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Title: Letters from Spencer Baird to George Lawrence (Apr. - Jun. 1871)

Date: April - June 1871

**Location:** MC 2000.11, B1, F10

#### **Contact:**

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My Dear Lawrence. Neshington, Dec. April 14, 1871. yours of the 11th is at hand, & I hasten to answer it. I am on the look and for a box by Solater & Salvin, & Shall Eltur you your Share of the Contents às avon as reclived. I am much obliged to you for your memorandum in regard to the price of (The ferules; I shall probably have occasion border Lome. The pariphlets asked for will be senein a few days, as avon as I cam get our Clerk to attend to them. Olidgeway is now at work at the Speatcher, Lis making his usual Drushing wh of Species. The finds that in meanly all the genera mereare from two to Lix varieties of typical forms, all thelonging to different- glographical regions, tall varying from the type in the Dame manner. Thus, the Specimens that in mosthern Mexico are olivaceous or more or less rusty, as you pro-- elle south become barker & darken, expecially on the

head, the rusty disappearing Altre general appearance Changing, X withat do Closely related that a devies Con be made out that Shall come co the whole with the utwose precision. I told Ridgeway That as down as he gets through his examina-- tim here he had better take his specimens & Manuscript on to New york & examine your Collection with the view of ascertaining how for This con clusions are correct, I how for this propriete to extend them over species not-al-present in our Collection. I think you would be pleased to have him do do, as the principal redultwill be to amash who great many of the Ro colled Opecies of Schoter & Salvin, & to be sure a good many of your own will reeffer in Medanie way, but that is a matter of no con-- Degreece. I have been mit- Justy hard in regned & some of my names, as Tyronias Couchi etc., hue I stand it wonderfully well.

you have by this time Dein Mr Brandman. We & Dr Brewer left us last-Triesday for the north. We have had mirerally un comforta ble weather here; owing to the great heat; hur it has become much pleasanter for a few days past. Very huly yours. Spenier Baird Leo. N. Laurence Ery. 172 Penul Street, New Gorh.

Washington, D.C. April 14, 1871.

My Dear Lawrence,

Yours of the 11th is at hand, & I hasten to answer it. I am on the look out for a box from Sclater & Salvin, & shall return you our share of the contents as soon as received.

I am much obliged to you for your memorandum in regard to the price of the ferules; I shall probably have occasion to order some. The pamphlets asked for will be sent in a few days, as soon as I can get our clerk to attend to them.

Ridgeway is now at work at the fly-catchers & is making his usual smashing up of species. He finds that in nearly all the genera here are from two to six varieties of typical forms, all belonging to different geographical regions, & all varying from the type in the same manner. Thus, the specimens that in northern Mexico are olivaceous or more or less rusty, as you proceed south become darker & darker, especially on the

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head, the rusty disappearing & the general appearance changing, & withal so closely related that series can be made out that shall connect the whole with the utmost precision. I told Ridgeway that as soon as he gets through his examination here he had better take his specimens & manuscript on to New York & examine your collection with the view of ascertaining how far his conclusions are correct, & how far it is possible to extend them over species not at present in our collection. I think you would be pleased to have him do so, as the principal result will be to smash up a great many of the so called species of Sclater & Salvin; & to be sure a good many of your own will suffer in the same way, but that is a matter of no consequence. I have been hit pretty hard in regard to some of my names, as Tyrannus Couchi etc., but I stand it wonderfully well.

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You have by this time seen Mr Boardman, He & Dr Brewer left us last Tuesday for the north. We have had miserably uncomfortable weather here; owing to the great heat; but it has become much pleasanter for a few days past.

Very truly yours, Spencer F Baird

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

Sear Lawrence. On my return from Carlisle & founds your letter of the 21st. Please let me know whether you can find any boarding place at a reasonable frice my where in your neighborhood, for Bidgeway. As his visit will be at my expense entirely, I of course do not particularly care to pay four or fine dollars a day for him, if it can be well avoided. He will probably be ready togo on in the Gurse of a week or two twill take with him grite a runber of his typical specimens, in order the more readily to Company them with your He is a very griet makening, modest-fel-Low, & Dam Aure you will be very runch pleased with him. Very Truly yours. Spener Board Ges. N. Louvence 172, Peul Street, New York.

