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Title: Letters from Spencer Baird to George Lawrence (Jan. – Jul. 1873)

Date: January - July 1873

Location: MC 2000.11, B1, F17

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

28.780
Washington D.C. Jan. 1, 1873

Dear Lawrence, Coates' address is Fort Randall,
Sakota, where he will receive any Communi-
cation in due course of time.

We have just-unpacked the Alaskan birds,
& find them to contain a most Charming series of
various Alcedae, Pipra brevirostris, etc. This
lot is of so peculiar a Character that nobody
gets a single specimen who does not come
himself in person! There are duplicates of
nearly every species, & you never saw so hand-
some a lot of skins in your life; both
Ridgway & Sager in this! We expect a few
weeks later another Consignment from Dall;
but you need not wait for them unless you
find it inconvenient to come sooner. We
shall be glad to welcome you whenever
you can visit us, & if you can bring
Mrs Lawrence with you it will be all the
better. You need not be afraid of the
Smallpox, as the disease is, as far, confin-
ed to the outskirts of the city & to persons of
the lowest classes who have failed to take
the proper precautionary measures.

Our doctor, who was here a day or two ago, has one of the most extensive paying practices in Washington, & he said he had not yet come into communication with a single case.

Very truly yours.

A. J. Baird

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

I shall have to be in N.Y. the end of January to meet my Salmon off for Germany, and if you don't come down, I can escort you back!

Ask for Glaucous cormorants for Gould

Sent extras to Mr. Crane

Told him to set aside that 2^d series of Alaskan birds, as I accepted his terms & would come for them.

Washington D.C. Jan. 1, 1873

Dear Lawrence,

Coues' address is Fort Randall, Dakota, where he will receive any communication in due course of time.

We have just unpacked the Alaskan birds, & find them to contain a most charming series of various Alcadae, Ripa brevirostris, etc. This lot is so peculiar a character that nobody gets a single specimen who does not come after himself in person! There are duplicates of nearly every species, & you never saw so handsome a lot of skins in your life; both Ridgway & I agree in this! We expect a few weeks later another consignment from Dall; but you need not wait for them unless you find it inconvenient to come sooner. We shall be glad to welcome you whenever you can visit us, & if you can bring Mrs Lawrence with you it will be all the better. You need not be afraid of the small-pox, as the disease is, so far, confined to the outskirts of the city & to persons of the lowest class who have failed to take the proper precautionary measures.

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Our doctor, who was here a day or two ago, has one of the most extensive paying practices in Washington, & he said he had not yet come into communication with a single case.

Very truly yours,
S F Baird

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

I shall have to be in NY the end of January to meet my Latimer eggs from Germany, and if you dont come sooner I can escort you back!

[The following notes in a different hand.]

Ask for Glaucis aeneas for Gould sent extras to Mrs Crane
Told him to set aside that 2d series of Alaskan birds, as I accepted his terms & would come for them

30.784

Washington, June 17, 1873.

Dear Lawrence,

The number of Goulds has come to hand, & I am much obliged to you for it; I will return it soon.

You are entirely welcome to send to Sclater any of our types that you have in your care. When I see you in New York I will arrange about shipping the package to Sclater.

We expect to leave Tuesday morning & to be at the Fifth Avenue Hotel by evening, & remain there two or three days.

Very truly yours,

A. V. Baird

Geo. N. Lawrence Esq.

172 Pearl Street.

New York.

Washington, June 17, 1873.

Dear Lawrence,

The number of Gould has come to hand, & I am much obliged to you for it; I will return it soon. You are entirely welcome to send Sclater any of our types that you have in your care. When I see you in New York I will arrange about shipping the package to Sclater.

We expect to leave Thursday morning & to be at the Fifth Avenue Hotel by evening, to remain there two or three days.

Very truly yours,
S F Baird

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

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2
Pottland, July 28, 1873.

