

Nuttall Ornithological Club.

Subscriptions or business letters relating to The Bulletin of the Club (a quarterly issue) should be addressed to Ruthven Deane, Cambridge, Mass.

Communications intended for publication should be sent to Mr. J. B. Allen, Cambridge, Mass.

TERMS OF BULLETIN,
\$2.00 A YEAR.

Cambridge, Mass., Oct 2 1887.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

I mailed you yesterday a package of over sheets of your paper on Hawks - Although we issue this time some 20 extra pages, I had not room for all the matter I intended or hoped to get in. Your paper on Indiana birds being among those left over in type. Mr. Merriam's paper is entirely extra, & is published at the author's expense, in accordance with the generous offer he made us in case we would bring it out in this number - I think the number as a whole will please you, but ~~is on the whole~~ rather above the average in character - It will not be ready for mailing before Tuesday or

or Wednesday.

I have now found a chance to put in a couple of months in identifying our bird skins, & shall probably complete the Passeres this month. I check off the S. Am. species on the Nomenclator Nesting, but now I then find wheel-scraps to be a perfectly good species not there accounted for. Also some I cannot satisfactorily determine. By reference to our printed list of desiderata shall be soon able to see whether we have duplicates of any of them.

Some very nice prints come up now to them in relation to geogr. variation among South American birds, but ⁱⁿ general my material is too scanty to follow them up satisfactorily.

Yours -

Very sincerely yours

Phillips.

Cambridge, Feb. 1. 1882-

Dear Mr. Ridgway-

Yours in
reference to Mr. Zedon's col-
lection duly received & also
one from Prof. Baird on the
same subject, which I have
just answered at length.

I returned Mr. Z's collection,
labelled to the best of my ability,
a year or a year and a half ago,
& as I made no list of the speci-
mens, & the specimens themselves
being beyond my reach, I fear I
can render little help in the
matter, although I would be
glad to do so.

Sent the Myiadestes yesterday

I hope they will prove serviceable.

Yours truly
J. Lublin

Dear Mr. Bishop
Yours in
reference to Mr. Johnston's
letter of the 2nd inst. has
been forwarded to the
proper authorities. I have
just announced at length
I returned Mr. J's collection
labelled to the best of my ability
a year or a year and a half ago.
I am sure we lost of the species
mentioned in the specimens themselves
being beyond my reach. I fear I
can never better help in the
matter, although I would be
glad to do so.
Yours truly
J. Lublin

A. O. U.

CAMBRIDGE AND WASHINGTON,
AUGUST 1, 1883.

To

J. A. Allen,

DEAR SIR:—

You are cordially invited to attend a Convention of *American Ornithologists*, to be held in New York City, beginning on September 26, 1883, for the purpose of founding an AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, upon a basis similar to that of the "British Ornithologists' Union." The place of meeting will be announced hereafter.

The object of the UNION will be the promotion of social and scientific intercourse between American Ornithologists, and their co-operation in whatever may tend to the advancement of Ornithology in North America. A special object, which it is expected will at once engage the attention of the UNION, will be the revision of the current lists of North American Birds, to the end of adopting a uniform system of classification and nomenclature, based on the views of a majority of the UNION, and carrying the authority of the UNION. Other important matters will be doubtless presented for consideration at the first meeting.

It is proposed to hold meetings at least once annually, at such times and places as may be hereafter determined, for the reading of papers, the discussion of such matters as may be brought before the UNION, and the transaction of the usual business of a scientific society.

Those who attend the first meeting will be considered *ipso facto* Founders of the AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION. Active and Corresponding Members may be elected in due course after organization of the UNION, under such rules as may be established for increase of membership. Details of organization will be considered at the first meeting.

Should you favor this proposition, and propose to attend the first meeting, please so signify to any one of the undersigned.

J. A. Allen

Cambridge, Mass.,
Editor of the Nuttall Bulletin.

Elliott Coues

Washington, D. C.,
Assoc. Editor of the Nuttall Bulletin.

William Brewster

Cambridge, Mass.,
President of the Nuttall Club.

