

N.P. This is not a communication
to the Auk.

Rehoboth Mass.

Jan - 20. 1885 -

Mr Wm Brewster,

Cambridge, Mass -

Sir. I take considerable liberty and venture to write you.

You doubtless remember that during the past summer of 84 I mailed to J A Allen the skin of the Oregon Robin or Painted Thrush (*Cerdis nivalis*) being a specimen taken by myself in western Mass. He forwarded the specimen to you - you in turn kindly sent it to me.

I now write you about the

matter, and to inform you
I shall admit of no insinuation
as to the authenticity of the record.
Why do I say thus? because
first - no records of it has yet
appeared in the "Auk" contrary
to Mr. Allens. statement "I
shall be pleased to make note of
it." second - A certain
Providence R. I. Dealer's re-
mark to me, in which he
stated that ~~while~~ on a
visit to him last summer
you, inferred it was in
rather good plumage for
a wanderer" Did you say so?
third - knowing your extreme
carefulness in inserting records

I judged you might really think it a type of "Emory Greenwald's records". I sincerely hope I am mistaken. I hope to be informed that the ~~notes~~ note was not of sufficient interest or value to insert in the Cook. I hope the Prov. Dealer misinformed me. — if such is the case I most humbly apologise. But if you do doubt the instance of the captive in Mass. I shall prove the fact, that is, if human evidence, will be accepted as the tribunal of Arithology for I can ill afford to have suspicion the affix itself to me, in

the commencement of my
career.

I would also candidly
ask you, whether the man
who spends five days of the
week roving or shining in the field
or ~~over~~ who takes an occasional
trip, to relieve his "close duties,"
can judge best or produce
the greatest amount of actual field
notes and faunal observations!

I have in my cabinet two other
specimens, much poorer than the
(*Furdus* *harrisi*) taken in N.E.,
but shall not give to the public
the record, because it will be
doubted by some "Close
Ornithologist" who will be un-
able

to find it in any previous
 "Proceedings" or "Bulletin" and there
 fore thinks that because the
 Prof. or Doctor did not discover
 it, that as a matter of fact
 plain Mr F. H. C. did not.

I will say I do not want
 the notes of the truck inserted
 in the Auk and shall be much
displeas'd. to find it in any
 future number.

If at any time you happen in
 Prov. and will let me know in
 time I will meet ^{you}, and we
 will drive out to my place. and
 then you can see, what little
 I have done and am trying to
 do in my attempts to study bird.

F. H. Carpenter

Jan 20, 1885

the first to the public

life. I may sometimes be mistaken in my analysis and structure, but in field observations and specimens. I may say - never - i.e. when I give

I suppose it is needless to apologize for this epistle you by this time would not receive one, but I was really somewhat "jiled" by what I have heard, and repeat again if I am mistaken I am sorry for troubling you to read this, but if it is as I think it is, I desire an explanation.

Respectfully

Rahoboth
Mass

F. H. Carpenter

F. H. Carpenter
January 30 - 1885

Rehoboth Mass
Jan 30 1885

Wm Brewster
Sir.

On arriving home
last evening, I found your
letter awaiting me.

'That you are mistaken, and
I think convinced by prejudicial
information, will be shown in
time.

I can explain to you the
fact of the difference in bill &
note.

As to the plumage of the
Thrush, I do not know whether
it was a winter plumage or not, as
I have not had experience in

their native haunts, in truth
it was the first one I had ever
seen, and identified it only
by Comes Key.

Am much obliged for your
statement "strong imagination
coupled with a defective memory" etc
"Perhaps you are one of them"

Thank you. I have friends
who can judge better than you,
who can fittingly rebuke the
insult

I assure you that "Closest
to traditionalists" was used as a general
term and neither Mr Allen or you
were in mind in that con-
nection

Your inability to credit

certain statements" of mine
makes them none the less true
and when approached in a
manner of one really seeking the
exact truthful facts, rather than
a desire to condemn. I will fully
tell the story of my life, in
its anthropological experience.

If any one ^{do} like to know, that there
were two eye-witnesses to the
Thrush capture, besides myself
Who ^{do} you really desire to convey
by the ~~statement~~ ^{statement} that after stating
the facts were "known only to
Mr Allen Mr Jencks and my-
self." ^{"you say"} If you act wisely they
will go no further"?

I shall act as circumstances

and a truthful representation of
my record dictate. And (I say
this under advice) any published
statement of such character derogatory
to my reputation amounts to -
"Libel" (without a hearing of
my evidence.)

