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Title: Letters from Spencer Baird to George Lawrence (Jan. - Mar. 1871)

Date: January - March 1871

Location: MC 2000.11, B1, F9

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2327.

Washington, D.C. Jan. 7, 1871



Dear Lawrence.

Yours of the 3^d came duly to hand, & at about the same time with the Fire Screen, for which Mrs Baird is extremely indebted to you. It is exactly what she wanted, & will be a great protection to her, hereafter.

I enclose the money to pay for the same, which I hope will be more successful in reaching you than some little sums which I have lately forwarded to New York were in reaching their destination. Please let me know whenever it comes to hand.

We have sent you, I think, all the small birds of the Grayson & Kauter collections, but not the small birds of Mexico generally. Do you want these, from all parts of Mexico, or only those from the western coast? Mr Ridgway & I are using, in our researches, all the northern species, but you can have them in a little while if you need them. The Raptors & Water-birds are here, & will be sent after a while. There are

no Hummers that ^{we} have not sent; every
thing having gone, from time to time, as re-
ceived. The Tinnamooos are all in London,
& I dare not having yet returned them:

You will have to come on to Washington your-
self, & have an overhauling; I see no help for
you in this matter. Nobody but yourself can
make sure that you get all that you need
in your work.

I do not remember any new Species from
the Mexican islands, other than those you
mention. We have sent you the entire series,
with the exception of a single specimen,
retained here when there was a duplicate.

Dr Brewer, now here, thinks that the
suspension of the Boston Journal is only
temporary, & that in a little while they will
begin to print again.

The Fly-Catcher for which you ask I will
try to forward at an early day, giving you one for
yourself, if we have it to spare.

Very truly Yours,
W. Baird

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

Selaler writes that the type of
Myriophan mercurium cannot be found
in the Derby Mus. Thanks Raup took
it with him.

Asked his views about the Grayson & Bat.
if best to publish N. sp. in Annals or Ph. Proc.
One of my New birds is a Cestothorus from Ecuador
when you send the E. Hammond's please send list
thrust elegans from Samichrist as I would like
to see it & should have it to put in his Cat -
perhaps Brown could bring them if he has not
left - I suppose Mr Bondman is with you by this
time. I see by the paper to-day it has been very cold in Florida
perhaps he will persuade you to find some
visitors find it uncomfortable in many ways, think they
I heard from ^{W. P.} from two sources since that Alld
him been called "a la Marroy" as it is not all smooth & flower
would bring out a magnificent collection of
Hemmer. I suppose he must have bought Verreux
G. Newbold thinks E. would take control of the
Park Museum if he was fixed here permanently
Pickman ^{told me Rankin} wants me to meet ^{him} with others at the
Mns. Rooms w. day a two, I was wishing E. was here -
^{to help them}
~~Coner must take care or he may be cut out.~~
Much obliged for the Mem. from Samichrist

Washington, D.C. Jan. 7, 1871

Dear Lawrence,

Yours of the 3d came duly to hand, & at about the same time with the Fire Screen, for which Mrs Baird is extremely indebted to you. It is exactly what she wanted, & will be a great protection to her, thereafter.

I enclose the money to pay for the Sarine, which I hope will be more successful in reaching you than some little sums which I have lately forwarded to New York were in reaching their destination. Please let me know whenever it comes to hand.

We have sent you, I think all the small birds of the Grayson & Xantus Collections, but not the small birds of Mexico. Do you want these, from all parts of Mexico, or only those from the western coast? Mr Ridgeway & I are using, in our researches, all the northern species, but you can have them in a little while if you need them. The raptors & water birds are here, & will be sent after a while. There are

[Page Break]

no hummers that ~~you~~ we have not sent, everything having gone, from time to time, as received. The Tinamous are all in London, Sclater not having yet returned them.

You will have to come on to Washington yourself, & have an overhauling; I see no help for you in this matter. Nobody but yourself can make sure that you get all that you need in your work.

I do not remember any new species from the Mexican islands, other than those you mention. We have sent you the entire series, with the exception of a single specimen, retained here when there was a duplicate.

Dr. Brewer, now here, thinks that the suspension of the Boston Journal is only temporary, & that in a little while they will begin to print again.

The Fly-Catcher for which you ask I will try to forward at an early day, giving you one for yourself, if we have it to spare.