Cambridge, Jan. 26. 1882.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

Yours

I 24th received. Will
gladly send ~~the~~ our series
of Myiadestes as soon as
I can safely go to our cold
Museum attic & select
them, which I trust will
be in a few days. I still
have to keep the house
pretty closely, but am slowly
improving -

Very truly yours

J. A. Allen.

Ans Aug. 16

NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

Provincetown

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,

Aug. 16, 1883

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

Yours of 11th July

rec'd & read with interest & pleasure -

I do hope you will try to attend the ~~bird~~ ornithological convention. I doubt whether my health will permit me to attend, or ~~if I do~~ to take a very active part in its work if I should be present - As the questions of nomenclature can not I fear be considered in detail without a protracted session, I fancy the whole matter will be referred to a committee, with instructions to consider thoroughly in detail all mooted

points, their report to be acted upon by the general body -

If it is not possible for you to be present I earnestly hope you will carry out your ~~petition~~ plan of sending in suggestions & recommendations, but personal conference would I think be far preferable, especially if the convention as a whole should take up the details of nomenclature -

Very truly yours

J. A. Allen

Proposed

NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

Provincetown

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,

Aug. 21. 1881 1883.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

I am delighted with yours of 18th inst. and revision of nomenclature agree heartily with all your suggestions. I do not think, however, there would be great danger in considering the subject in convention, as the convention will be exclusive, invitations having been sent to only a limited and select number, of whom probably not more than 12 to 15 - will find it convenient ^{to be} present at the session - I favor, however, the committee plan most heartily, & your suggestions as to place & manner of meeting, comparison of specimens, etc. The cordiality with which you take hold of the whole project, & the eminently

reasonable & practical plan of operations
you suggest gives me great pleasure
& seems to auger a successful &
pleasant conference.

My sole regret is that my health
is such that I fear I can take no
active part in the matter. I am
still a sufferer from nervous prostration
to such an extent that I am incapac-
itated for ~~many~~ consecutive work. I
am slowly improving, but so slowly that
there remains little prospect of my being
able to take a trip to Washington
for many months. I do not even
expect to take much part in the
work of the convention, if indeed I
should venture to attend it. From
your letters & others rec'd, however, I
feel very confident that the move
will result in much good to the
cause ~~we~~ all have so much at
heart.

Very sincerely yours
J. Allen



Cambridge and Washington,

September 1st, 1883.

DEAR SIR :

The Committee of Organization of the AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION beg to say, that by the kind permission of the authorities of the American Museum of Natural History, the First Convention of the UNION will be held in the Lecture Room of the

American Museum of Natural History,

NEW YORK CITY,

Wednesday, September 26, 1883, at 11 A. M.

The responses to the circular invitation having been prompt, cordial, and unanimously favorable to the establishment of the **A. O. U.**, there is every reason to desire and expect a full attendance.

J. A. ALLEN,
ELLIOTT COUES,
WILLIAM BREWSTER.

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

Founded September 26, 1883.

OFFICERS:

President, Mr. J. A. ALLEN.

Vice-Presidents { DR. ELLIOTT COUES
AND
MR. ROBERT RIDGWAY.

Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. C. HART MERRIAM.

COUNCIL:

Mr. J. A. ALLEN.

Prof. S. F. BAIRD.

Mr. WILLIAM BREWSTER.

Mr. MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN.

Dr. ELLIOTT COUES.

Mr. H. W. HENSHAW.

Mr. GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.

Dr. C. HART MERRIAM.

Mr. ROBERT RIDGWAY.

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

Extracts from Constitution relating to Memberships.

ARTICLE II.

§ 1. The Union shall consist of Active, Foreign, Corresponding and Associate Members.

§ 2. *Active Members* shall be residents of the United States or Canada, and shall be limited to fifty (50) in number.

§ 3. *Foreign Members* shall be non-residents of the United States or Canada, and shall be limited to twenty-five (25) in number.

§ 4. *Corresponding Members* may be residents of any country, and shall be limited to one hundred (100) in number.

§ 5. *Associate Members* shall be residents of the United States or Canada, and shall not be limited in number.

ARTICLE III.

