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Title: Letter from Spencer Baird to Winfrid Stearns

Date: November 11, 1871

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Washington, D.C. Nov. 11, 1871.

Dear Sir.

^{2 lines} " I send you a list of the families of birds, which expresses very nearly my present views in regard to Classification, & the one that I propose to follow in my new work on the birds of North America, just-pub-to-press." It is purely a matter of taste for you to write *Sandwich* or *Sandwica*. The most correct-rendering may perhaps be the former, although I shall myself continue to write according to the latter. The two names are of precisely the same equivalence. Maynard's nomenclature, as far as I recollect-it, is quite modern in its character, & I presume is correct.

The Butcher Bird is not-included in the raptors, not-because it is not-raptorial in its habits, but-because its Geological Characteristics are quite removed from the hawks & owls, & belong rather to the vireos

Nearly all the birds are raptorial to a certain extent, although many confine themselves to taking insects, & such other lower forms of animal life instead of the vertebrates.

" I fear my other occupations will be too great this winter to permit me to undertake a revision of your Manuscript.

I would suggest, however, your applying to Dr Elliott Coues, U.S. Army, Fort-Mc Henry, Baltimore, as quite as competent as myself, & with probably, more time at his Command. "

Very truly yours.

Spencer W Baird

W.H. Stearns Esq.

Aurickst,

Mass.

Baird rec Coues ltr
Nov 11th 1871