Very truly yours,
S F Baird

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

[Page Break]

Sclaters writes that the type *Myiarchus mexicanus* cannot be found in the Derby Mus.; thinks Kauss took it with him.

Asked his views about the Grayson &c Cat. if best to publish N. Sp. in Annals or Ph. Proc. One of my New birds is a *Cistothorus* from Ecuador when you send the *E. hammondi* please send *Cistothorus elegans* from Sumichrast as I would like to see it & should have it to put

in his list - perhaps Brewer could bring them if he has not left - Suppose Mr Boardman is with you by this time, ~~perhaps he will persuade you to find hawks~~ I see by the paper today it has been very cold in Florida & some of the new visitors find it uncomfortable in many ways, think they have been duped "a la marnay" as it is not all sunshine & flowers I heard from him Mr. B. & from two sources since that Elliot would bring out ^ here a significant collection of Hummers - I suppose he must have bought Verreauxi ~~G. Newbold thinks E. would take control~~ of the Park Museum if he was fixed here permanently Brickman ^ told Mr. [?] counts me to meet ^ him with others at the Mus. rooms in a day or two, I was wishing E. was here - to help them ~~Coues must take care or he may be cut out.~~ Much obliged for the Mem. From Sumichrast -

(Pp)

Washington, D.C. Jan. 19. 1871



Dear Lawrence.

I send you herewith, the specimens of Hammond's Fly-Catcher, which you are welcome to keep; also some specimens of the wrens for your examination.

Please return these, as soon as you have done with them, as we shall need them in a little while, in our studies.

Very truly yours

Geo. W. Lawrence,
172, Pearl Street,
New York.

Sperdy W. Baird

Washington, D.C. Jan. 19, 1871.

Dear Lawrence,

I send you herewith, the specimens of Hammond's Fly-Catcher, which you are welcome to keep; also some specimens of the wrens for your examination.

Please return these as soon as you have done with them, as we shall need them in a little while, in our studies.

Very truly yours
Spencer F Baird

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

Amey

Washington, D.C. Jan. 26. 1871.

My dear Lawrence.

I have yours of the 23^d & hasten to answer it. I send you all the specimens of *Attila* for which you ask & hope they will help you to solve the problem. I examined carefully the Parula from the Three Marias & appreciated a general difference from the S. American; but was unable to ^{define the} identify it satisfactorily to myself, so that I did not give it a new name. I am not sure but the type specimen of the Island Wren had been in alcohol for some time, so that it was materially changed in appearance. The Parrot I would put in as a variety (*Brevipes*). I do not believe it is a species, although well marked by its peculiar characteristics. You can put in the Vireo at the end of your paper as taken from my manuscript

"Ibis" for October I have not seen, & doubt if it has yet been published. I shall be glad to get the Cross-bills nest & give the owner something of equal or greater value.

Very truly yours.

A. W. Ward

Geo. W. Lawrence
172, Pearl Street.
N. York.

Washington, D.C. Jan. 26, 1871.

My Dear Lawrence,

I have yours of the 23d & hasten to answer it. I send you all the Specimens of Attila for which you ask & hope they will help you to solve the problem. I examined carefully the Parula from the three Marias & appreciate a general difference from the S. American; but was unable to ~~identify it~~ define this satisfactorily to myself, so that I did not give it a new name. I am not sure but the type specimen of the Island Wren had been in alcohol for some time, so that it was materially changed in appearance. The Parrot I would put in as a variety (Brevipes). I do not believe it is a species, although well marked by its peculiar characteristics. You can put in the Vireo at the end of your paper as taken from my manuscript

"Ibis" for October I have not seen, & doubt if it has yet been published. I shall be glad to get the Crossbills nest & give the owner something of equal or greater value.

Very truly yours,
S F Baird

Geo. N. Lawrence
172, Pearl Street,
N. York.

23413

Washington, D.C. Feb. 1, 1871.

Dear Lawrence.

J. G. Sclater writes me that he has at last-obtained the type of Myiarchus Mexicanus from Kaup himself, & that it is my M. Cooperi. He does not state, however, what Kaup's M. Cooperi is. I shall write to him about that. This, of course, settles M. cinerascens, as a good Myi to which, you at least-can have no objection.