My dear Lawrence,

I have been very busily engaged, since our arrival here, in getting fairly started in our work, & so have been negligent in writing to you; but I have kept putting it off for one reason & another, until now I fear you will consider me very remiss. I have been unable, however, to find any accommodations on the island, such as I think would suit Mrs Lawrence. Our own house had been so full & overflowing & we are extremely uncomfortable in the join; it is even worse as to the other house near by. Our party now occupies three different houses, owing to its magnitude. There are no hotels on the island, although several large, crowded boarding houses at the southern end, claim that name. The accommodations are such as you find in any country boarding place, the attendance in the rooms & at table being entirely by members of the family, who, of course, cannot be called upon very freely for any

extra service. The island is very delightful
in its surroundings & generally quite cool.

We have plenty of fish, as far as haddock,
Cod & cunnings go, with an occasional
show of halibut & mackerel.

I think it very likely that later in the
season there may be quarters in some one
or other of the houses around here & I should
be very glad indeed if you & Mrs Lawrence
would be inclined to try the experiment, in
case there is a fair show.

You might compromise in
the matter by taking up your quarters at
the Falmouth House in Portland, which
is a first-class establishment, with very
comfortable rooms & plenty of the best food.
There are four boats to the island every
day, which land passengers within about
the distance of three or four squares, leav-
ing Portland at 8-45 & a quarter before 11
in the forenoon & at a quarter before 2 & a
quarter before ^{part 3.} 4 in the afternoon, so that you
could come over & see us as often as you
pleased & go back in comfortable time

for evening. Portland itself is a delightful locality abounding in Pleasants drives & rides, & I think you could have a very good time.

I have just had a letter from Coles, informing me that he has taken thirty specimens of Centurus Bairdii, which of course carries the species out of the pale of the very great rarities. If now he can get a good stock of Spragues Lark & Leconte's Bunting, we shall be pretty well brought up, in the Upper Missouri birds.

Very truly yours.

Samuel R. Baird

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

Portland, July 28, 1873.

My Dear Lawrence,

I have been very busily engaged, since our arrival here, in getting fairly started in our work, & so have been negligent in writing to you; but I kept putting it off for one reason & another, until now I fear you will consider me very remiss. I have been unable, however, to find any accommodations on the island, such as I think would suit Ms Lawrence. Our own house has been & is full to overflowing & we are extremely uncomfortable in the jam; & it is even worse as to the other house near by. Our party now occupies three different houses, owing to its magnitude. There are no hotels on the island, although several large, crowded boarding houses at the southern end, claim that name. The accommodations are such as you find in any country boarding place, the attendance in the rooms & at table being entirely by members of the family, who, of course, cannot be called upon very freely for any

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extra service.

The island is very delightful in its surroundings & generally quite cool. We have plenty of fish, as far as haddock, cod & cunners go, with an occasional show of halibut & mackerel.

I think it very likely that later in the season there may be quarters in some one or other of the houses around here, & I should be very glad indeed if you & Mrs Lawrence would be inclined to try the experiment, in case there is a fair show.

You might compromise in the matter by taking up your quarters at the Falmouth House in Portland, which is a first class establishment, with very comfortable rooms & plenty of the best food. There are four boats to the island every day, which land passengers within about the distance of three or four squares, leaving Portland at 8-45 & a quarter before 11 in the forenoon, & at a quarter before 2 & a quarter ~~before~~ 4 past 3 in the afternoon; so that you could come over & see us as often as you pleased & go back in comfortable time

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for evening. Portland itself is a delightful locality abounding in pleasant drives & rides, & I think you could have a very good time.

I have just had a letter from Coues, informing me that he has taken thirty specimens of Centronyx bairdii, which of course, carries the species out of the pale of the very great rarities. If now he can get a good stock of Spragues Lark & Lacontes Bunting, we shall be pretty well brought up, in the Upper Missouri birds.

Very truly yours,
Spencer F Baird

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