be
pratensis. The specimen Allan
sends is not a very good one but
we shall have some better before
long. I forget what birds he
has put in the box for you, but

Falco sseklegzi is one. A few birds he has included are not in your desiderata but I think they will interest you. As soon as we can you shall have the other birds you spoke of. Falco Richardsoni has eluded us after all - Some times we had a good chance of it when no gun was at hand. I had both barrels at me with my heavy 10 bore but it was too high. It is quite a light coloured bird & does not affect the heavy wooded country.

If you can get me a copy I should like much to see Kennahaw's paper on the Otaeases. I expect it will be superior to Seeborn's on the Phylloscopinae. What a horrible mess he made of it. He sent the M.S. to me to look over but I told him it required to be entirely rewritten. Some people cannot describe colour & the idea of using such an expression as "dashed all over" for tinged or washed with. His paper gives the idea of a lot of streaked or spotted birds. He had only just learned to distinguish most of the group when he was seized with the wish to write a monograph of them. If you ever saw that V vol of the B. M. catalogue you would notice that he says Phylloscopus lugubris "would scarcely be entitled to specific rank were it not that it appears to have a more Eastern geographical range". How independent of the lugubris is smaller more dusky & has an utterly different voice. Magnirostris also breeds in the Himalayas but lugubris does not. He also suppresses my Horornis pallidus & unites it with H. fortipes but I have seen & heard them both & know them to be distinct.

"Phylloscopus scythicus" of Home he places as a synonym of Prindanus. Now the bird (i.e. ragged summer plumage) came from Burma and most-certainly it was P. plumbeus = taraxus (Sumbrae) for it had the bill of that bird & I also discovered a clear trace of the upper wing bar & Prindanus has only one wing bar. Müller's P. presbyter he writes with Polyth's P. viridipennis. Now I examined Polyth's types in the Calcutta Museum & they were only small examples of P. trochiloides and there was not a trace of a white edged tail feather in either of them. They were also too large for presbyter. Horrester brunneus (Home) a very distinct species he also compounds ("confuses" he would say) with H. fortipes. These are only a few of his blunders and it would have been better for the science had he never attempted to write about

closely affixed species. He is a most
unsafe man where the distinctions
are slight.

Of *P. tyleri* he says Vol V B M Cat
"Autumn plumage. After the Autumn ^{Month} ~~plumage~~
the underparts are much buffier.

Winter plumage. Showing the usual effects of
chase." Now at the date when he wrote
that he had only seen summer birds. I
don't know who did get a winter bird.

He had one or two autumnal ones obtained
near Simla but these did not come to
England till long after the Catalogue was
published so he drew upon his imagination
for the changes of plumage. These little
birds moult in autumn and again in Spring!

So do the wagtails & titlarks, *Aeroccephalus*
also. I found it of no use collecting these
little birds in Feb & March on account
of the moult. I will add below the birds
sent you - Believe me yours & very truly
J. B. Brookes

- Falco tinnunculus*
- C. palustris*
- Circus neofasciatus*
- Otocoris leucoloma* ♂ ♀
- Amphisp. garuda*
- Tachycineta thalassina* ♂ ♀
- Cypseloides niger*
- Myio. bairdi*
- Eur. aculeator* (2)
- Do. frontalis*
- 2 Humming birds to
identify but not to
be returned. What are
they or is young.
Either 2 allie or
1 *myio.* *falis*
- Note true *columbaris*
is common here as
is *certina*, with the
immature broadly banded tail
with rufous

Mount Forest
Ontario
Canada

12th Nov 1894

W^m Brewster Esq

Dear Sir

My son Allan left this more than a month ago for British Columbia. His address is,

Chilliwack
British Columbia

Thinking your letter might possibly contain a Money Order on Mount Forest, I opened it, so that I could have cashed it and forwarded it on by another Post Office order to Chilliwack.


With this letter to you, I post at the same time your letter of 7th Nov to him.