Very truly yours.

J. Baird.

Geo. N. Lawrence.

172 Pearl St.

N. York.

Washington, D.C. Feb. 1, 1871

Dear Lawrence,

Slater writes me that he has at last obtained the type of Myiarchus Mexicanus from Kauss himself, & that it is my M. Cooperi. He does not state, however, what Kauss's M. Cooperi is. I shall write to him about that. This, of course, settles M. Cineraceus, as a good species to which, you at least can have no objection.

Very truly yours,
S. F. Baird.

Geo. N. Lawrence
172 Pearl St.
N. York.

Aug 19

Washington, D.C. Feb. 14, 1871.



Dear Lawrence,

In our general review of North American Birds for the new book, we have come to the Warblers, & Ridgway is very anxious to see as large a series of the festiva type as he can, particularly those with red heads, allied to the vielloti. We sent you quite a number of these from Massachusetts, which I would be glad to have you return, with any others that you may possess of any form from the West-Indies, or from Central or South America. These will be sent back to you in a few days after receiving them.

Trusting that you are well & having a good time, I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

A. Wetmore

Geo. N. Lawrence Esq.

172, Pearl Street,

New York.

Washington, D.C. Feb. 14. 1871.

Dear Lawrence,

In our general review of North American Birds for the new book, we have come to the Warblers, & Ridgeway is very anxious to see as large a series of the Aestiva type as he can, particularly those with red heads, allied to the vieilloti. We sent you quite a number of these from Mazatlan, which I would be glad to have you return, with any others that you may possess of any form from the West-Indies, or Central or South America. These will be sent back to you in a few days after receiving them.

Trusting that you are well & having a good time, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
S. F. Baird

Geo. N. Lawrence Esq.
172, Pearl Street,
New York.

J. J.
Dear Lawrence.

Washington, D.C. Feb. 22, 1871



I am much obliged to you for the reference to the fish. I had already received a fine specimen, weighing about 16 pounds, from Mr Scott. I wish, however, you would see if you cannot get a perfect specimen; the smaller the better, without the insides removed, & send me entire in a tub of ice; & I will gladly pay the expenses of fish, packing & transportation, as I wish to have a better figure of the species than that furnished by the specimen sent by Mr Scott. If there is more than one species of these outlandish Mackerel that come into Market at the present time, I would like specimens of all of them.

The specimen sent by Mr Scott is a West India fish, known here as the Sierra.

I will send, as soon as I get the copies, some of the circulars referred to, to Mr Clarke, & would be glad to have them distributed. The box of warblers came safely to hand. I have not written Iclater about Cooper's Fly-catcher. You had better do so & stir him up

about it.

Yours very truly

W W Ward

Geo. N. Lawrence

172, Pearl St.

New York.

Washington, D.C. Feb. 22, 1871.

Dear Lawrence,

I am much obliged to you for the reference to the fish. I had already received a fine specimen, weighing about 16 pounds, from Mr Scott. I wish, however, you could see if you cannot get a perfect specimen; the smaller the better, without the insides removed & send me entire in a tub of ice; & I will gladly pay the expenses of fish, packing & transportation, as I wish to have a better figure of the species than that furnished by the specimen sent by Mr Scott. If there is more than one species of these outlandish Mackerel that come into Market at the present time, I would like specimens of all of them.

The specimen sent by Mr Scott is a West India fish, known there as the Sierra.

I will send as soon as I get the copies, some of the circulars referred to, to Mr. Clerke & would be glad to have them distributed. The box of warblers came safely to hand. I have not written Sclater about Cooper's Fly-Catcher. You had better do so & stir him up

[Page Break]

about it.

Yours very truly
S F Baird

Geo. N. Lawrence
172 Pearl St.
New York.

21730



J.P.

March 6. 76

Dear Samm

Relatives birds are all
boxed: ready to send off.
Better send Lesbia by mail
No word of Sumichrasi
last.

The Small Unstrutings
of Sumichrasi - anthracina. By
the way the bird labelled by you
I forget what exactly - for Polioptila
- the True U. schubertii the one
one we have.

Did you find anything of
interest in the Vireonid birds

Copies are all ready to
print off: wanting approval
you are

Yours Samm.