§ 1. *Active Members* shall be chosen by ballot at the stated annual meetings; the affirmative votes of three-fourths of the active members present shall be necessary to a choice; nominations shall be made by three *Active Members* at least three months previous to the time of election; such nominations shall be made to the *Council*, who shall report upon the same at the next stated annual meeting. Every person elected shall, within six months from the date of election, pay into the Treasury an election fee of five dollars (\$5), and shall subscribe to the Constitution of the Union at or before the next stated meeting; and until these conditions are fulfilled shall possess no rights of membership, nor be enrolled as a member.

§ 2. The nomination of *Foreign Members* shall proceed from the *Council*, and such members shall be elected in the same manner as *Active Members*, and shall be enrolled upon signifying their acceptance of Membership.

§ 3. *Corresponding and Associate Members* may be nominated to the *Council* by any *Active Member*, and the nominations may be acted upon at the next stated meeting, and such members may thereupon be elected in the same manner as *Active Members*.

§ 4. *Active Members* only shall be entitled to vote and be eligible for office. *Foreign, Corresponding and Associate Members* may attend meetings, present papers, and take part in the scientific discussions of the Union.

ARTICLE V.

The Annual dues shall be five dollars (\$5) for *Active Members*, payable at each stated meeting, and shall be considered prepayment of subscription to the *Proceedings* or other regular serial publication of the Union, and no member in arrears for dues shall receive such publication.

Prof. Baird

NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., Oct. 5, 1883.

My dear Mr. Ridgway.

I have long been
 intending to write you in reference
 to your paper on Int. Carmel birds,
 kindly sent through Mr. Brewster for
 the Bulletin. When it reached me I
 was at the seaside in very poor health.
 Since my return to Cambridge I have
 been somewhat better, but with so
 little capacity for work, that with my
 duties at the Museum, my work on the
 Bulletin in connection with the organ-
 ization of the A.O.U., & since the meeting
 with duties resulting therefrom, that the
 days slip away with many of their de-
 mands unmet. But this I do not urge
 as an adequate apology for the delay.

In regard to the paper, the Club Bell,
was already full when it came - & to
get in the Report of the Convention in New
York will exceed its usual number of pages.

I understood from Mr. Brewster ~~from~~
when he forwarded your paper that he
had written you that it was doubtful
whether we could use it in this number,
also whether it would be thought
available owing to its bearing on a taboored
subject - the English Sparrow question.
Heretofore we have rigidly excluded all
papers on this interminable & too often un-
happy subject. It was my duty to write to
you to this effect long since & to have
offered you the paper for use elsewhere.
As it is it is at your disposal if you
wish to use it at once; if otherwise
you might allow it to remain in my
hands with a view to its possible publi-
cation in the new Serial which ^{will} follow
the Bulletin on the close of this volume.

Of course the great ornithological
topic at present is the A.O.U., & I think we

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have reason for mutual congratulation on its auspicious inauguration & its bright prospects. It seems to me to be beyond question a most important event in the history of American ornithology. Although mistakes were probably made in the earliest initial steps taken by the chief promoters of the project, I feel sure that none of them had personal ends to serve, but worked ~~conscientiously~~ conscientiously for the good of the cause, we all have so deeply at heart; & the harmony which marked the first meeting in New York was no less auspicious than gratifying. My present position, ^{in the A.B.U.} unsought & unlooked for, I regard as due to ~~circum-~~ obvious circumstances of availability rather than as a testimony of fitness or merit, & it would have been declined when it seemed imminent in favor of one of several better entitled but as a ^{due} recognition of their

services in American ornithology had
is not ^{by those who claimed to know the situation} been pressed as a means of over-
coming difficulties. My first aim will be
to discharge my responsibilities in accordance
with the wishes and sentiment of the Union so
far as ~~they~~ can be known to me, and especially as
expressed through the Council, in every thing. I
regretted deeply that I could not be present
at the meeting, but I feared, ~~that~~ and now
know, the strain of the occasion would
have been more than I could bear.

I look forward with great pleasure to
the meetings of the Committee on Nomenclature
in Washington, I shall certainly be present if
my health will permit. I feel that we shall
all be willing to waive our preference on
many, and all minor points in the interest of
harmony & unanimity, & that the outcome of
our deliberations will go far toward giving
stability to our ornithological nomenclature
for a considerable period.

