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Title: Letters from Spencer Baird to George Lawrence (Jul. - Sept. 1871)

Date: July - September 1871

Location: MC 2000.11, B1, F11

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24796.

Nood's Hole, Mafs. July, 7. 1871. Dear Laurence. I was much (oncerned to hear of The Lawrence's rudisposition, I am glad to learn that The has improved so rapidly. I hope that before my you will be able to leave town & betake yourself to more comfortable summer quarters. The Carbolic acid Came all right, & the last-lotis very Ratrifactory. It seems to be precisely the same friend as that which we had before with glass Stoffers, for which we paid 75 cts a bottle. I think you may as well find me another dozen, as we use it rapidly, I it will be well to have it on hand. We are having good success I much enjoymentin the morene work of frehing & redging, I would be glad if you would be down here to see part of the from. Why can you not by the experiment of coming to Ed. -garbour for a few weeks? you can get excellentaccommodations There at " from \$8 to \$12 her week, in for called hotels, boarding houses + private families. I have kent- several Philadelphia persons there of they appear to enjoy themselves very much. There is excellent- blue-fishing there, not enough being taken to spoil the Lest- of catching a holf-dozen longe ones in the course of a half day's Sailing. you can go

readily from Edgartown to Nauticket, either by Steamer direct- one happens to be runing, or back again hy way of New Bedferd. If you wish I will have quarters ingaged for you at Edguitown, if you will let me know when you will lime. The voute is very simple, taking the Fall The Itamer or the Shore hime Kailwood, Ro as to reach New Bed ford any day at 2 oclock P.M. I take the Steamer Monohausett at Mathour, dried for Edgar-- town, Stopping at Wood's Hole. We will, if course, take great pleasure in lending the humming brids in our Collection to Mr Lould, but comed- pail-with any image types on any Condideration who tever. In view of the fact- Mine we have nearly 300 species of hummer, it is daying a good deal to say that we are not-making a Collection. I do not making a for not making I cam do any tring in the matter mulit I get - back. Geladen Doighet - pick and - the specimens of there, but he will be absent probably till the end of this month. In writing you can mention these facts to Gould & if you will remined me on my Etun of his wishes, I will act promptly & I am Luce Prof. Henry will authorize the lending of the Specimens. Very truly yours. Geo. N. Lawrence Erg. 172 Penel Street, y. Ny Baird

Wood's Hole, Mass. July, 7. 1871.

Dear Lawrence.

I was much concerned to hear of Mrs Lawrence's indisposition; & am glad to learn that she has improved so rapidly. I hope that before long you will be able to leave town & betake yourself to more comfortable Summer quarters.

The Carbolic acid came all right, & the last lot is very satisfactory. It seems to be precisely the same kind as that which we had before, with glass stoppers, for which we paid 75 cts a bottle. I think you may as well send me another dozen, as we use it rapidly, & it will be well to have it on hand.

We are having good success & much enjoyment in the marine work of fishing & dredging, & would be glad if you could be down here to see part of the fun. Why can you not try the experiment of coming to Edgartown for a few weeks? You can get excellent accommodations there at from \$8 to \$12 per week, in so called hotels, boarding houses & private families. I have sent several Philadelphia persons there, & they appear to enjoy themselves very much. There is excellent blue-fishing there, not enough being taken to spoil the rest of catching a half-dozen large ones in the course of a half day's sailing. You can go

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readily from Edgartown to Nantucket, either by Steamer direct, if one happens to be running, or back again by way of New Bedford.

If you wish I will have quarters engaged for you at Edgartown, if you will let me know when you will come. The route is very simple, taking the Fall River Steamer or the Shore Line Railroad, so as to reach New Bedford any day at 2 oclock P.M., & take the Steamer Monohausett at that hour, direct for Edgartown, stopping at Wood's Hole.

We will, of course, take great pleasure in lending the humming birds in our collection to Mr Gould, but cannot part with any unique types on any consideration whatever. In view of the fact that we have nearly 300 species of hummers, it is saying a good deal to say that we are not making a collection.

I do not think I can do any thing in the matter until I get back. Zeladon might pick out the specimens, if there, but he will be absent probably till the end of this month. In writing you can mention these facts to Gould, & if you will remind me on my return of his wishes, I will act promptly & I am sure Prof. Henry will authorize the lending of the specimens.

Very truly yours, S F Baird

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

Hood's Ixole, Map. July 20, 1871. My Dear Lawrence. The carbolic acid come duly to hand, for which I am, as ever, much obliged to you. How people do who have not any Geo. N. Lawrence to help them out of all Their difficulties I cannot magine. I trust-it will be a great many yours before I cease to have ales. N. Lawrence to bother, I he is without am S. F. B. to keep him busy. We have all just-returned from a very pleasant excursion to Nantucket, having gone Tuesday in the revenue Steamer, I returned bust-evening. I saw nothing of moment-in the bird line, but otherwise there was much to interest us all. I am Imy I did not receive your order before I started, as I could then have asked Lome of am friends at Edgartown about their table. I am friends at Edgartown who were of the party, they day nothing specially about their food, but I have no doubt they get a sufficiency of Jesh meal, but great difficulty generally, to get fish knough. They are catching quantities of blue-fish now about-Ed-- garlown, the regular market boots taking from 50 to 100 a day. Mity are also extremely fine.