Washington, D.C. April 26, 1871.

Dear Lawrence,

On my return from Carlisle I found your letter of the 21st. Please let me know whether you can find any boarding place at a reasonable price, any where in your neighborhood, for Ridgeway. As his visit will be at my expense entirely, I of course do not particularly care to pay four or five dollars a day for him, if it can be well avoided. He will probably be ready to go on in the course of a week or two, & will take with him quite a number of his typical specimens, in order the more readily to compare them with yours.

He is a very quiet, unassuming, modest fellow, & I am sure you will be very much pleased with him.

Very truly yours, Spencer F Baird

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

Walhungton, Dlo. April 29, 1871. Myseur Lawrence. I have your letter of the 28th, thave arranged with Ridgeway logo on to New york. about Wednesday next. The will take with him Ruch Receivens as he needs, to Compare with your Collection, twill probably have accusion to examine more partie wholy the fly-enteters, although he will be glad to work over your Collection generally. Phase give him all the help again can, I thereby seeme a smashing of a good bot of your Thelies. Mis Baid received the receipt- for beam Soup, Lis much obliged; the will my it as arow as the can get-the right- him of beaus. The is glad to leave that The Soland dresping proved a cceptable. Wenythily yours. Geo. N. Lawrence, 172 Peurl Still, N. y. Spencer Baird.

Washington, D.C. April 29, 1871.

My Dear Lawrence,

I have your letter of the 28th, & have arranged with Ridgeway to go on to New York about Wednesday night.

He will take with him such specimens as he needs, to compare with your collections, & will probably have occasion to examine more particularly the fly-catchers, although he will be glad to look over your Collection generally. Please give him all the help you can, & thereby secure a smashing of a good lot of your species!

Ms Baird received the receipt for bean soup, & is much obliged; she will try it as soon as she can get the right kind of beans. She is glad to learn that the salad dressing proved acceptable.

Very truly yours, Spencer F Baird.

Geo. N. Lawrence 172 Pearl Street, N.Y. Why sear Lawrence.

The package of Stearine Came Rafely to hand, with your enclosures, two are in-- debted toyour for the framphlets forwarded to com plete the Smithsman Ret. Ridgeway informs me that he called al-The office al- the appointed how & waited a consid - enable time, I'm being told that there was no Certainty of your being there, look his departure, as he had some other engagement- that he wished To altered to. The will probably write you him - self, explaining the circumstances. I have tolo him to fich out such of the birds in your list- as could be spared, Rothat he might in that way do something for your great kindness to him while in New york. We have just-received from Salvin This box of Veragua hirds, several hundred Eflecimens, Hernbrucing several interesting things although I do not know that there is any Thing entirely new bous. X Schoter Elhous, by the same of portunity several troves of birds,

Cent- him by us, talso one of yours which will be forwarded by your before long! Will you he so kind as to order in ad-- dition to the other articles for which I have written 3 groß best-velvel-corks, 3/8 an wich in diameter at the lower end; 3 grofs, 1/2 an in ch in draweter & 3 grofs, 3/4 of an inch in diamaeter; Also 3 grof of large Cerks 3/4 of an wich in deander, & 3 grofs 1/4 inches, all trese measurements being al- the lower end. These are hartly for Capt. Hull, & pailty for Mr Dall, Metalta of whom, as perhaps you know, is about to return to Alaska where he expects to Thend, several years in the high north. Very truly yours. Spenen Maard Geo. N. Lawrence. 172, Pearl Street, New York.

Washington, D.C. May 13, 1871.

My Dear Lawrence,

The package of Stearine came safely to hand, with your enclosure; & we are indebted to you for the pamphlets forwarded to complete the Smithsonian set.

Ridgeway informs me that he called at the office at the appointed hour & waited a considerable time, & on being told that there was no certainty of your being there, took his departure; as he had some other engagement that he wished to attend to. He will probably write you himself, explaining the circumstances.

I have just received from Salvin his box of Veragua birds, several hundred specimens, & embracing several interesting things, although I do not know that there is any thing entirely new to us; & Sclater returns, by the same opportunity, several boxes of birds,

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lent him by us, & also one of yours, which will be forwarded to you before long.

