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Title: Letters from Spencer Baird to George Lawrence (Oct. - Dec. 1869)

Date: October - December 1869

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JM

Washington, D.C., Oct. 30. 1869.

Dear Lawrence.

Your letter of the 23^d, came three days after date; but I have been too busy until today to attend to your request.

I am very glad to learn that Mrs Lawrence is better, & hope she will soon recover her health. Had you not better bring her on to Washington this Fall, & pay us a visit? I think our more Southern climate will be good, both for her & yourself.

The birds you ask for are now packed in a box together with your own Caerebidae, & will be sent off on Monday if Solomon does not forget it. The Rail you can keep; the Oriole & Compositoma, return

I am glad you like Ridgeway's article. I think we may make something of him. Yeladon is doing well in the birds of Central America & the West Indies. His ^{West Indian} Mexican paper is nearly ready to print, & will be sent before long, to the Boston Society.

I have told Zelandon to gather up all the undistributed species ^{name of} *Doricha erythraea* among the Bahaman birds & send them to you for examination. You can then determine whether many among them belong to the new Inaguan species. If there are two kinds, please mark which are which & return the lot when studied.

There were no special localities ^{indicated} in the Collection, but my impression is that all we had from Mrs Bryant were from the same island, none of them from Nassau.

I found comparatively few collections of birds on my arrival, the greatest mass consisting of fossils & antiquities. It was an agreeable surprise to have less to do than I had anticipated in the way of overhauling, Cataloguing & assorting the Collections of birds. We had one box from Alaska, sent by Bishop, but nothing new or even rare, although some some specimens were interesting from their locality.

Yours very truly
J W Ward

George N. Lawrence

N. York City.

Washington, D.C. Oct. 30 - 1869

Dear Lawrence,

Your letter of the 23d, came three days after date; but I have been too busy until today to attend to your request.

I am very glad to learn that Mrs Lawrence is better, & hope she will soon recover her health. Had you not better bring her on to Washington this Fall, & pay us a visit? I think our more Southern climate will be good, both for her & yourself.

The birds you ask for are now packed in a box together with your own Caerebidae & will be sent off on Monday if Solomon does not forget it. The Rail you can keep; The Oriole & Compostoma, return

I am glad you like Ridgeway's article; I think we may make something of him. Zeladon is doing well in the birds of Central America & the West Indies. His ~~Mexican~~ West Indian paper is nearly ready to print, & will be sent before long, to the Boston Society.

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I have told Zeladon to gather up all the undistributed specimen of Doricha Evelynae among the Bahaman birds & send them to you for examination. You can then determine whether many among them belong to the new Inaguan species. If there are two kinds, please mark which are which & return the lot when studied.

There were no special localities included in the Collection; but my impression is that all we had from Mrs Bryant were from the same island, none of them from Nassau.

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Yours very truly
S F Baird

George N Lawrence
N. York City.

20957

Washington, D.C. November 13 1869.

My dear Lawrence,

I was glad to learn that you were right, & the other party wrong, in the question about the Rails, & think it was too bad that Gould got the Bahaman Hummer. I do not know where Dr. Bergstedt's original Nassau specimens are. We have a pair from Nassau which we can send you, if you would like to see them. There are three boxes from Prof. Sannichesi over due, which we will send you as soon as they arrive in Washington. We have just sent him \$100, to help him along in his work. Prof. Henry's illness prevented our attending to this matter before. I hope you will be able to pick out a good lot of birds for Giraud from the Sannichesi collection. Send back the Bahaman Hummers at any time; perhaps as well now as later.

I have put Ridgway at work on the American raptors, & want him to prepare an elaborate & thorough monograph. He has already discovered the bird called *Falco Resolus* by Richardson. It is not the true Pigeon Hawk, nor yet is it the European species. It will probably stand as new. When he gets through these I may take up with him the Central & South American species, so as to clear up the entire family. In doing this Gann's new Catalogue will be a great help. It will embrace, from present appearances, about 12,000 species.

Yours truly,

Spencer Woodward

Geo. M. Lawrence
N. York.

Washington, D.C. November 13 1869

My Dear Lawrence,

I was glad to learn that you were right, & the other party wrong; in the question about the Rail, & think it was too bad that Gould got the Bahaman Hummer.

I do not know where Dr. Bryants original Nassau specimens are. We have a pair from him which we can lend you, if you would like to see them. There are three boxes from Prof. Sumichrast over due, which we will send you as soon as they arrive in Washington. We have just sent him \$100, to help him along in his work. Prof. Henry's illness prevented our attending to this matter before. I hope you will be able to pick out a good lot of birds for Giraud from the Sumichrast collection. Send back the Bahaman Hummers at any time; perhaps as well now as later.

I have put Ridgeway at work on the American raptors, & want him to prepare an elaborate & thorough monograph. He has already discovered the bird called Falco Aesolon by Richardson. It is not the true Pigeon Hawk; nor yet is it the European Species. It will probably stand as new. When he gets through these I may take up with him the Central & South American species, so as to clear up the entire family. In doing this Gray's new Catalogue will be a great help. It will embrace, from present appearances, about 12,000 species.

Yours truly,
Spencer F Baird

Geo. N. Lawrence
N. York.

2029

xx

Washington D.C. November 22 1869.

My dear Lawrence.

