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**Title:** Letters from George Lawrence to Spencer Baird (Drafts)

**Date:** February - July 1871

**Location:** MC 2000.11, B1, F21

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NEW-YORK, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> 1871

M. Dear Baird

The *E. hammondi* is received, for which I am much obliged - together with the wrens, will return them soon - I agree with you in *C. elegans* being distinct from *stellaris*. The specimen from Albuquerque seems near *C. stellaris*, but probably distinct, perhaps *polyglottas*.

The specimens of *Attila* also received, for which am obliged, the Magellan bird seems to me distinct from *citreopygius*, I am puzzled for a name, think of *cinnamomeus* as it is of that color above quite uniformly - much lighter than *citreopygius* which is brownish red - *graysoni* will not do as they are already two in my paper. I think it will be better to take another of the specimens of wrens for the type of *insularis*, instead of the one you marked - as they differ so much - probably the effect of alcohol as you suggest. The Oct. Ibis came yesterday I notice Newton with draps & a new series is to commence, under Salvin's administration - though probably you know it. The nest & egg of the Crossbill has not yet been brought me.

Write about *M. Mexicanae* &c

1871-1-1

I think the result shows that such a description should be inadmissible except the type can be found, for had it not been obtainable, the name would have been misapplied - as it could only ~~be guessed at~~ <sup>be conjectured</sup> ~~be guessed at~~ - I ~~remember~~ <sup>believe</sup> to being Cooper's I believe has never been suggested -

If Kank's name of Cooper will apply to any species, it ~~seems~~ <sup>will</sup> be by <sup>his</sup> mistake, which seems hardly right as he ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>one</sup> ~~who~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~discovered~~ <sup>discovered</sup> it - ~~Not~~ <sup>Not</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~applied~~ <sup>applied</sup> to it -

Feb. 1st 1871

Dear Baird

The *E. hammondi* is received for which I am much obliged. together with the wrens, will return them soon. I agree with you in *C. elegans* being distinct from *stellaris*. The specimen from Albuquerque seems near *C. stellaris*, but probably distinct, perhaps *polyglottus*

The specimens of *Attila* also received, for which am obliged, the Mazatlan bird seems to me distinct from *citreopygius*, I am puzzled for a name, think of *cinnamomeus* as it is of that color above quite uniformly. much lighter than *citreopygius* which is brownish red. *graysoni* will not do as there are already two in my paper. I think it will be better to take another of the specimens of wrens for the type of *insulans*, instead of the one you marked. as they differ so much, probably the effect of Alcohol as you suggest. The Oct. Ibis came yesterday I notice Newton withdraws & a new Series is to commence under Salvin's administration. though probably you know it. The nest & egg of the Crossbill has not yet been brought me.

Wrote about *M. Mexicanus* &c

[Page Break]

~~I think the result shows that such a description should be inadmissible except the type can be found, for had it not been attainable, the name would have been misapplied—as it could only be conjectural—guessed—be confectioned—be guessed at. I wonder as its being *cooperi* I believe has never been suggested.~~

~~If Kauss's name of *cooperi* will apply to any species, it seems to will be by ^ his mistake, which seems hardly right; as he says the example is in the —Br. Mus for I hope Sel can soon determine it~~

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street,

NEW-YORK, Feb 9 17<sup>th</sup> 1871

M. Dear Baird

not having a letter  
I had not rec<sup>d</sup> one for so long a time. Did not <sup>know</sup> but you  
had gone a-fishing, as I see your uncle Samuel has given  
you leave, for which I congratulate you - I was at  
Clonks some weeks since he asked about those circulars -  
you spoke of sending he thought some respectable information  
might be got by so doing - By Adams to day send you  
Warbler &c as per enclosed list \* Herriek has not yet  
brought the brushhill specimen -

\* I have not sent any Northern Astiva, nor my S. capitata  
as you have specimens - In the Yucatan coll. + Bryant's from  
Belize were many S. vieilloti -

[New York] Feb'y 17th 1871

Dear Baird

Yesterday I received yours of the 14th ~~I had not recd one~~ not having a letter for so long a time did not ^ know but you had gone a fishing, as I see your uncle Samuel has given you leave, for which I congratulate you. I was at Clarks some weeks since he asked about those Circulars you spoke of sending he thought some desirable information might be got by so doing. By Adams today send your Warbler &c as part, enclosed list Hemick has not yet brought the Crossbill egg & nest.

\* I have not sent any Northern Astiva, now my *D. capitalis* as you have specimens. In the Yucatan Coll. & Bryants from Belize have many *D. vieilloti*.

Group - Vici clati  
" " astoria

Sent Feb 17/71

1 - astoria - Bay  
2 -            - Bay  
2 -            - Delaware  
1 - Peterson - St Thomas

2 - East Ely  
1 - polyglottus? Brazie Abaguerque  
Egg from Blair Vancouver

sent Feb. 17/71.