I would be pleased to meet
you and have the opportunity
to tell you some things that
you now doubt.

I am obliged to work all the
time now, in order to take to the
field in the spring, so my time
is limited. but any time after
April 12. I would be pleased to
show you the ^{origin} result of the studies
you do not credit.
F. H. Carpenter

Rehoboth, Mass Feb 4, 1852

Dear Mr. Star

Dear Sir.

I will be glad to see you & will
write you full and "honest" answers
to the "concerns" you have
brought. I shall use no arguments, simply
tell you a few things. My answer without
excusing myself will be sent for any number
I have committed.

The two volumes you mention are
in the first volume. I have had until
yesterday the whole ten years of field work
and the two volumes "inside" and "outside".

I would go off on a day, come back
with my specimens, and then I should
go together with my wife to see
my Cousin (Miss Pittier) who would see to
the packing and handling, and I find
in every one of the specimens I would be
working in new fields with other work
books. My reason for this thing matter
was from a natural impulse of nature
and a desire to present in the intention
of his own. I am only taking what
a corner of his land of my own.

I did not call my slaves with the word
"to go" attached to it, as if it were a command.

afford a cabinet of drawers for the specimens.
I laid them away in basket and boxes, to-
gether with a blank similar to an egg data
Blank. Thus

Name	Male
	Sex
	Locality
	Collected

 on the reverse were blanks for
the dimensions of the bird and the measure to whether
a "resident" "visitor" "irregular" "common", "immigrant" &c

I would describe down the particulars
in the field. when I made the skin, number the
bird, have a corresponding number in the book
over the data, on a page exclusively to the one
bird, as my book was small 5x8.

My cousin would fill out the Blank
from the book and put it away with the
bird. I thought such a course all right, as
I saved one time the trouble I wanted, in the
'11th. so much for my method!

The Handed Thrush was shot July 4, on the
commencement of a trip to western Mass
with me at the time was Mr J. W. Miller of
that town - write him if you like - and a
course w. J. R. Carpenter. I made the data and
before a week was over returned home - having
extended my trip as far as Lenox in Berkshire Co

I sent a note to Mr Allen. he desired to
see the Thrush. I was about to start for Maine
and in my usual hurry. I told my assistant to
label the Thrush with a tag, to mention "County, date
scientific name, Smith's number, my cabinet number, and sex
and pack and send the bird. I wrote to Mr Allen
and immediately ~~started~~ left home.

When I arrived home Sept 5th. I found the

Thrush had been returned. (I sent you I think
5 stages for the eggs. I had just pastore
the label on them, and until your attention
was directed to it by a friend did not know it.
The label ~~was~~ ^{was} on the bird at the time. I mentioned
"Cousin" and tell you as he told me
the "black and white" sign. I mentioned that was in
my data, and as my experience in Berkshire and
I told her mention the County, she also thought
it was Berkshire Co. That's all I can say,
but as the unwarrantable condemnation of a young
collector, I may be condemned. Such manner
of collecting, maybe, is not right, but I have
no one to show or assist me in any way
and am obliged to devise my own methods.
I have spent time & money in my efforts to pursue
my work and am afraid I can not collect the
coming season as my other son tells me that
an uncle is desirous of a "rent" but
little expense to confine me to the house."

About the "hint of suspicion" in all of your
previous notes" I am sorry to see that. I know
the hint is to discuss them. It brings up sad
memories, of the past, you seem to doubt all.
My uncle is the late Geo. C. Carpenter and lest
you should think him a "thing" ask you to
look up the list of the members of the Mass.
& give ^{Hymns Republic is} (1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778)
I, which is collected eggs only, but delighted
to see you see of all the birds to be seen.

his collection and notes the result of 30 years of field work he gave to me when he died.

his lumbering interest led him often to Maine and "Our Northern Raptors" (4th year 84... reference of 8 years (not the record of the editor of the "Lobs" was not given). Why did I use his notes as though my experience? A friend or another acquaintance on visiting me and looking over my "Records" journals, advised me to publish the notes. I told him my study was decreased and the notes would not have the weight in authority if told by another. he told me to write as if it were my own observations, as I knew them to be authentic. I did so, and now regret, but not his advice then as he was somewhat of a sterner man and much older.

Of the ^{these} notes, what can I say - I must some time ^{talk} with you. However I have the eggs & eggs of them, as it were lately met with an accident which destroyed a number of sets. Choicest ones, and now feel discouraged, as I can never duplicate them again (not sure) Two of the young owls (head) hatched in confinement to L & D of Prov.