He however tells me he has written to you from Chilliwack to give his present address, (Chilliwack)

He is now in a good collection, I trust again, and he will from time to time, I expect, let you know of his doings in the ornithological line.

Some time ago I think you had agreed to lend him a typical Amiota rostrata to draw and take very accurate particulars of. This he asked at my request.

I wonder would you be willing to lend one, a very characteristic big male with a decided convex bill,

Some what-like that of Passer domesticus . I forget the exact size and profile of the bill. This bird to be sent to Dr. Sclater Editor of the Ibis, if he engages to have a good plate published in the Ibis with a short notice of it & its ally L. hornmanni. Of the latter I would send a fine large male in full plumage, ^(I have several) and perhaps also typical L. exilipes and L. binaria if he decided upon figuring the whole, so as to contrast them all at a glance.

Of your fine species they have a most confused idea in England. I would send them carefully rolled in wool in a tin box by post, registered; and I would first get Sclater to guarantee a careful return. I would also urge him to take care that any interested enquirer should handle the specimen most carefully, so as not to ruffle it in the least. Sclater is also sect. of the Zoological Soc.?

I know him well, and I think he would do every thing as I have indicated. I would only send it if he did decide to figure it, and guaranteed its safe return.

I long to see this bird well figured, for it is pretty well regarded as mythical by the British Ornithologists.

If ever you are able to give me a good typical bird (♂) in the red plumage if possible I shall make it over to the British Museum. I know Dr. Sharpe very well, as I spent some time when home from India making notes of various types there: especially Hodgson's. I think there are some thousands of my specimens there which were presented by Mr. A. O. Hume when he made his large collection to the Museum, my types included.

If you are agreeable to what I propose I will write

to be taken on the subject, and let you know his reply.

There is another bird I am greatly interested in; this is Falco richardsoni. I got Mr Armstrong (a collector in Texas as well as I remember) to send me one, but Allan declared it to be only a pale F. columbarius.

If it be really a distinct bird from F. columbarius and you can at any time let me see a bird clearly showing this, I should be very glad.

Allan seems to have come to the conclusion that there is no such species as F. richardsoni, and he says the number of bars on the tail is variable in F. columbarius.

A very interesting bird sent me by Canon Fitch the other day is his new Phylloscopus fortunatus from the Canary Islands. He thought it a close ally of P. trochilus, but I think it most distinct from every Phylloscopus; and its rounded wing, long strong bill, with almost a straight-like hook at the tip, and long strong tarsi were almost lead me not to put it into the genus Phylloscopus. As to its being a near ally of P. trochilus, this is out of the question entirely. With it he sent a British example of P. rufus; so apparently he now considers this its nearest ally.

I did not say any thing about the two birds sent, and I have no idea how will be deposited. The bird sent me is the "Smithsonian No. 2". He has not replied

W. E. Brooks

But he sent me a good large bundle of back
papers written by himself Nov. 12-1874 principally in the Irish.
But these were directed in Miss Tristram's handwriting.

I am afraid he is ill again. About a year ago
he had a paralytic stroke, and lost his speech for a
while. But he recovered it in about 2 months; but
at the time he wrote to me (Sept^r) he said he was not
yet able to preach, though he ever times read the
ecclesiastical services.

Hoping you will excuse this long letter

I remain

Yours truly

W. E. Brooks

W. E. Brooks, Mount Forest
Dec. 3-1894.

3rd Dec^r 1894

Dear Mr Brewster

I was glad to receive your letter of 27th ult^o

If you do publish the plates of Acornis you speak of, I should greatly like to see a copy. I think in illustrations of birds for scientific purposes artistic effect is too much thought of. What is wanted is more of accurate coloured diagrams, or views of the bird from different points.