With kindest regards,

Believe me, as ever,

Very sincerely yours

J. A. Allen.

NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., Feb 14, 1883.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

As you are of course aware, the Council of the American Ornithologists' Union, in electing me Editor-in-Chief of the Serial publication to be issued by the Union, also put upon me the duty of selecting a Staff of Associate-Editors. I find ^{selection} ~~the~~ to be a matter of great delicacy, not easy to make. I have given the subject serious thought, & have advised with Mr. Brewster in regard to the best course. It seems but important that you should ~~have a prominent position~~ ^{be placed} on the Staff. While I would not force upon you any more work in that connection than would be tasteful to you, I think it important to secure, in the interest of the serial, the prestige and guarantee your name in that position your ~~name~~ would give. It, besides being a proper ^{recognition} of your position as a leader

in our ranks. Knowing your already pressing engagements, I should hardly expect you to be able, ~~or perhaps willing~~, to devote much time to the revision of proofsheets or MSS., but I should like to be able to refer to you, as occasion may arise, special matters for your opinion & to confer by correspondence with you in reference to important questions, & give you a right to be heard officially on any matter of special importance that may arise.

Dr. Coues will very naturally be on the staff. I very much wish Mr. Brewster there, as I feel that in any emergency, owing to my insecure health, he would be on the ground with me, ~~or to speak~~, & could ^{thus} render invaluable assistance, as he has so often done during the past two years. It has also occurred to me, & is especially urged by Mr. Brewster, that there should be some one on the staff to cater to the amateur element, as was talked over in the Council, - one who should be one of them, thus having their confidence, & ~~be~~ in close correspondence with

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them, & who should select from them interesting field notes, & draw them into the support of our publication. It should be privately understood that this would be his special field, but there should not be a public avowal of the fact, in the sense of giving him ^{formally} ~~practically~~ an "amateur department." The man for this ^{work} ~~post~~ is evidently Montagu Chamberlain. I have.

~~I have not yet unfolded this scheme to B. C. & I doubt much whether it will meet his approval. I would be greatly obliged to you if you would give me your opinion in the matter, & that most frankly.~~

The "slate" I at present have in mind for the Staff is as follows:

Elliott Coues,	}	Associates -
Robert Ridgway		
William Brewster		Editors.
Montagu Chamberlain		

With myself, making five altogether.

Please let me hear from you on
this matter as early as practicable, giving
me fully your views respecting the whole
scheme.

Sincerely Hoping you will accept a position on
the Staff.

Yours sincerely

J. H. Allen

P.S.

In replying please indicate formally
your approval or disapproval of the nomin-
ations above presented, individually or
collectively, stating any objections you may
have to any of the nominees. This I wish
you to do as a Councillor, for my guidance.
Later the nominations will come before
the Council ^{formally} for ratification, but in the
meantime I must have their vote in this
^{informal} ~~irregular~~ manner. J. H. A.

NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,

Oct. 16, 1883

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

As you are of course aware, the Council of the A.O.U., in electing me Editor-in-Chief of the serial publication to be issued by the Union, also put upon me the duty of selecting a Staff of Associate-Editors. I find the selection to be a matter of great delicacy and not easy to make. I have given the subject serious thought, & have advised with Mr. Brewster in regard to the best course. It seems to us important that you should be placed on the Staff. While I would not force upon you any more work in that connection than would be tasteful to you, I think it important to secure, in the interest of the serial, the prestige and guarantee your name in that position would give, besides being a proper recognition of your position as a leader

in our ranks. Knowing your already pressing engagements, I should hardly expect you to be able to devote much time to the revision of proofsheets or MSS., but I should like to be able to refer to you, as an occasion may arise, special matters for your opinion, & to confer with you by correspondence in reference to important questions, & give you a right to be heard officially on any matter of special importance that may arise.

Dr. Coles will very naturally be on the Staff, & I very much wish Mr. Brewster there, as I feel that in any emergency, arising from my insecure health, he would be on the ground with me & could thus render invaluable assistance, as he has so often done during the last two years. It has also occurred to me, & is especially urged by Mr. Brewster, that there should be some one ~~on~~ on the Staff to ^{cater to} ~~represent~~ the amateur element, as was talked over in the Council, — one who should be one of them, thus having their confidence, & in close correspondence with

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them, & who should elicit from them interesting field notes, & draw them into the support of our publication. The man for this work is evidently Mr. Montague Chamberlain.