J.P. Baird

Let me know remaining changes -
the Hopewell bird

March 6. 71

Dear Lawrence,

Sclaters birds are all boxed: ready to send off. Better send Lesbia by mail.

No word of Sumichrast last.

The small Urubitinga of Sumichrast is anthracinus. By the way the bird labelled by you I forgot what exactly - for Bolivia - is the true U. schistacea the only one we have.

Did you find anything of interest in these Bryant birds

Cooper owls all ready to print off. waiting appropriate

Yours ever
S F Baird

G N Lawrence,

Ny

Let me know remaining charges in the Hague box

Aug 23, 680

Washington, D.C. March, 7, 1871.



My dear Lawrence.

I duly received your letter of the 4th, & was very glad to find that you were alive, so long an interval having elapsed since I last had the pleasure of hearing from you.

I am much obliged for your inquiry respecting the fish. I shall be glad to have a specimen whenever a good one turns up. I have just had the pleasure of a visit from Mr R. B. Roosevelt, who is, as you know, a member of the new Congress. He expressed much gratification at hearing of my appointment, & was polite enough to say that he expected much good from the results of my inquiries.

I do not think any taxidermist went with the last Sarien expedition. I have had no opportunity of adding any one to that party. It is quite probable that I may have to go on to N. York for a few days next week, & hope then to have the pleasure of discussing Sclater's paper & other matters of mutual interest. By that time I may have some copies of my Fish Circular to show to Mr Clerk.

By the way, I intend to make a complete collection of all the different kinds of fishing apparatus for catching fish either by wholesale or retail, & shall want to remain pretty closely in Mr Clerk's establishment; for the purpose of securing samples of all the different specimens of hooks & lines, reels, harpoons, etc.

Very truly Yours.

Spencer W. Beard

Geo. W. Lawrence Esq.
172, Pearl Street,
New York.

Washington, D.C. March 7, 1871.

My Dear Lawrence,

I duly received your letter of the 4th, & was very glad to find that you were alive, so long an interval having elapsed since I last had the pleasure of hearing from you.

I am much obliged for your inquiry respecting the fish. I shall be glad to have a specimen whenever a good one turns up. I have just had the pleasure of a visit from Mr R. B. Roosevelt, who is, as you know, a member of the new Congress. He expressed much gratification at hearing of my appointment, & was polite enough to say that he expected much good from the results of my inquiries.

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[Page Break]

By the way, I intend to make a complete collection of all the different kinds of fishing apparatus for catching fish either by wholesale or retail, & shall want to rummage pretty closely in Mr Clerk's establishment, for the purpose of securing samples of all the different specimens of hooks + lines, reels, harpoons, etc.

Very truly yours,
Spencer F Baird

Geo. N. Lawrence Esq.
172 Pearl Street,
New York.

Washington, D.C. March 11, 1871.

Dear Lawrence.

I was sorry to learn by yours of the 9th, that Mrs Lawrence is suffering from her ^{50th} foot, & trust that she will before long be recovered.

As to my visit to New York, the time is yet uncertain, but I hope to be there towards the end of next week. When I come I shall take much pleasure in boring you just as much as I can, as I have done in times past.

I enclose a memorandum of some additional birds that Ridgway would like to see in the revision of our bird manuscript. I know very well that most of them are not in your possession, but shall be glad to have you send whatever you can. They will be promptly returned to you, as the last instalment.

I have met Mr Roosevelt two or three times & am inclined to think I shall get along very well with him. He seems disposed to take a very favorable view of my opinion, & I think will give me his support.

Very truly Yours.

Spencer V Baird

Geo. W. Lawrence Esq.
172 Pearl Street,
New York.

Washington, D.C. March 11, 1871.

Dear Lawrence,

I was sorry to learn by yours of the 9th, that Mrs Lawrence is suffering from her ^ sore foot, & trust that she will before to long be recovered.

As to my visit to New York, the time is yet uncertain, but I hope to be there towards the end of next week. When I come I shall take much pleasure in boring you just as much as I can, as I have done in times past.

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I have met Mr. Roosevelt two or three times & am inclined to think I shall get along very well with him. He seems disposed to take a very favorable view of my mission, & I think will give me his support.

Very truly yours,
Spencer F Baird

Geo. N. Lawrence Esq.
172 Pearl Street,
New York.