Will you be so kind as to order in addition to the other articles for which I have written 3 gross best velvet corks,  $3/8 \land$  of an inch in diameter at the lower end, 3 gross, 1/2 an inch in diameter & 3 gross, 3/4 of an inch in diameter; Also 3 gross of large corks 3/4 of an inch in diameter, & 3 gross 1 1/4 inches, all these measurements being at the lower end. These are partly for Capt. Hall, & partly for Mr Dole, the latter of whom, as perhaps you know, is about to return to Alaska where he expects to spend several years in the high north.

Very truly yours, Spencer F Baird

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

Mashington, Slo. May 23, 187 12 North Ded you receive a letter from me about the 8th mist. asking you to order three dozen bottles of first-quality Crystalized Carbolic acro, frut-up aufully in boxes of holf a dosen in each; + 100 lbs y aleen +Sull-petre, in the pro-- portrois of two from de of alum to one of Sall-petre, & fracked in this caus, containing ten from seach, watter Scrent Cates. These are wanted for the Arche expedition which will leave in about tere days or two weeks, t as Thear nothing from you of them, I few the order has gones altay. (an you not-find-the matter in hand so as to have them here alone early date? I wrote also for a lot- y velvel- Corhs for small viols. This I trink went in a different letter. Awaiting your refuly with runch runpatience, I're-Verytruly yours.
A. H. Baird
Over main, Lev. N. Lowrence 172, Penil Sheet: N. 4.

N. Od. - Will Shefpers E. N. Laurence 48. attend to this order if the Geo. N. Lawrence is in Philodelphia? Bain-you as above stills so not think I have failt. I am send for my how you all with a directo

Washington, D.C. May 23, 1871.

My Dear Lawrence,

Did you receive a letter form me about the 8th inst., asking you to order three dozen bottles of first poorest - quality Crystalized Carbolic acid, put up carefully in boxes of half a dozen each; & 100 lbs of alum & Salt-petre, in the proportion of two pounds parts of alum to one of Salt-petre, & packed in tin cans \( \triangle \) with screw caps containing ten pounds each, with screw eaps. These are wanted for the Arctic expedition which will leave in about ten days or two weeks; & as I hear nothing from you of them, I fear the order has gone astray. Can you not put the matter in hand so as to have them here at an early date?

I wrote also for a lot of velvet corks for small vials. This I think went in a different letter. Awaiting your reply with much impatience, I remain,

Very truly yours, S. F. Baird

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

(over)

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N. B. - Will helpers E. N. Lawrence & Co. attend to this order if Mr Geo. N. Lawrence is in Philadelphia?

[The following written in pencil, upside-down on the reverse of the above letter.]

I am sorry for your impatience, but as I wrote you as above stated, do not think I am at fault.

Washington, De. May 24, 1871. My Dear Laurence yours of the 23 is just-at hand. I leave have all mounticles orbited, senon on to washing ton as abon as proprihe with the Bills, as the expedition will start from here, that before many days. Dall will be alkeliea year, I herhaps lunger, among the Alentians, Lwill midoubledly make Love first-rute collice tions. We shall send you to morrow a package, Containing the hex from Sclate + some Shee. inens latetly horrowed, from you by Ordgeway. Trageway has been able to pind very few of your Desiderata, hub- has neeld daily confined him. self to the overhauling of the said Buils. We do not some wurfach the Water Birds now as the mother are too troubledome, but we positively expect to get to work at this department in the Frole then we can supply you with you defeciencies & am very glad that you have, infortunately, as complete a collection that it is here will be no reason of all for your send. -eng Salvin a Cist of the Tres Marias hird, dwould

however, hasten the publication of the pople on the subject as sheedily as possible, I would begin with the Land Osinds alone, all of which I think you now have. you might, if you think proper publish a Shecial Cotologue of the Tres Marias & Sacona Collection, as tis quite Differene- from the Elmande of the Mex. -ico, & introduce them again into the grand list; when you come to that. The mos of Grayson's trip will add very much to hoin terese of the frage. here are two Species of Garmets, one the Soula cyasoops of the other priscator, that is to Lay, these names are about as nearight as any tring; but in view of the great Changes which the species experience as different- ages, it is very difficult- to day what is what wall and spoken of from Secore is the Athens Whitneys, a very unions back in geographical destri - button an Trying very hard & get off some time week after next, how cannot yet day with certainty I shall protobly rumain over night-lite the following oftenoon in New york, as I have some matters & attend Ges. N. Lawrence. 172 Pearl St. N.4. Very truly yoursained

Washington, D.C. May 24, 1871.