Now a side elevation won't always show the distinguishing characteristics, nor will a front or back view; but all the three will answer in most cases. Then I like enlarged diagrams of bill, plum or view from above, ⁺ side elevation. Of small birds these can be life size or also of feet, and again details of wing and opened tail. This was the way the late Mr Hodgson executed his drawings; and I have seen I think Platte's plates with the same useful details. The proportions of the wing primaries, and especially of the first or "bastard primary" are most useful for identification in the tytoidea, as I have often found when trying to determine them. The Ibis plates are merely pretty pictures, generally sufficient for scientific use, but sometimes not. The details being given on the blank portions of the plate don't spoil it at all I think, but make it of real value.

I don't think you have ever seen any of Allan's drawings of birds. Ask him to send you one or two. He has the faculty of depicting well the characteristics, and his form and colour are very accurate. Some of his water colour sketches I liked as well as any thing I have ever seen. I think you would be much

pleased with his work. He is rapid too in getting the effect he wants. DeSnyderer praised his work greatly. He sent sketches of Japan birds he wanted identifying.

I shall be greatly pleased to see Falco richardsoni. Armstrong of Texas sent us one or two but they were Californianus fine examples.

Allan writes that there are lots of Redpolls about; two sets he thinks. I have asked him to get the other set & send to me.

On the Lake where they are duck shooting, are 2 Falcons which take a hand in the sports & try to secure the wounded ducks (the "moss"); one is Falco mexicanus, and the other "a fine adult Gyrfalcon". I suppose that Cornell "Macfarlandi". I shot one of these when there. A most lonely bird marked something like one of the greater snowy owls. I spent the whole day over it till I got it, abandoning the duck sport.

Yours very truly

W E Brooks

If you complete your work I would give full sized diagrams of the bill of a. rostrata on your prints, perhaps contrasting it with that of a horreomanni. But the utterly different body coloration of the two species is abundantly distinctive; as is also the case in the two allied forms, exilis and liviana. WEB

Mount Forest mt.
2nd Dec 74

My dear Mr Brewster

I got the little box today with the 2 Falco richardsoni. I am greatly pleased with them. It is a truly good species.

Now where can I get a pair like yours adult ♂ & ♀? I mean to buy. Perhaps you can tell me of some collector who has the birds for sale. They are for the British Museum after I have taken what notes I want. At home they still believe the bird to be mythical.

I shall take the greatest care of the fine pair you have lent me & will return them soon registered. They were detained about 5 or 6 days at Orangeville the "Port of Entry". I shall make a complaint to the Canadian Post authorities. This systematic annoyance is despicable. It is still more vexatious when you have a bush or plant drying up at the place of detention as has often been the case with me for I frequently get great trees from Rochester and have had a good many killed by the delay.

I shall try and make a sketch of the two birds - I only wish I could do so as well as Allard. Today in looking into Baird's book I found a formal sketch of his which I shall enclose. I never saw it before. He used

Brooks - W. E.
Dec. 22nd 1894.

dit - hours working away with his pencil as long
as he had any blank paper.

How would you define the ~~characteristic~~ distinctions
between F richardsoni & F columbianus? The males?

What to you are the most notable points.

It is clearly a generally lighter toned
bird.

Yours very truly

W. E. Brooks

Mount Forest
Ontario, Canada
22^d Feby 1895

Dear Mr Brewster

Tomorrow if all I am going to
repack and send to you the two examples
of Falco richardsoni.

Very many thanks for your kindness
in lending them to me.

I should have returned them very
much sooner had I not been trying
to get some of my own; and I have
succeeded in getting 3 good ones; a
pair of adult males and a female.

I have made my notes with the
whole 5 before me and having yours
also to refer to was very convenient.

Mine are from Larimer Co. Colorado.

Your ? I am afraid is a ♂ in first plumage
for it is too small and contrary to the
usual Falco rule of the ♀ considerably ex-
ceeding the male in size.

Mine is a shade darker than yours,

and the entire crown is strongly washed with ash gray, notably so on upper third of wing from carpus.