I am sony to hem that Scholater & Salvin have been misbehaving in regard to Specimens, but-hope twas an inadvertence on their part. I can hardly think that they would wilfully endeavor to Chouse you out of a Rpecies, & can easily rinagine that in the great mucher of birds they have to overhall, they may become a little Confused, as to men & turn. At any rate, as they are very Alroiceable byon in making indentifications, you can perhaps Consider this transaction in the tight of a payment on your put, by giving them a Species. You have described as many new birds, x are likely to have so many more, that it is not a matter of runer course--quence whether you lose a Species or not, especially as there seems to he still a Chance that your own name will hold good. When the whole, therefore, I would not make any disturbance, but console yourself with the fact- that you make good use of them in having them Compare your doubtful Specimens with their types; I that, after all, the advantage is on your Side. Very truly yours. Spenies Trains

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

Wood's Hole, Mass. July 20, 1871.

My Dear Lawrence,

The carbolic acid came duly to hand, for which I am, as ever, much obliged to you. How people do who have not any Geo. N. Lawrence to help them out of all their difficulties I cannot imagine. I trust it will be a great many years before I cease to have a Geo. N. Lawrence to bother, & he is without an S. F. B. to keep him busy.

We have all just returned from a very pleasant excursion to Nantucket, having done Tuesday in the revenue Steamer, & returned last evening. I saw nothing of movement in the bird line, but otherwise there was much to interest us all. I am sorry I did not receive your order before I started, as I could then have asked some of our friends at Edgartown who were of the party \(\times\) about their table. They say nothing specially about their food, but I have no doubt they get a sufficiency of fresh meat, but the great difficulty generally, at the seashore being to get fish enough. They are catching quantities of blue-fish now about Edgartown, the regular market boats taking from 50 to 100 a day. They are also extremely fine.

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I am sorry to hear that Sclater & Salvin have been misbehaving in regard to specimens, but hope it was an inadvertence on their part. I can hardly think that they would wilfully endeavor to choose you out of a species, & can easily imagine that in the great number of birds they have to overhaul, they may become a little confused as to [one illegible word] & [one illegible word]. At any rate, as they are very serviceable to you in making identifications, you can perhaps consider this transaction in the light of a payment on your part, by giving them a species. You have described so many new birds, & are likely to have so many more, that it is not a matter of much consequence whether you lose a species or not, especially as there seems to be still a chance that your own name will hold good. Upon the whole, thereafter, I would make good use of them in having them compare your doubtful specimens with their types; & that, after all, the advantage is on your side.

Very truly yours, Spencer F Baird

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

24982. Lean Laurence. I de la May. Aug. 29. 1871. ned value for and the your letter of the 26th . such before me I really truck that your sould spend a few weeks quite pleasantly al- Edgustown . The Grown of viditors having gove away to that there are plenty of good accommodation whe had to the training is I quite Rotisforesing for a vocanty place the - Lother frakling is - Cofritale Rome parties hur long by the Guese of andry in wish of well ask you to come to Wood's Hole, have there is no Chance here sur Whely to be for done weeking to Come. The only available house in the place has morties ala Edgantown waiting to accupy its revous a so benever the present a confinite leave of Cotril Port I have never visited, Moneya il have after Ren it printe docuted, It eller Fallieve grite a pleasant place, une ? I well- if it is better than Edgartours the Ocean House al- Nantuckel- is a first- Clife establishment, however, Lif you prefer going there I think you would be well pleased. Still, if you were st-Edgar.

you would be too for off at. The other places. It is very well for hiddleton to Sheak of fire being at extremely abundant this Reason. It is as if a fairer who has been in the habit of milling one pain of Chickens a hunda, Should anclude for some reason to use up This stock of poultry & kill a pain every day. The temporary aboundance might be sunch - greater, but the stack would how out in a short time, leaving none to treep up the breed. In this section there are Octavely three founds to one lutt- year. I there were more last-year Strong the year before. Do that all harmening away dimelaneously they must-bring on a glust of fresh in markets, whe followed by a anogrand scarcity sinty our trine of leaving here is moryelade and when how twill perbolly he dometime before the and of September. Exerptice to reach - Wend york new the wolf the worth or early in actober , do us to be in Watting his by the middle I that mouth and the fire the out that of Mention pluste al Montinellet - no et 200 V. Laurence Eige Der en 19 refer - 192 Penal Shell Will . Bearing Mon

Wood's Hole, Mass. Aug. 29. 1871.

Dear Lawrence,

With your letter o the 26th inst. before me I really think that you could spend a few weeks quite pleasantly at Edgartown. The crowd of visitors having gone away so that there are plenty of good accommodations to be had. The boarding is quite satisfactory for a country place, & the blue fishing is capital, some parties having lately caught over a hundred large fish in the course of a day.