Dr Edward A. Patton, of Minneapolis, has a set of Canada, etc, I send him. if my friend the late Edgerton's small was alive he could help me out you I could give several sets

J. H. Carpenter
Feb. 4. 1885.

Atchafalaya R.R. Co.

Feb 12 1875

Dear Sir,

I have the honor

to acknowledge the receipt

of your letter of the 10th inst.

and in reply to inform you that

the same has been forwarded to

the proper authorities for their

consideration and I am sorry

to say that they have not

yet returned an answer.

I will, however, keep you

advised of the result as soon

as I hear of it.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

J. H. [Name]

Atchafalaya R.R. Co.

I have been thinking much
 lately of the "American"
 + have been wondering how
 we are doing - great things indeed
 have been done by which I find
 in a letter - but when I read
 the "Book" I see the
~~of~~ Book I see the
 I have a little more to say of
 them - they have a fine
 feel of all the best
 in a great number of the
 very best of things
 that have been done
 at the present time
 and it is a matter of
 time when we shall
 see a little more of the
 same.

Dear Sir

I have your letter of the 11th inst. and am
glad to hear that you are well. I am
well at present. I have not much news
to write at present. I am well at present.
I have not much news to write at present.
I am well at present. I have not much news
to write at present. I am well at present.
I have not much news to write at present.

I have not much news to write at present.
I am well at present. I have not much news
to write at present. I am well at present.
I have not much news to write at present.
I am well at present. I have not much news
to write at present. I am well at present.
I have not much news to write at present.