I am much obliged to you for your ~~attention~~^{action} in the matter of the Coffee, & shall be very glad to have a bag, & to receive it by Adams Express, addressed to the house.

Gary's Catalogue is not yet published, but he sends me the signatures, just as Slater does those of the Zoological Proceedings. Of the former, 20 sheets have appeared, covering over 5,000 species, & they have not yet reached the Comroster. The Zoological Proceedings for the middle third of the volume embrace many interesting ornithological articles, & I will send you a memorandum of these before long, so that you may ascertain whether you wish to see any of them or not.

The box of Hummers advised by you will be in, I suppose on Monday. I am much obliged to you for what you have done in regard to labelling them.

I do not know any thing of the wrapper you enclosed. It looks some thing like one of Endres' labels.

You remember my telling you I had described
that Belvie Vireo. I enclose you the "proof"; &
if you wish to publish it, can lend you the cut.

Yours truly,

Spencer T. Baird

Geo. M. Lawrence

172, Pearl Street.

New York City.

Washington D.C. November 22 1869.

My Dear Lawrence,

I am much obliged to you for your ~~suggestion~~ action in the matter of the Coffee; & shall be very glad to have a bag, & to receive it by Adams express, address to the house.

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I do not know anything of the wrapper you enclosed. It looks something like Endres' labels.

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You remember my telling you I had described that Belize Vireo. I enclosed you the "proof"; & if you wish to publish it, can lend you the cut.

Yours truly,
Spencer F Baird

Geo. N. Lawrence
172 Pearl Street.
New York City.

21194

Washington, D.C. Dec. 11 1869.

My dear Lawrence.

The bag of Coffee came a few days ago, & I sent a check for its amount direct to Mr. Colthall, ^{and} thanking you very much for the trouble you have taken with it. We have just tried it for the first time & find its promise good.

The box of hawks came to day, & will be of much service in unravelling some difficult points. We are getting the whole subject of the hawks into shape, & shall have some interesting conclusions to present to the Community.

I think it may not be impossible to send a naturalist to the Darien expedition, if we can get a volunteer, though I hardly see where the funds are to come from to pay the salary of any one. If you know of any person who would be willing to go for the duplicates, or with the understanding that the first series is to be reserved for the National Museum, please inform me.

In selecting birds from the Samichrass Collection for Giraud, you may pick out

The third specimen, or even the second, if it be
a Common species already in our collection.
The only prior lien upon the lot is that of the
Kentucky University. This, of course, if the spec-
-imen is already in your own series.

You ask me what I am doing with
the Sparrows. I am going over them in
connection with my volume on the eastern
land birds, for the new manual.

It was John Edward Gray who
had the attack of paralysis with George
R. Gray.

Yours Truly
Spenner Baird

Geo. M. Lawrence

New York.

172 Pearl St

Washington, D.C. Dec. 11 1869

My Dear Lawrence,

The bag of Coffee came a few days ago & I sent a check for its amount direct to Mr Cotheal, and thanking you very much for the trouble you have taken with it. We have just tried it for the first time & find its promise good.

The box of hawks came to day, & will be of much service in unravelling some difficult points. We are getting the whole subject of the hawks into shape, & shall have some interesting conclusions to present to the Community.

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You ask me what I am doing with the Sparrows. I am going over them in Connection with my volume on the eastern land birds, for the new manual.

It was John Edward Gray who had the attack of paralysis & not George R. Gray.

Yours truly
Spencer F Baird

Geo. N. Lawrence
New York
172 Pearl St

21345 December 26. 1869

36



Dear Samson

I have circumvented before me.

Your letter of the 21st came I proceed to answer A. We have Scop. tracheipes but without any positive phalacrocorax

differs from Scop. in what you have of such things as we should have a case to look at than before lay. Include with them the small Uro- trachypt. ^{summit} of less than anthracinus. We have one or two out of the way black banks. that I named like to elucidate

Remind a day or two ago a new hotel under for Scop. tracheipes will send as before lay.

Have seen remarks on the Hawks - tracheipes but don't feel much surprised by them. I pre-
sume we have the plumage of a lagopus to which you refer.

Have noticed Salicetis remark. will resume shortly.

Now mind about the Belyz. Catalpa these send had when done with; also Scop. tracheipes

Keep the D. neilloti and
any others of which there are plenty
of specimens.

My dear West Indians are
all selected and assailed
in boxes - will send before
long.

W. B. Baird

W. B. Baird

M

December 26, 1869

Dear Lawrence

I have, unanswered before me, your letter of the 21st and proceed to answer it. We have Icops [one word illegible] but nothing positively phalenordis. Suppose you send on what you have of such things or we should have occasion to look at them before long. Include with them the small urubitinga? Sumichrast if less than Anthracinuscius. We have one or two out of the many black hawks, that I would like to eluadol[?]

Received a day or two at a new hotel much for Sumichrast will send on before long.

Have seen remarks on the Hawks to naturalists but dont feel much improved by them. I presume we have the plumage of A. lagopus to which you refer.

Have noticed Sclaters [one word illegible] will examine shortly.

Never mind about the Belize catalogues. Please send back when done with; also
Dendroica

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Reef the D. vieilloti and any others of which there are plenty of specimen.

Bryants West Indians and all selected and assorted in boxes. Will send before long.

Ever yours
S F Baird

G N Lawrence
N