I wish I could ask you to come to Wood's Hole; but there is no chance here, nor likely to be for some weeks to come. The only available house in the place has parties at Edgartown waiting to occupy its rooms whenever the present occupants leave.

Cotuit Port I have never visited, though I have often seen it from the sound. It is, I believe, quite a pleasant place, but I doubt if it is better than Edgartown.

The Ocean House at Nantucket is a first class establishment, however, & if you prefer going there I think you would be well pleased. Still, if you were at Edgartown

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we could mange to see something of you, while you would be too far off at the other places. It is very well for Middleton to speak of fishing being so extremely abundant this season. It is as if a farmer who has been in the habit of killing one pair of chickens a month, should conclude, for some reason to use up his stock of poultry & kill a pair every day. The temporary abundance might be much greater, but the stock would run out in a short time, leaving none to keep up the breed.

In this section there are certainly three pounds to one, last year; & there were more last year than the year before; so that all hammering away simultaneously they must bring on a glut of fish in market, to be followed by a great scarcity.

Our time of leaving here is not yet decided upon, but it will probably be sometime before the end of September. We expect to reach New York near the end of the month or early in October, so as to be in Washington by the middle of that month.

Very truly yours, Spencer F Baird

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

25-032. Woods Ixole, Map. Sept: 13, 1871. Dear Lourence. I have yours of the 10th, and rusten To Lay Mant as soon as I received Ir Van Pattern's letter, which was ansiderably delayed on the route, I auswered it, & wrote at the Rame time to Mr. Stillier. I find that I neglected to return to This Weletter of Ribon & towns. Mung I did the best in my power as regards these Deermens, askring In Hillier to give trin every lotitude, Mongh they really are not entitled to per entiance. "If the whole rivoice had been for the Smithsoman, or the whole had come addressed to the Institution, Whe administered entirely by it we could have cloimed the remission of July; hur as the Collection was intended for Role, it was Clearly not legitimately entitled to this remission, although the Custom House authorities could use their discrimination in the

I abould be glad to well the Doctor, thope he will he in New york when I arrive there. My more ments are till uncertain, hur it is quite probable (that we shall reach New York from the 5-12 the 10th of October, when I hope where the pleasure of theing you & discussing our Reveral adventures during the Leaden. Very truly yours. Spenus Warres Lev. N. Lowrence, 172. Pearl Street. New York.

Woods Hole, Mass. Sept. 13, 1871.

Dear Lawrence,

I have yours of the 10th, and hasten to say that as soon as I received Dr Van Patten's letter, which was considerably delayed on the route, I answered it, & wrote at the same time to Mr. Hillier. I find that I neglected to return to him the letter of Ribon & Munas Muniz

I did the best in my power as regards these specimens, asking Mr Hillier to give him every latitude, though they really are not entitled to free entrance. If the whole invoice had been for the Smithsonian, or the whole had come addressed to the Institution, to be administered entirely by it we could have claimed the remission of duty; but as the collection was intended for sale, it was clearly not legitimately entitled to this remission, although the Custom House authorities could use their discrimination in the matter.

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I should be glad to meet the Doctor, & hope he will be in New York when I arrive there. My movements are still uncertain, but it is quite probable that we shall reach New York from the 5th to the 10th of October, when I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you & discussing our several adventures during the season.

Very truly yours, Spencer F Baird

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

Nood's Nole, Sept. 30, 1871. My Dear Laurence. Jours of the 27th is at hand, & Farite to Day that I am now packing up, expecting to leave This place about Tuesday or Wednesday of next-week, I proceed to Bodion; & Rhall prohoby be in N. york The beginning of the week following, when I hope to have the pleasure of Deling you. Is you know of any good boarding place in the where have of the city, where we could find accom-- modations for the three or four days of our Stay? I whall have to remain to altered to I ome matters of business about that length of hime, x do not quite like to Contemplate the big hotel prices. I so not auphose there is auch a tring as a Comfortable hold in a good howl- of the city, where the case- of board is not over three or three to halfdolling, if there is I would who to hear of it. I vid the best-I could for Von Pattern,

X am Lovy he has not succeeded in corrying Through his collectionis. We could not, however, with one propriety, claim them as ours when The contrary was actually the case. Every truly yours. Apener Maura Leo. N. Lowrence Eig. 172, Penel Stut, New York.

Wood's Hole, Sept. 30, 1871.

My Dear Lawrence,

Yours of the 27th is at hand, & I write to say that I am now packing up, expecting to leave this place about Tuesday or Wednesday of next week, & proceed to Boston; & shall probably be in N. York the beginning of the week following, when I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you.

Do you know of any good boarding places in the upper part of the city, where we could find accommodations for the three or four days of our stay? I shall have to remain to attend to some matters of business about that length of time, & do not quite like to contemplate the big hotel prices. I do not suppose there is such a thing as a comfortable hotel in a good part of the city, where the cost of board is not over three & a half dollars; if there is I would like to hear of it.

I did the best I could for Van Patten,

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& am sorry he has not succeeded in carrying through his collections. We could not, however, with any propriety, claim them as ours when the contrary was actually the case.

Very Truly yours, Spencer F Baird

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