The rump is also decidedly ash gray with broad white edges to the feathers of the lower rows. The whole lower surface resembles your bird.

As is generally the case long. tot. in the flesh an important measurement is not given. The stern rather short than stretched measures 12 inches - wing 8.80 while yours has the wing ^{nearly} fully an inch shorter 7.85. Her tail is 5.50 against 5.00 of yours - Yours has the nuchal collar white than mine but it is very pronounced in mine. I take this nuchal collar to be a good distinctive mark of the species contrasted with columbarius. Yours is a valuable bird if it is really a ♂ juv. But undersized birds do sometimes occur. The light rusty yellowish edges to all the upper surface brown feathers is more strongly marked in mine than yours but yours is distinct in this respect.

In the light rufous spots on webs of primaries the 2 birds are very similar.

On the first primary of each they are very narrow & creamy white in fact a sort of nearly

2

continuous creamy white line which widens a little opposite the bar of inner webs. The second primary of yours has the light-red spots rather small on the outer web, but mine has only a sort of continuous light-red mottling along side the shaft along the upper half of the feather, but from this onwards both birds have distinct outer web spots and of course inner web bars. In your ♀? The tail has one more bar than mine 6 light bars and the light tip; mine has 5 and the tip as in the male.

I had sent Allan a sketch of the "first" primary of yours but I rather think I wrote first when I should have written second. Referring to this he says - "the sketch of the first primary was most interesting; I saw at once from it what was the real distinction between it and columbarius, before I read Bigs-ways description, viz. the rufous marks on the outer webs of the primaries - I think this is a better distinction than any other." I think I told you that Mr Mc Ilraith sent me his 3 "richardsoni" to look at. They were from Texas and were all columbarius all of ♀ size but one was marked ♂. They were in ♀ plumage. Bars on tail were from 3 to 5 inclusive of tip

But in the 5-banded one. The style of bar was that of Columbarius & the broad ample tail was truly Columbarius. All three were dark toned birds & none of them had a nuchal collar. I sent him sketches of your bird, but he is of the same opinion still & calls them "my Richardsoni", and he says my sketch has the same "washed out" character observable in his Prairie birds.

It is not easy to sketch the ^{bird} ~~wing~~ so as to show its characteristic difference from Columbarius. I think I shall draw the spread wing of my ♀ bird and let him try to match that with his Columbarius -

I have sent my birds to Allan & he may as well take a sketch or two before they go to England. I'd just like to see how he will deal with the light rufous edges to upper surface. I have failed trying body colour.

One of my males is very lovely, a very bright white blue grey above dark reddish brown or chestnut nuchal collar - black wings & tail the latter with blue grey bars as in yours & the former with some of the former broad, edged with white - upper tail coverts also bordered white. Wing 7.60; tail 4.70. Lower surface as in yours. The other male is rich blue grey & all dark streaks from head to upper tail coverts bold & black. Rufous collar dark chestnut, tail the same

3

wings blacker + less or almost no white
edges; a few of the upper tail coverts
have white ends. All dark shaft
streaks are about twice the width of
your bird. This is not such a smooth
specimen as the other or it would have
been extremely beautiful. But the
3 birds give a very good idea of
this fine species. Wing of this 2^d male
7.85; tail 14.0.

Yours very truly
W. G. Brooks

Brooks - N. E.
Feb. 22. ^{and} 1895

Brooks - W. C.
March 10th 1896.