My Dear Lawrence,

Yours of the 23d is just at hand. Please have all the articles ordered, sent on to Washington as soon as possible, with the Bills, as the expedition will start from here, & that before many days. Dole will be absent a year, & perhaps longer, among the Aleutians, & will undoubtedly make some first rate collections. We shall send you tomorrow a package, containing the box from Sclater & some specimens lately borrowed from you by Ridgeway. Ridgeway has been able to find very few of your desiderata, but has necessarily confined himself to the overhauling of the Sand Birds. We do not dare to unpack the Water Birds now as the moths are too troublesome; but we positively expect the get to work at this department in the Fall, & then we can supply you with ∧ some of your deficiencies. I am very glad that you have, unfortunately, so complete a collection that it is very difficult to make any additions to it.

There will be no occasion objection at all for to your sending Salvin a list of the Tres Marias birds, I would

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however, hasten the publication of the paper on the subject as speedily as possible, & would begin with the Land Birds alone, all of which I think you now have. You might, if you think proper publish a special catalogue of the Tres Marias & Sacoma Collection, as it is quite different from the remainder of the Mexico, & introduce them again into the grand list, when you come to that. The inst. of Grayson's trip will add very much to the interest of the paper.

There are two Species of Gannets, one the <u>Soula cyanops</u> & the other <u>piscator</u>; that is to say, these names are about as near right as any thing; but in view of the great changes which the species experience at different ages, it is very difficult to say what is what. The small owl spoken of from Socorra is the <u>Athene Whitneyi</u>, a very curious fact in geographical distribution. I am trying very hard to get off some time week after next, but cannot yet say with certainty. I shall probably remain over night till the following afternoon in New York, as I have some matters to attend to on the way.

Very truly yours, S F Baird

Geo. N. Lawrence. 172 Pearl St. N.Y.

Mashington, Do May 26, 1871.

My Lean Lawrence.

Dhave your letter of the 24, with many Thanks for the trouble you have taken to Vill the order. Danspeel- Mat one of your letters must-have mis. Carried as I am totally oblivious of any letter from you, referring to the analyiel of Carbolicain I am very glad you have found it at do low a price, as we have never obtained it at lef trans \$1,50 a bottle. I must have uppelsed my. self wrongly in my last in regard to the packing of the Carbolic acid; as I intended to review the request to have the three dosen bottles (packets in boxes of me dosen each, exactly as you have some. You must not truck that I was at all supatient in my Writing, as I know very well that if you received my letter the matter would be altended to promptly, tim

a busines-like manner. If you constructed molters less in his way perhaps you would not be troubled as prequently by your friends, who know they can always defrend whom you for doing Mings properly. The certs, accompanied by the whiles, came yesterday, & I suppose he a cid to the smallers will follow to day. Can you, without too wench trouble ascertain for me what are the present-whole-201e grotations for 95 her cent rectified alcohot, such as you obtained for us a year agoine & co : got to the south of in its Wenftruly your. Cleo. N. Laurence Eeg. · 172, Pearl Sheet, you must New york. well that if you series my letter Pratter woods be altered to from filly

Washington, D.C. May 26, 1871.

My Dear Lawrence,

I have your letter of the 24, with many thanks for the trouble you have taken to fill the order.

I suspect that one of your letters must have miscarried, as I am totally unaware of any letter from you, referring to the subject of Carbolic acid. I am very glad you have found it at so low a price, as we have never obtained it at less than \$1.50 a bottle. I must have expressed myself wrongly in my last in regard to the packing of the Carbolic acid; as I intended to renew the request to have the three dozen bottles packed in boxes of one dozen each, exactly as you have done.

You must not think that I was at all impatient in my writing, as I knew very well that if you received my letter the matter would be attended to promptly, & in

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a business-like manner. If you conducted matters less in this way perhaps you would not be troubled so frequently by your friends, who know they can always depend upon you for doing things properly.

The corks, accompanied by other articles, came yesterday, & I suppose the acid & other matters will follow to day.