Yours faithfully,

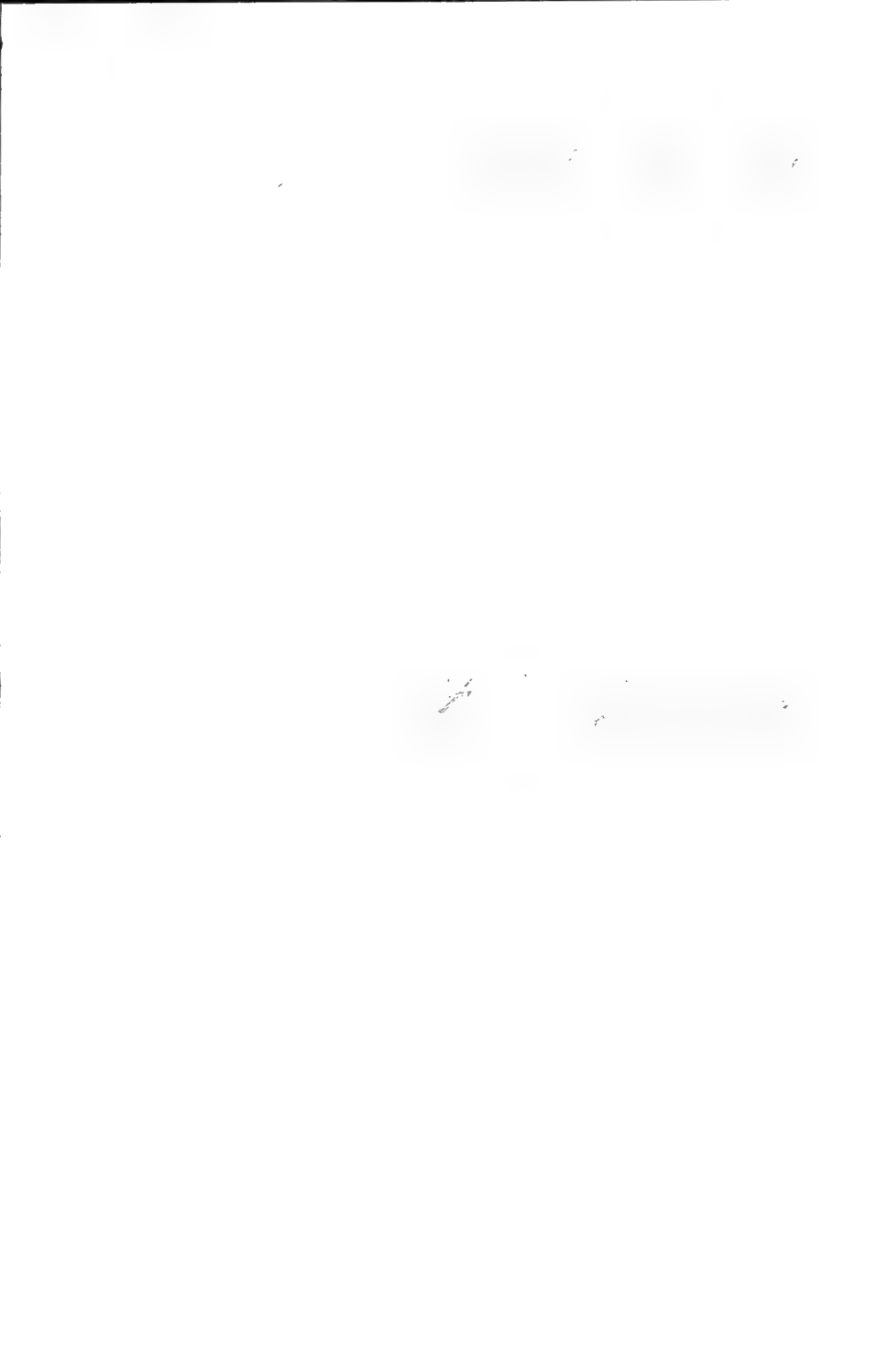
Wm. Pitt Rivers

I have not much news to write at present.

F. C. Carpenter

Feb. 13. 1885

(I decided not to
answer this letter)



Re: both

March 2nd, 1885

Sir: I mailed
you a letter on Boston Jan. 21st

at 10 1/2. I have not
received an answer as yet
and I do not
desire any answer as my
good I desired to come to a
conclusion.

I think the same at
least. I have the
courtesy to inform you
that I have not yet received
your letter.

Yours
J. A. Cooper

(Answer dated Dec. 5 - 1885)

Your letter of Feb. 13 was duly
received. Like yourself I have come
to the conclusion that any
further correspondence between
us is not likely to prove
profitable since truly

F. H. Carpenter

March 2 - 1882

ORNITHOLOGIST AND OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine devoted to Natural History.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE PROPER DEPARTMENTS, IN ORDER TO SECURE PROMPT ATTENTION.

Oölogy,
Editor, J. PARKER NORRIS,
204 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET,
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Ornithology and General Natural History,
F. H. CARPENTER, Managing Editor,
REHOBOTH, MASS.

Entomology,
Editors, WRIGHT & BATES,
73 HANOVER STREET,
BOSTON, MASS.

Subscription and Financial,
FRANK B. WEBSTER, Publisher, 409 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

July 18 1876

Mr Brewster.

Concord, Mass.

Mr Webster informs me
of yr inquiry of the 15th inst.

Dr Mayne is absent on a yachting
cruise, on the return of which he will accompany
me to Maine.

His present address is

Arthur Mayne, M.D.

Rehoboth Mass.

F. H. Carpenter.

Any communications regarding his articles in
OÖ. should be addressed to the subscriber.

am happy to say a Nat. Dictionary is
no standard of judgement

Yours etc

F. H. Carpenter

F. H. Carpenter

Aug. 18 - 1886

21

409. Wash Sr.

Mich 4 - 1887.

Received
4.30 P.M. Mich 4
Friday 1887.

MUSEUM BURNED AT WORCESTER.
[Special Dispatch to the Boston Herald.]
WORCESTER, March 3, 1887. The residence of Mr. F. H. Carpenter, near here, was partially destroyed by fire Tuesday night. Mr. Carpenter's large collection of bird skins was consumed. The fire was caused by an overheated furnace. Mr. Carpenter's collection of birds was considered one of the finest and most extensive private museums in the country.
BLAZE AT HILLSBORO BRIDGE.

Dear Mr Brewster,

Probably the enclosed slip, will amply explain, why I shall be unable to show the Buckman Nestles to you (or anyone else).

Will now have the pleasure of commencing news - almost dis-
hunting - when we think of sojourns to go upon smoke. Shall now have the opportunity of refuting the questionable opinions you entertained of me, as expressed a few years ago.

Very truly
yours
J. A. Cooper

I spent an hour or more
talking with Mr. Carpenter on
the afternoon of Thursday, March 3,
1887. He was in the best of spirits
and spoke of his collection as
stored in the house of a friend
(or at least, a house occupied by
a friend) at Worcester. He made
no reference whatever to the
fire described on this sheet.

As to the Bachman's Warbler
he told me about two weeks
ago that it was at his house
in Rehobeth and that as soon
as he could get a chance to
go there he would bring it

to Boston to show me. He did not
mention it yesterday.

William Brewster.

collection.

in the house of

March 4, 1887

W. H. Carpenter

7/3 - 1857

Mr Wm Brewster.

Dear Sir.