Mount Forest - N.Y.
Canada
12 March 96

Dear Sir

I had a letter from Allan who tells me that you
had got some birds for you to which he
sent you in about 2 weeks in date of writing is 24 Feb.
Among them are two Falco he shot - would
be sent me nice colored drawings. These I will be
England to see if the authorities at home could de-
termine the exact species. I sent a pair of Redpolls
to you from Allan later. Both L. leucurus though
one was very mealy. But have one - the other
one streaked upper + lower tail coverts determine it -

I had a letter from Dr. Schaler who says the next
I his report I suppose will illustrate Falco richardsoni
I sent home I nice ones on the British Museum. One
much lighter + darker blue than yours + a full sized female.
I am inclined to think that one you so kindly lent me as if
is a young male. Long hairs on scapulars difficult to
see and if the parts are anywhere injured by that is in
is quite difficult. But if any one could get the markings
the first plumage of the male would be set in me. I
remember I thought you had a series for Mr. H. a very
also got nestlings of Falco hastata indica indica
and the Indian Falco hastata indica indica with
notatus. This used to be called Falco hastata indica
about this Falco hastata indica indica
to H. is indica indica indica indica indica indica indica
is also somewhat like Falco hastata indica indica
is a very nice bird. I saw that Allan shot at + made

The known of the work has a chance to prove interesting.
 I can remember it went away to die. In one I killed
 a year ago & older than the mature one he is sending
 you. Still it is not so dark toned as hypofasciatus by
 any means. The least bird is in fresh plumage & more
 above having streaked below & tail plain. I ask
 if it is British or state of age & read the book. If you are
 any more of your own you will be able to come to some
 conclusion. I have seen very little of these birds but
 I saw quite a number of maculata the white of course
 tail. Even the young of this is a white toned bird with no
 cross barring. The second & it is a young bird
 was rather ignorant. I am he & mentioned to that
 they may be identical but I have seen too few to come
 to any fair conclusion. I think H. albicauda is an
 only a melanistic form of hypofasciatus but why then does
 this dark form only occur in North America & not in Northern
 Europe or Asia. It is true enough that we have dark forms of
 some of the buzzard but it would not do to conclude from
 this that Hierosfasciatus is also subject to melanism.
 I see Blanford has allied the name of the spotted eagle
 to A. maculata. It has stood as a clunensis for long.
 I have applied maculata to the lesser spotted eagle & I
 gave the latter a new name conceiving that no existing
 name was fairly applicable to it. It is very like hartata
 except that hartata has no large rufous nuchal patch
 while the other birds has. I doubt can hardly be separated.
 I will send up about 20 eggs & young if they may
 be of any use & I am sure you will be glad to see
 as a friend would not agree with my pet. The ones I have
 had the same face. I wish you had some birds as the f. soci
 seed & they are now in the British & it is in the museum.
 Yours very truly,
 J. P. S.

I am sure you will be glad to see
 J. P. S.

Do you see the difference between the two plates? I have some more of the same.

Haunt Forest
Ontario-Canada
24th Nov 1896

Dear Mr Brewster

Allan sent 3 Redpolls to me some time ago desiring me to forward them to you in Oct. I forgot but I hope I am not too late. He thought they were crosses with L. exilis - but I think they are all Linaria. I dare say the two species might interbreed, but the question is do they. Typical birds of either are easy to make out. I don't think it is known what young exilis in first plumage are like and what they are like after the autumnal moult. Whether they have the unstriped rump and the unstriped lower tail coverts from the first. I have half an idea that there might be some faint stripes at first in exilis. Allan lays great stress upon the small bill of exilis: but size of bill is a variable thing & though it might be possible for exilis to have a full sized Linaria bill Linaria might some times have an undressed bill. Linaria is certainly sometimes very grey with no buff or brown, but such birds have generally rather worn plumage and appear to have weathered to that degree of whiteness.

