

F. L. Ball

Aug 1. 1886

San Bernardino Aug 1<sup>st</sup> 86

Mr W<sup>m</sup> Brewster

Dear Sir.

Some

months since at the time

I sold you Scops Flammulated  
you requested me to let  
you know if I got anything  
good in the bird line.

Now I have just got  
a fine specimen of  
Pseudogryphus Californianus.  
it is a ♂ spreading  $9\frac{1}{2}$  ft of  
wings and weighed  $20\frac{3}{4}$  lbs.  
the plumage is good for  
a bird of this species and  
it is prepared in good  
style.

If you would like it  
and will state what you  
are willing to give I will

if the price is satisfactory  
ship it on at once.

If you do not desire it  
and know of any one who  
would, I will esteem it a  
favor if you will mention  
the fact to them.

I am likely to get  
more of them soon also  
other good species.

Not wishing to trespass  
further upon you I  
will close.

Yours very Respectfully  
Forrest L. Ball  
Collector of Ornithology & Zoology  
San Bernardino Cal.

F. L. Ball.

Sept. 10-1886

Data of California

a mountainous country at the foot of Mt San Jacinto and is a favorite locality for vultures, this being the second which I have secured from there.

If you wish for any other information about the culture will be pleased to give it though this is all I can think of at present,  
Yours etc F. L. B.

San Bernardino Sept 10<sup>th</sup> 1886

Mr W<sup>m</sup> Brewster

Dear Sir

Your favor came to hand a few days ago, and in reply to your offer I will say that it is accepted: *the viz* - \$25 for the bird delivered free of <sup>express</sup> charge to you at Cambridge.

As to other good things which I may have I enclose an ~~old~~ <sup>old</sup> ~~breaking~~ <sup>breaking</sup> list of 1883 the only thing of the kind I have on hand but it will answer, I dare say; it will explain what I have on hand.

I do not think there is much that you would

wish, but such as they are  
I propose to get rid of <sup>them</sup>  
for what I can get, as  
owing to press of other  
business I have no time  
to devote to ornithology, and  
do not feel as if I would  
like to make it a life study.

I send you full notes  
upon the vulture.

And right here let me  
say that if you never had  
the felicity of skinning a  
vulture, do not yearn for  
it, for \$5. would be no  
temptation to me to handle  
one of the nauseating brutes  
again. though this is the  
second specimen I have  
prepared.

With this, the bird  
is - ~~now~~ as it will

reach you ~~by~~ ~~the~~  
in time.  
Hoping it will prove  
interesting to you I remain  
Yours Truly  
Forrest L. Ball

### Data for Vulture

<sup>or</sup>  
Measurement 9.4 x 3.1 ex B.  
adult. Place of capture  
El Casca, San Bernardino  
Co Cal. The bird was  
feeding upon the remains  
of a dead calf, and after  
having a 44 cal. Winchester  
ball driven through his  
body flew  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile  
before falling.

El Casca is situated in

Weight & bird 20 1/2 lbs



Elkhorn Saw Mill San Bernardino <sup>Calif</sup>  
Mr Wm Brewster Dec 19 1862

Respected Sir,

Your  
Postal of inquiry came to me to  
day, contents noted.

I am at present pretty well  
cut off from civilization as I am  
up in the Mts at an elevation of  
about 6000 ft and have been  
snowed in most of the time &  
and shall be until next May;  
so my communication is apt to be  
cut off except for an occasional  
mail.

I can not at this time give you  
the date of the vultures capture,  
for the reason that all data is  
at my home. I may go there before  
the roads get entirely impassible

H. Ball Dec. 19 - 1886

to Mr. C. A. Buller

and hope them to be able to find some data bearing upon the subject.

As to the inquiry about the sex, it strikes me as being a little out of the usual line of procedure, and very unnecessary; but doubtless you have your reasons.

Now I <sup>have</sup> tried to make "honesty" my policy, and can swear to the sex of every bird that leaves my hand; if I think there is any doubt of the sex, my customers know of that doubt; and in a bird of that size there can be but two conclusions either my statement is correct or I am an infamous scamp.

Rest assured the sex is all right.

I should like to know on what grounds you imagine a mistake has been made.

Hoping this may in part satisfy you  
I remain  
Very truly yours  
H. Ball

to Mr. C. A. Buller

F. B. Ball

Jan'y 9 - 1887

In re Vulture.

San Bernardino Jan 9 '87

Mr Wm Brewster

Dear Sir.

Having at last been able to get at my data upon the capture of the vulture I find it was taken on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Aug - 1886.

Your last letter contained the first intimation I had rec'd as to the bird not being an adult; I certainly supposed it to be an adult bird, but my experience with birds of this species has been of necessity limited though I have had better success in obtaining them than any collector I know.

As you say the place where

I was stopping when I last wrote you was a good locality for some species of birds:

Woodpeckers, cross-bills, jays (2 species) and all of the game loving birds found any where in this section were very abundant. It is the best locality for woodpeckers I know of.

I am no longer a collector, except once in a while the year comes on by shells when I do a little of it, but have given it up as a business.

I expect to give my little collection to some museum, probably the National.

Hoping this will prove satisfactory, and sorry to have but you to so much trouble & remain.

Very truly yours

F. S. Ball