It would be very ungrateful in
me not to acknowledge your kind notice of
Friday. My only object in writing you
was to explain my inability to render you
a specimen for examination

Very truly

J. H. Carpenter.

returned from W - today. & have
contracted for erection of Buck Edifice.
Dear you may please God purchase one

W. H. Carpenter

Nov. 7. 1887

Boston March 17
1857

Mr Brewster

Dear Sir.

Thank you very much,
for yours of to day

I did not intend to
trouble you to so much trouble.

I enclose an outline of my
own affair. Seems like wanting
money don't it? We must how-
ever have a hobby. I like your
plan very much wish I could
have library & study in same building.
Wish for sake of couple cousins I shall
let it remain in house.

My basement is exceptionally fine,
& will do for a shop.

Thanking you again
very truly.

J. W. Carpenter.

F. H. Carpenter

Mich. 17-1887

In re unum

52

No windows Extra thick 'Red' glass in
a metal frame, painted bright blue
metal work, floor is asphalt
Expenditure about \$1000 for building

Basement very light by using all glass
for a work shop. Heat all the service pipes
from house furnace ^{steam} which is set in brick apart, a building is

BRISTOL COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB,

409. Washington St.
Boston.
May 30-87

Mr Wm. Brewster
Dear Sir.

At any time
or place you may designate
I desire to see you in re-
gard to our correspondence
of two years ago regarding
the Varied Thrush, which
you doubtless remember.

It is almost time
I should vindicate my-
self from your allegations

Very Respectfully

L. D. Carpenter

I had. asking to defer mention
until late of June or first July
to see coll. notes there

1 H. Serpentes

May 19 - 1887

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FRANK B. WEBSTER, Publisher, 409 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

May 12 - 07

Mr Wm Brewster,
Dear Sir.

Yours at hand.

Please bear in mind that in no sense are you the judge to decide this matter. My own note book regarding the capture is open to your inspection at any time - as a personal favor, in no way a duty, to you. My two companions will, as I have previously stated, verify the capture & my cousin, now Mrs Lippitt of Providence, will testify to her mistake, as a favor to me - not to you. Regarding any of your insinuations against my Uncle's notes, I have nothing to say, as it does not concern me. My father will meet you more than halfway if you continue in any published remarks

I cannot quite comprehend your stubbornness - in this matter.

My position is now different than it was

10 when we corresponded in '86. Then I was a student & on the road with no definite idea of a science - now with a fixed idea and spending annually a considerable sum in the pursuit of ornithology, I desire to clear away the very false impression which you have created in the minds of others.

I expect to publish the account in July & will if necessary, print the entire correspondence between us as I have your letters & copies of my own.

I trust we are satisfied only from to your mind that you are in error.

I shall also require something of you viz to apologize publicly - & write to such parties as I may mention in my pub letters stating your mistake in which you have led them.

My collection at Worcester is my own - gentlemen whose names you report in your journal will testify to its extent, under the existing circumstances you must accept my pleasure - & I shall only follow your own example in so doing - & not bring "home"

the "Punch" is in my collection at N. H. both in # is accessible in Boston. I have seen it why a gain - I am impatient in the matter

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I must have some understanding at once. If you will not receive proofs from me I shall place the matter in the hands of my counsel, but I sincerely hope the matter will not come to this extreme.

It is difficult to settle with you, you avoid a statement of facts & refuse proofs, of course you can have an opinion of your own & obstinately refuse to listen me in such a case ^{we} can do nothing except to be as strangers in the future.

I will admit I am rather forced to this by family pride, and to apologize or blunt truth for not judging my invitation to take you to see the Ospreys, was because my father refused to allow me to bring you home a disrespectful acknowledgment maybe to some I felt bound to comply as I could not allow myself to have you come & not share the hospitality which our family is

rather noted, & which could be most cordially extended to you if matters were different

(Am very sorry to not accommodate you but have been compelled to ask that you either retract your statements or proceed to substantiate your slanderous allegations.

I shall not again take the time to write you so fully.

Most sincerely hoping a pleasant settlement

Remain

Very truly

Fred H. Carpenter
et al.

F. H. Carpenter

May 12-1887

In re investigation



ENTOMOLOGICAL AND OÖLOGIST

devoted to Natural History.

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Managing Editor,
BOSTON, MASS.

Entomology,
Editors, WRIGHT & BATES,
73 HANOVER STREET,
BOSTON, MASS.

and Financial,
29 Washington Street, Boston, Mass. *Rehoboth.*

Mr Wm Brewster
Concord

Mass
Mr Wm Brewster
Dr Sir.

May 21 - 07

Yrs at hand to day.