The "slate" I have at present in mind for the Staff is as follows:—

Elliott Coues	} Associate-Editors.
Robert Ridgway	
William Brewster	
Montague Chamberlain	

making, with myself, five in all.

Please let me hear from you on this matter as early as practicable, giving me freely your views & suggestions respecting the whole scheme.

Sincerely hoping you will accept a position on the Staff

Overs.

Yours sincerely
J. A. Allen

P. S. — In replying please indicate
formally your approval or disapproval
of the nominations above presented, individ-
ually & collectively, stating ~~yes~~ any objections
you may have to any of the nominees.
This I wish you to do as a member of
the Council, for my guidance. Later the
nominations will come before the Council
formally for ratification, but in the
meantime I must have their vote in
this informal manner. — J. B. A.

that title were adopted. No. 2 has the
advantage, ~~for~~ through the word "Bulletin," of
closely following the title of the "first series";
the only change then being the substitution of
A.O.U. for N.C.C. Please tell me
which of the three above-mentioned titles has
your preference, or suggest any other
name you think would be more fitting.

Considering ~~the~~ how much time there is
yet for matter to come in, the outlook for
a good number to start with is certainly
encouraging. Of course we want to make
as good a showing as possible at the start,
& for this reason I hope you will try to
give us something—at least a short general
article, if you have not time for a long
one. Mr. Cory will give us a paper on
Hayden's birds, including several new species,
& possibly a colored plate. He will do so
if he can get it ready in time, & he will
make effort to that end.

As it will be very soon time to begin the
printing, I trust you will kindly let me hear

- your suggestions respecting the details of the
- specified as early as you can do so
- conveniently.

Hoping that your health has greatly
improved,

As ever,

Sincerely yours,

J. Allen

NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., Oct. 16

1883

Ans. Oct. 17

Dear Mr. Ridgway - Your valued letter of 13th is just to hand. I am pained to hear of your continued ill-health. I did not know until a few weeks ago that you were not in sound health. Having practically almost wholly lost the last two years through invalidism, I can heartily sympathize with you in this affliction, & wish you speedy restoration.

The committee's first work on the matter of nomenclature will naturally be, as you say, the determination of general rules, & with this end in view

I am from time to time jotting down
points as they occur to me. I fear I
may not be able to be present at all
the sittings of the Committee, but I
shall try to be present at the first
one & give as much attention to the
general subject as my health will allow.

For my part I should like the first
meeting of the Committee ^{to be held} early in Decem-
ber. Would this be agreeable to you?
As all its members are also members
of the Council, it would be easy to
have at the same time also a meeting
of the Council, to consider & ratify the
work of the Editors in founding the
new serial publication. I have just
mailed you a letter on the subject of
the Editorial Staff, & shall await your
answer with deep interest.

With best wishes for the speedy restoration
of your health, I remain your friend J. A. Allen



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS CAN BE PLACED ON THIS SIDE.



Mr. Robert Ridgway
Smithsonian Institution
Washington,
D.C.

Cambridge, Jan. 2. 1882

I mail with this overshoot
by our papers in Jan. Bull.
I hope they will reach
you safely -

Yours truly
J. Allen

Cambridge, Dec. 13. 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway:-
your paper
on Buteo cooperi recd. Owing
to the large number of extra pages
that already must go into the
Jan. No. it seems necessary
to defer your paper till the
April issue.

With thanks for Buteo.

Yours
J. Allen

NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., Oct. 19.

1883

Dear Mr. Ridgway:

Your letter of 18th is before me. I need not say that it gives me great pleasure & satisfaction.

Captain Bendire was here about ten days ago, but I know nothing of his whereabouts since. From what he said then I inferred he intended to be in Washington by this time.

Very yours
J. Allen

13
 Nov. 13

American Ornithologists' Union.
 Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, Nov. 10, 1893.