If I were a young man & were able to manage it how much I should like to spend a spring, summer & part of autumn at Unjawa to study all four birds well and make an extensive collection showing all their changes and variations. Equally well should I like a considerable time in India mostly in the hill

Brooks - N. E. / Nov. 24, 96

districts to work out some of the somewhat obscure
Phylloscopi there, especially the one I named *P. mandelli*.
The Russians appear to have met with this bird and term
it *Reguloides superciliosus* var. *mandelli*, but its affinities are
with *Reg. humii*. The *Reguloides* you know are now termed
Phylloscopus. My *Phylloscopus sibiricus*, they term *P. tristis*
var. *sibiriana*. This bird's affinities are with *P. trochilus* &
not with *P. tristis*. It is not a chaff chaff though of chaff
chaff coloration and instead of the weak sibilant note
of *tristis* it has a loud clear call very like that of the
English willow wren (*P. trochilus*) but in a higher key
it was Przevalski who met with my new willow wren
in Central Asia. It was supposed by some that both
birds were resident species but it seems they are not.
There is one however with which I think is truly Himalayan
Phylloscopus fuliginiventer, a very dusky, dark olive
bird with a slender bill. Mandelli got a few but I never
possessed a specimen. Mandelli was a tea planter in Szechuan
I knew him well & we exchanged many a bird. He borrowed
about \$500 from me & one night he suddenly committed suicide
after a quarrel with Mrs. Mandelli. I got about two third of the
money when the estates (tea gardens) were wound up. Some
bought the collection of birds stipulating that I was to be paid
but the judge who settled affairs would not allow me anything
beyond other creditors Mrs. M. was a half breed & nature
generally was irresistible to her & I think it was after some
heavy jewelry, or ~~the~~ other that he killed himself. He drank
a whole bottle of chlorodyne and when his wife came down stairs
soon after (he had got up at 5 am) & sent for the doctor it was too late
to save him.

Yours truly
M. E. Brooks

It would greatly like to see your paper on the Redpolls when published.
If you read related article showing that Acorn this is not applicable. *Director he continues*

Mount Forest
Ont. Canada
23^d Jan'y 97

Dear Mr Brewster

Your 12th Inst. This is to be part of
the envelope to enclose Falco richardsoni. About
those Redpolls. Allan certainly does not want them
again I should say. He has not a complete collection
of that group - only some British Columbia ones unless
he has sent all he had to you. He has been getting a
few Leucosticte lately. Those very fine ones -

I thought those 3 Redpolls all Linaria. The young
birds of each species in their first plumage determined very
surely would be interesting. but they all appear to breed in
the same localities and the work would have to be carefully
done. Of course there should be no confounding rostrata with
harrimanii & still less confounding either of the large species
with the two smaller. as to hullbelle. Typical St. John's example
that I saw appeared to me to be pure Linaria. I suppose you have
specimens of the European reflexus? If you have not I can give
you one of mine. I think perhaps my set of redpolls might
be of use to you. I have such a complete variety of Linaria
from very grey brown & white to quite buffy birds. I have also
some curious half exilipes & half Linaria birds. Form of bill
is often characteristic but more size I don't think is so important
unless the variation is something very striking. Poor Sectohm
could never see that exilipes was distinct from Linaria.
If you want the loan of my batch of redpolls you could send me
the young exilipes. before I send them. I don't suppose it would
be of any use sending my harrimanii to you they are so distinct &
characteristic. Yours truly
M. E. Brewster

Wm Brewster
145 Brattle Street
Cambridge

Mass.

U. S. A.

Provo - U. S.
January 20, 97



Brooks - W. E.
Jan. 29, 1898

Mount Forest
Ont - Can
29 Jan 98.

Dear Mr. Brewer

By this mail, I send
you all my Redpolls, including
3 L. rufescens from poor old
Huncback.

If you take a fancy to this little
collection you can have it for
\$20 if you don't think it too dear.
I have no further use for it &
would like some one to have it to
whom it would be of use.

However don't let me urge it upon
you by any means - You can keep
it for years, for I have taken my
last look at those little birds
till some far future time in the
new world: and what will the
new ornithology be? I hope all
our old favourites.

What I am greatly interested in
is your forthcoming paper on

The Laniola group as Delateo
terms it. He contended that
Acanthis = Carduelis quite
another group.