In company with Mr Crown & Capew I
have spent the week among the Ospreys
& recd no mail until date.

Arrangements made months ago will
take me to N. Y. to the Flycasting tournament

Your offer is satisfactory. I did not in-
tend to take yr personal time.

Will see Mrs Liffitt for a date very soon.

As I only desire to sustain my reputation
a departure from my two friends & Mrs L. will
answer their purpose - & as respect to Shast. For
Grand Menan soon will leave matter in charge
of my atty. Shall probably retain Mr W. Bliss of
Bliss & Charles - attys at Law Court St City

Can see you at Mr Websters on Tuesday next &
you can see my note Book & diary if you
choose - wh would be evidence sufficient
for almost anyone

Rehoboth

Can offer no evidence re your diary my notes, or Reptires of Nov 18. unless the grave will open -

As my collection at Worcester will give no 'evidence' as you ask - it would be a favor if you would wait until repairs are completed then you would be welcome, & could derive greater satisfaction

I would like to see you soon regarding a goose new to Mass. if not N.H. which was taken at Plymouth.

Looking to see you Tuesday & as a return for your & my agents efforts, I would surely be there
very hastily

409 Wash. St
Boston

Truly yours

J. H. Carpenter

P.S. I may accept the invitation of my friend Mr Barrett & run up to Concord before I go North - & can see you there

J. H. Carpenter
May 21 - 1887

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Dr Wm Brewster

24 May 1877

I enclose some old copy of LeMayne's
 who will show how construction of
 composition is similar to mine.

Will do all I can to explain
 matters without recourse to law or
 other unpleasant actions

I trust you will say a good word
 for me whenever your own mind is
 satisfied on any point

Expect LeMayne took by me & summer &
 will have you come down. Really his notes were
 mine same as Frazar & Cabours are yet
 but I gave him all credit.

Was it not perfectly proper
 expect to take a run from N.Y.

Yours truly

F. H. Carpenter

mountains and without expressing any opinion I would say that I have secured specimens which were true *solitarius*, and also of the darker type, in these mountains, as the following will show.

Vireo solitarius, (860 author's coll.) Monroe county, Tenn., 1,700 feet. Description: Upper parts olive-green; crown and side of head bluish-ash; white line about eye, lore-dusky. Below, white; sides tinged with olive; spurious quill, etc. Enough is given in above description to show it is a specimen of *V. solitarius* without further quotations.

A specimen which may be of the other variety may be described as follows:

Vireo solitarius? (945 author's coll.). Blount county, 3,200 feet. May 18, 1884. Description: ♂, above dark plumbeous, entire; beneath white; sides yellowish; wings dark brown, feathers edged with green; two bands of dull white across wing; coverts same as tail; outer tail feathers edged with white; white ring around eye; lore dark.

The above condensed description shows a

DENDROICA DISCOLOR.

Prairie Warbler

This dainty little warbler was *heard* for the first time in '86 on April 12th, for be it known the curious "breezy" note of this bird may be heard for days before the vocalist is *seen*, unless especial attention is given to the game of hide and seek. It loves the scrub and second growth, and I never found them as plenty as in the small growth which followed a burnt tract of woodland in Blount County. Every clump of bushes contained one of these birds, and their curious song—if it can be called such—was heard on every hand. I hope I may be pardoned when I affirm that these warblers remind me of some insects. They are heard at best on sunny days and in sunny spots, while their notes resemble the buzzing of some large locust. None of these birds are found in the swamps or the evergreen growth of the mountains. Sunshine and heat seem to be necessary to their vitality. As may be assumed, from the habits of the bird its nest is one of the "finds" of red letter days of collectors.

all 8 fresh specimens
collected in the summer

4
Literal translation
by J. W. C.

Lawrence Warbler

This dainty bird was heard first on April 12th. For you know the funny breezy song is heard for days before the singer is seen unless you look for it like hide and seek.

It stays in scrub & small growth most plenty in scrub or burnt woods in Blount County. There was one in every clump of bushes and their song, if it can be called such, was heard every where. Pardon me if I affirm that they remind me of some insects for they are heard but on sunny days especially sunny places, and seem like some locust. None are seen in swamps or pine or mountain. Sun and heat seem necessary. As may be seen from their habits no nest is a

F. W. Carpenter

May 25 - 1887

(With documents relating
to the Allegan etc.)

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BOSTON, MASS.

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FRANK B. WEBSTER, Publisher, 409 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

23 May '87

Mr. Brewster

Dear Sir,

I enclose my correction of my notes regarding the 'northern raft article in Jan 1884. A letter which I have on file from Mr Bluff. will acknowledge the fact that he left out data which my MSS contained.