Can you, without too much trouble, ascertain for me what are the present wholesale quotations for 95 per cent rectified alcohol, such as you obtained for us a year ago.

Very truly yours, S F Baird

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

24563 Washington, Slo. May 31, 1871. My bear Lawrence. I have your letter of The 28th & hasten to answer it. I expect to leave here next sotien day toreach New york about Tuesday or Wednesday next, to remain a dayar (the Albemarke. I shall be very Rorry rindeed to mip seeing you, thope Mut it may Still be perpible to find you in the Verytruly yours. Spenen Maura Geo. N. Lawrence.
172, Penel Street,
New york. your plan

Washington, D.C. May 31, 1871.

My Dear Lawrence,

I have your letter of the 28th & hasten to answer it.

I expect to leave here next Saturday & to reach New York about Tuesday or Wednesday next, & to remain a day at the Albemarle.

I shall be very sorry indeed to miss seeing you, & hope that it may still be possible to find you in the City.

Very truly yours, Spencer F Baird

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

Woods Hale, June 16, 1871. My Dear Townerce. I am duly in receipt of your letter of the 13th with the box of Carbolic acid, & our much obliged Lyon for attending buy regrest. The article is not ex-- actty that which I have been using, but I have little doubt it will answer my propose. We can al-any rate, make use of it al- time for disin-- feeting proposes, even if I should find it necessar - my to send for Rome of a proces quality. The kinds have used is Calverts, put whim fround bottles with glass Stoppers of for which I haid 75 cents, propriety get-- ting it as Cheap as it is querally fold. I have sent The Bill to Washington Ro as to have it paid directly from that point. I presume that the New York market is al--ways stocked with fish in the Leason, but it is a great-mistake to Long that Steymere never more abundant throughout the Country, as the supply furnished to far this year, in this part of the Country is decidedly lefs than heretofore. There have been nearly three times as many pounds in aperation, I yet the aggregate catch is believed to be consid-- erably lep than that of last- year. I do not know whether haynand has re-- trust from Florida, hut I am muder the ein - preprion he has, as I think Ridgeway received a

Letter from him just before I left-Washington Dann very Dony When that Mrs Laurence has not been as well for the last few days, & mable borsit Washington. I hope, however Mis may be only temporary draw back, & Mat the may recover her normal states health. Very huly your. Daire - my to send for some of a Lev. N. Lawrence Ery. 172, Real Sheet, new ment as half dade P.S. Keene Sund an å dozen boulle, !! - y the Calvert Carbolic and: glan Hoffen: Spored quality fluid: but transferred. Cont about 9.00 po dry. The Company of on Belling i est en la Prope chech it aand select is produce state of the house in observed the coins of the coins - turned from Flishe hut I am runder the min repletation he has, so I think Ridsmay received on

Wood's Hole, June 16, 1871.

My Dear Lawrence,

I am duly in receipt of your letter of the 13th, with the box of Carbolic acid & am much obliged to you for attending to my request. The articles not exactly that which I have been using, but I have little doubt it will answer my purpose. We can at any rate, make use of it at home for disinfecting purposes, even if I should find it necessary to send for some of a finer quality. The kind I have used is Calverts, put up in pound bottles with glass stoppers & for which I paid 75 cents, possibly getting it as cheap as it is generally sold. I have sent the Bill to Washington so as to have it paid directly from that point.

I presume that the New York market is always stocked with fish in the season; but it is a great mistake to say that they were never more abundant throughout the country, as the supply furnished so far this year, in this part of the country, is decidedly less than heretofore. There have been nearly three times as many pounds in operation, & yet the aggregate catch is believed to be considerably less than that of last year.

I do not know whether Maynard has returned from Florida, but I am under the impression he has, as I think Ridgeway received a

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letter from him just before I left Washington.

I am sorry to hear that Mrs Lawrence has not been so well for the last few days, & unable to visit Washington. I hope, however, this may be truly  $\land$  a temporary draw-back, & that she may recover her normal state of health.

Very truly yours, Spencer F Baird

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

P.S. Please send as a dozen bottles, of the Calvert Carbolic acid: glass stoppers: poorest quality fluid: but transparent: cork about 9.00 per doz.

[The following in pencil at the bottom of the page.]

Mark

Prof S. F. Baird Wood's Hole Mass.

By Adams Express