I am sorry to hear you have
been so ill. I wish I knew what
your now most-complaint of. One
of the main organs must be affected
& what is it? In my long life
born 1828 I have had quite a few
troubles - nearly dead with dysentery
twice. The doctor coming 3 times a
day told its own tale. Pneumonia
once. Given up then. Congestion of the
lungs ever so many times. Asthma -
got it for life but not bad. Fevers
Remittent intermittent, jingle &c
told to get 'off out of India sharp
or I'd die. Dyspepsia, I am the
dyspeptic & yet I cannot resist
a pie. I smoked in India till I
made myself positively ill with

Cumulated and folded leaf and all little delicacies
of that sort & now I have a "smoker's heart" & shall
die of it sooner or later. Got a bad attack now
of weak heart brought on by taking a sack of flour
around the waist & carrying it into the house to my
daughter's room. You'll surely be ill the said & I said
I feel all right, but I was all wrong next day &
am still suffering badly from the one caution.
The doctor here tells me I am liable to heart failure
at any moment. He is quite right for I feel it.

Now would you change plans with me? But have you
ever tried the tonic Chiretta? Is greatly used in India by
the natives when they cannot get quinine. It is a very
valuable tonic & acts well on the liver. I just make
a tea of it & take a wine glass full of it after each
meal or half a wine glass full if you like. It makes
a weak man up whom all the ordinary tonics fail
and a mixture of it & iron, say Bland's 5 gr iron
pills, with each glass of Chiretta will make a new
man of you. But I have used the changes on all tonics
& every thing else & nothing can touch me hard
now. Some untried tonic might reach me but nothing else
will. Very weak heart & insomnia is how I am situated
just now.

About Exilifer juv, after I see your paper I'd like to
see you of this & Loraria together but where can we get
a decided quality of Loraria -


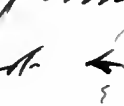
So bring out your paper soon or I shall have shuffled
off this mortal coil perhaps. It is impossible to carry on
much longer with a heart that won't do its work at all
hard? I wonder have you been a heavy smoker.

If I only had never touched tobacco, I'm yours enjoyment & a life of misery.

about the Redpolls. Your rostrata is as good a species as any one could wish to have.

A gigantic Linaria.

Korremanni is a gigantic

Exilipes. Exilipes is an Arctic species with differently formed bill from Linaria  against 

apart from plumage. The neat, little short, bluntly acute bill of the latter denotes a widely distinct bird from the almost spanned billed Linaria. As to hoellbelle or hollbelle, I forget how it is spelled now. I don't see its distinctness from Linaria & I think it a bad species. But I only had a

few sent me by Stejneger
They were Scallop specimens,
I think I did not see anything
in them exactly different from
Linnaea. I may be wrong.

As to Stejneger's Scallop - I found
example herewith sent you, it
is Linnaea I think but it is
such a bad specimen. But the
saying is you must not see a
bad horse in the morning & it was
a gift. But he is a bad specimen.
I know is the boy for a well put
up skin. I wish I could have
quailed him with many a fair
head I have had through my
Acrony hands. But he has no
use of specimens when at this work
a skin drawing.

About integrating of species

The two Rollers of India interbreed affinis & indica
& Thunbergii. They are mixed but both are quite distinct. In
Northern & western India you only have indica in Assam
& Eastern Bengal only affinis. In the Customhouse you get
garuda. Otto Muller a friend of mine a tea planter shot
2 Rollers from the nest - male & female were of different
species indica & affinis. So an occasional interbreeding
of linaria and salix where both are found would
prove nothing whatever beyond affinity. Both are
common in Siberia, European & Asiatic.

This has been a terribly hurried scumble
so make every allowance.

I hope you will soon be in good health
again - When you come to town I should like
much to know what is your doctor's direction.

Do you know that inhaling steam, the
smoke of dried mullein leaves is simply
grand in all chest complaints. Nothing
gave me such relief when I had my opening
asthmatic attack last year.

Yours truly
W. Brooks