I have looked up copy of note sent to "Ark" regarding Thrush - The "mountain" you mention - was a hill 'Little Wachusett mountain'

Thank you for your kind notice in informing me of the fault & mistake concerning me. There need be no secrecy any part regarding your confidential informant. My friends in Providence opened my eyes long ago and I should treat the slander with the contempt worthy of its source.

The only writing of mine which Jencks
got hold of outside of correspondence
was a sworn list of birds from
Canada & Maine, and attested by a
Justice of Peace in N.E. way to customs ^{duly}
in a certain town near here - My defective
memory, recalls the fact that it was
written with blue ink & Jencks asked
to keep it & a friend saw him come
taking it with my letters. If Jencks
thought he had discovered anything
it was his "imagination" as I never
asserted it was any body's else's writing but
my own -

I hope the many others who doubt
my recent labors for O & C do actually
exist, & will warrant the adjective used
I must be pardoned for having my
doubts. I presume envy & some
jealousy may cause some feeling, I can
satisfactorily explain as natural to others.

It would not be best to take any immediate
action on simply the Thrush affair. Yours
very suspicious mind has so many doubts

that all branches must be cleared up & I can
not be blamed for demanding though I am sure responsible
for my time & trouble in this needless matter
Yours: my assistant J. A. Carpenter

China. It is composed of a large leaf of the plaintain formed into a cup and held in that position by a number of stiches—some cotton like fibre being used as thread. The outside of the nest thus formed, the inside is made up of fine grass and roots.

NOTE FROM CANANDAIGUA, N. Y. We had very deep snow and intense cold weather throughout the month of January, still the Common Crows were more abundant than I have ever known them to be in previous Winters. Snow Buntings very rare.—*John M. Howey.*

NOTE FROM GRAVENHURST, ONT. I have lived here seven years but have not been able to obtain a Bittern until last season, when they were plentiful. I have not until this Winter obtained a specimen of the Pigmy Owl, but this Winter have received three. What causes these to be plenty some seasons, and none others?—*R. B. S.*

A Purple Finch was taken at Falmouth, Mass., Feb. 8th, by F. J. C. Swift.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondents making inquiries are requested to be brief and to the point.

We hope for the future to mail our monthly edition on the first of every month. Communications should be sent in as early as possible. Nothing received after the 20th, can be noticed in the number for the following month.

OUR NORTHERN RAPTORES. (O. and O., Jan., page 8.) Our correspondent, F. H. C., desires us to state that three years were spent in collecting the facts he stated there. To economize space he arranged the dates to appear as one year—the scientific facts remaining the same.

MIGRATION NOTES. (*W. W. Gilman, Stoughton, Wis.*) The abbreviations used are as follows: (21) 3.2 F, 4.7, 5.14 L, should be read—Observer No. 21 (whose name and locality are given) saw a certain bird for the first time that season on the 2d of March, saw others on 7th of April, and saw the last of the season on 14th of May. A little care in reading them will make the Notes just as intelligible as if four times as many words were used.

GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER, (High-hole.) *J. Anthony, Jr.* Our correspondent's item is so contrary to the well-known habits of this bird, that we are inclined to think he must have mistaken some other bird for it.

HERRING GULL IN ILLINOIS. *A. H. Mundt, Fairbury, Ill.*, sends drawing of head of a bird which he describes as follows: "The bird was shot flying over a corn field Jan. 21, 1884. Length of head from tip of beak to back of skull just five inches; from tip to tip of outspread wings, lying on its back upon the floor, four feet; and from tip of beak to end of tail, two feet. Plumage, grey and white, spotted; legs and feet very small; legs as thin as pipe stems, all uniform flesh color; feet webbed like a duck, head very eagle like, eyes dark, lower beak flattened." The bird described seems to be a young Herring, or Silvery Gull, (*Larus argentatus.*) They are very common on the east coasts.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE. (O. and O., Vol. VIII, page 76.) *Edgar A. Small, Hagerstown, Md.*, asks us to correct his note as to the breeding of this bird in Kent County, Md. His informant only saw the birds, and does not appear to have satisfactorily identified their nests.

NOTES FROM PELHAM, N. H. We thank Dr. Batchelder for the notes of arrivals, which we put aside for comparison some time when we can make them useful.