Grays - 5 vieilloti

" 1 Aestiva

Mina

1 - Aestiva - Bryant

2 ----- Ceigen

2 ----- Guatemala

1 Petechi St Thomas

2 Cist Elegans

1 - polyglottus ? Brazil Albuquerque

Egg from Blared Venezuela



Primo May 23<sup>o</sup> 1871  
Ask him to write Slater as  
to Mr. Cooper's Camp -

Ridge way

Rest of Gayson's Primo -  
When going East -  
Salvin & Manas list no. of  
Species anxious to see -

*Socorro*  
Narrative say pages of Proceedings }  
22 pages of letter paper = 14 - }

---

13 Species from Socorro

---

Narrative of 3 Marias  
equal pages of Proceed'g's -

---

45 - Species 3 Marias -

3. *Onania* *indeterminata*

- No 13 *Antrostomus*? *Nyct. americanus*  
on other list ✓  
15 *Leptastila* (*mexicana*) *albifrons*  
20 *Turdus* | *obscurus* - *Grayson*? *grayi*  
*grayi* in other list -

*Ravillazigodo* *Sammil*

*Sula* *cyampis*?

*Small Owl*

May 23d 1871

Baird

Ask him to write Sclater at to M. cooperi Kauss.  
Ridgway  
Rest of Grayson's Birds.  
When going East.  
Salvin 3 Marias List no. of species anxious to see.

[Page Break]

Narrative say pages of Proceedings.  
22 pages of letter paper = 14.        }  
13 Species from Socorro.

Narrative of 3 Marias equal pages of Procceds say -  
45 - Species 3 Marias.

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3. Marias undetermined  
No 13 Androctomus ? Nyct. Americanus on other list.  
15 Leptoptila (mexicanus), albifrons  
20 Tindou obscurus Grayson ? grayi grayi in other list.

Revillagigedo Gannet  
Sula cyanops ?  
Small Owl.

Dear Friend

July 18<sup>th</sup> 1871

The Carbolic Acid ordered in your letter I understand was sent last week. I was glad to hear it was the right kind - I quite envy you the nice times you are having & would be glad to take part in them, but at present it would be impossible - Much obliged for your offer to procure accommodation at Eger town but Mrs L. has not been so well for the last 10 days & though now better, could not undertake such a journey, I fear the food there would not suit her either, as she depends upon good Beef properly cooked - do you know whether here it is in that respect - We hope to get off somewhere next week - I will write Genl. in a day or two & explain as to the Morning Bird asked for - I have just sent a box to Bernard Linné Schuler containing <sup>my types of</sup> Myzozelites packed for with some others to be verified &c. also some <sup>shells</sup> for Salvin that he wished - I wrote Salvin last week that I would be ~~sent~~ <sup>sent</sup> ~~sent~~, if

~~The box~~

~~sent~~



I had not done so, I am not sure that I  
would have sent it - as I write by Paul H.  
of the Zool. Proc. <sup>1870</sup> sec<sup>d</sup> yesterday, that they have  
treated me meanly & contemptibly in describ-  
ing the Frogon from Panama, I sent them  
in the spring of 1870 & described in my last  
paper in Feb. <sup>of this year</sup> ~~under~~ the name it had on when  
sent I state in J. eximius - I stated to S. it  
was new & pointed out how it differed from  
J. viridis which it had been referred to, they  
state it was my specimen that led them  
to see it differed from viridis, but do not  
say I had named it & pronounced it new.

It seems to me dishonorable breach of  
confidence, & ~~was that was the name~~ <sup>fully</sup> ~~tried~~ <sup>tried</sup> about it -

I felt like writing my opinion very  
decidedly, but have concluded not to do it  
too harshly - They will not care I suppose

July 18 1871

Dear Baird

The Carbolie Acid ordered in your last I understand was sent last week. I was glad to hear it was the right kind. I quite envy you the nice times you are having & would be glad to take part in them, but at present it would be impossible. Much obliged for your offer to procure accommodations at Edgartown but Mrs L. has not been so well for the last 10 days & though now better could not undertake such a journey I fear the food there would not suit her either, as she depends upon good Beef properly cooked. do you know ~~whether~~ how it is in that respect. We hope to get off somewhere next week. I will write Gould in a day or two & explain as to the Humming Bird asked for. I have just sent a box by German Line to Sclater containing my types of the Myiozetetes asked for with some others to be verified &c. Also some species for Salvin that he wished. I wrote Salvin last week that ~~it~~ this box would be ~~done~~ sent, if

[Page Break]

I had not done so, I am not sure that I would have sent it, as I notice by Part III of the Zool. Proc. ^ 1870 recd yesterday, that they have treated me meanly & contemptibly in describing the Trogon from Panama, I sent them in the spring of 1870 & described in my last paper in Feb ^ of this year under the name it had on when sent Sclater is T eximius. I stated to S. it was new & pointed out how it differed from T. viridis which it had been referred to, they stated it was my specimen that led them to see it differed from viridis, but do not say I had named it & pronounced it new.

It seems to me a dishonorable breach of confidence & ~~one that tries me much~~ I feel much tried about it&.

I felt like writing my opinion very decidedly but have concluded not to do it too hastily. They will not care I suppose

I rec<sup>d</sup> your letter last evening I have  
not been to the Office for a couple of days  
being afflicted with a "kink in the side"  
perhaps due to the effort of dragging  
you around town the week before  
if I have to pay such a penalty I may  
be more careful to you next time.  
Sent 34 Plates of Grayson's



I recd your letter last evening I have not been to the Office for a couple of days being afflicted with a "kink in the side" perhaps due to the effort of dragging you around town the week before if I have to pay such a penalty I may be more merciful to you next time.

Sent 3 Plates of Grayson's