A CURIOUS MEAL. *E. G. Nicewaner, Baltimore, Md.* Amongst the uses of such birds as the Turkey Buzzard is that of keeping down snakes, which form a very common article of their diet.

peculiar advantages in communicating bird knowledge by such means. In the mind of the reader the birds are constantly associated with their respective and proper times and seasons; the winter records will discover the winter residents, the summer records the summer residents, the winter and summer records the permanent residents. The transient visitors, or migrants will also be sufficiently indicated, the periods of migration and nidification will be disclosed by the various dates of entry. Thus the whole are most apt to be faithfully and permanently fixed in the mind of the young student. The central point of the author's observation was the village of Fairview, county-seat of the (West) Virginia Panhandle, about four miles inland from the Ohio river.

JAN. 1st. But one bird met my eye, but enough perhaps for a New Year's day entry; this was a Tufted Titmouse, (*Lophophanes bicolor*), which, as I drove along an unsheltered road, for some distance kept a little in advance of me by short flights from one fence stake to another. This species, in this locality, is much more numerous than the Black-capped Titmouse, both of which are commonly called Chickadees. It is a permanent resident with us, and its loud, whistling notes—*fair-lee, fair-lee*, deliberately uttered, or *purly, purly, purly*, rapidly repeated, may be heard issuing from our woods almost every month of the year. Its crest and lead-colored coat will sufficiently distinguish it to the observer.

JAN. 2. Saw a pair of Cardinal Grosbeaks, or Crested Red-birds (*Cardinalis virginianus*) in the midst of a small thicket against a high bank at the roadside—a favorite haunt at this season of the year.

Saw several flocks of Snow-birds (*Junco hyemalis*), also Tree Sparrows, (*Spizella monticola*), in some instances associating together. By reason of this habit of joining company, perhaps it is, the two species are not infrequently confounded by inexperienced observers, but the Snow-bird may readily be distinguished from the Sparrow kind by its uniformly darker coat (slate color,) and, in its flight, exposing two white feathers in its tail, which are then very conspicuous. The unmarked breast (save an obscure dusky spot in the centre) and white wing bars, of the Tree Sparrow will distinguish it from the Song Sparrow, which remains with us throughout the year.

JAN. 4th. Observed a flock of about a dozen Turtle Doves (*Zenædura carolinensis*), feeding in a corn field on the bare spots caused by the removal of several shocks of unhusked corn, the ground being covered with several inches of snow. This bird is only partially migratory with us, and may be seen singly or in small companies throughout our coldest winters.

Saw some half dozen Cardinal Grosbeaks amid the thick undergrowth on the banks of a small stream. With this "Virginia Nightingale," I cannot but regard in an ornithological point of view, this district of country as specially favored, in this, while it is one of the most beautiful of our native American birds, and withal a charming and lasting songster, it is here an abundant species, and remains with us all the year round.

JAN. 9. There have been but few days this winter I have not seen one or two White-breasted Black-capped Nuthatches, (*Sitta carolinensis*), moving up or down and around the larger branches of a row of locust trees in front of the parsonage on the village street. To-day, from my study window, I witnessed an interesting performance of one of these birds—not three yards from me, in its effort to break a small particle of matter, of the size and shape of a butter-bean, it had picked up from the ground. Its position was on an oblique limb; holding the substance in its bill it would strike it two or three times against the limb

What would you advise regarding
the goose I examined yesterday; my
leucis taking was hurried & I could not
talk it over. It is worth looking
up very fully and the time in which
to do it is limited -

My idea is Bernarda indica "Bar-headed
Eosia". I fail to find Mr Calver's letter.
July 1882

Rehoboth Mass

June 14-87

Dear Mr Brewster,

Mr Andrews and myself have just returned from Grand Manan to-night, and I answer at once yours of 20th Ult

Accept my sincerest thanks for your kindness with the letter to Mr Burgess

Would not it be better for you to take the matter in hand, regarding the Dove - I am very busy with other matters, and can not avail myself of your kindness, while you consider me, with your fears suspicious

Very gratefully yours

J. D. Carpenter
409 Washington St
Boston

F. H. Carpenter

June 14, 1867

BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
COMMITTEE ON CONSTRUCTION.

A. C. R. R.

Boston, Mass., July 5 1887

Chairman,

Dear Sir: In reply to
your favor of

Dear Mr Brewster:

Would you
favor me with Mr Rogers
present address, as I have
some business to communicate
with him.

Yours very truly

J. H. Carpenter

P.S.

Thanks. I had a very plain
time at Grand Manan Is.

Yours respectfully,

J. H. Carpenter,
Chairman.

F. H. Carpenter

July 5-1887