My dear Mr. Ridgway -

It is now approaching the time when copy must be put in the hands of the printer for the first number of the new serial of the A.O.U. As you saw by the notice article on the A.O.U. in the Oct. Bulletin, the N.O.C. promptly decided to give up its Bulletin to the A.O.U., the understanding being that in becoming the organ of the A.O.U. it should also be recognized as the "second series" of the Hullatt Bulletin. For this reason, if for no other, it would seem proper to have the new serial conform in general typographic appearance with the Hullatt Bulletin, unless there were objectionable features requiring change. So far as I can learn, I do have been at some pains to canvas the subject, the style of the Bulletin

"gaps" of names, etc. That further more the press history & character of the bird was not sufficient, besides its having been chosen as the last word for a Great Company, & both name & type of the bird were used as a label for years perhaps! These objections may be to some extent buried & unavailing previous consideration, but there remains still the fact that its adoption meets with opposition & would be unprofitable. Several other names have been suggested, & it seems likely that the choice may fall to one of them, though possibly a still more satisfactory one can be suggested. These names are as follows: 1. The chick, a Quaker Journal of Ornithology. The name of the American Ornithologists' Union (with out of the book on the 11th page). 2. Bulletin of the American Ornithologists Union, a Quaker Journal, etc. 3. American Ornithologist, a Quaker Journal of Ornithology, organ of the A.O.U. — So in the last news paragraph, I do see no reason why the title page might be ^{not} published with a sufficiently enough with a copy of the final stock, so long as we do not reprint the name. It might also be used in the second (No. 2), which

is not generally satisfactory that no radical changes seem called for. In a few minor particulars change may be advantageously made, as in the character of some of the special types and style of headings for departments.

With a view to getting from you an expression of your opinion on certain points, I will outline what I have in mind in regard to the general "make-up" and character of the new organ. First, as already said, it may well conform in general style to the Bull. N. O. C., but with the addition of about one third more matter (including one or two new "departments"). This will render it necessary to raise the price to \$13.00. While there will be no formal recognition of the so-called "amateur element", it is thought it may be safe to lighten up the department of "General Notes" somewhat by admitting a small percentage of less formal & rather lighter matter, & to further "popularize" the journal by establishing a department of "Correspondence" or "Letters to the Editors", somewhat after the style of the Sci., or perhaps of Science, Nature, etc. & also a department of "News and Notes", after the style of the "Notes & News" department in Science. These

the departments will, better together, be about the equivalent of "Editorial Arguments" in the Sci.. We had already felt the need of some such ~~new~~ departments in the Bulletin N. O. C., & made a faint & futile attempt last year to establish them. This will make four departments, the first three (1. Original Bulletin; 2. Recent Literature; 3. General Notes) the same as in Bulletin N. O. C., the other two (1. Correspondence; 2. Notes and News, or whatever title we may choose for it) additional. How does the general plan, as here briefly outlined, strike you? Please give me your views freely, & never me with any suggestions that may occur to you touching any of the points mentioned. Then as to the name. At first that of Bull. was suggested as short & if a brief name were to be taken, Sci., as the one best suited. It was at first warmly & enthusiastically met for as it was well known, & also, on further consideration, a general reaction has arisen against it, on the ground of "spoiling the Sci.", & on the ground that it was open to unfavorable comparison & its susceptibility to ridicule, etc. on the part of unfriendly persons. — That it would be made the basis of new

American Ornithologists' Union.
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, Mass.,
Nov. 15, 1883.

My dear Mr. Ridgway,

I am greatly pleased
to find you can so heartily approve
my suggestions respecting the character of
the new magazine. The name "American
Ornithologist" I find meets with general
favor, and "Auk" with very little. "Bulletin
A. O. U." stands ^{second} next in favor, I would be
really unsatisfactory to very few, which
would not be the case with "Auk";

I am very sorry to hear that we
may not have Mr. Henshaw with us
when we meet to consider the matter
of nomenclature. In case he should
decline to serve on the Committee, or be

unable to attend our meetings, I do not see that we can do otherwise than accept a vacancy on the Committee, as his place cannot be legally filled except by action of the Union.

The power to fill a vacancy does not rest with either the President or Council, or even with the Committee itself. It is important that he should be at our first meeting & I hope he may yet be able to be present. As, however, I learn, he does not expect to reach Washington till after January, this seems hardly probable. It seems very necessary to have a meeting of the Council as early as possible in December, and as all the members of the Committee are also members of the Council, it seems highly desirable to have the Committee also begin its work at that time. For my part, I could not well go on to Washington twice,

—say in December and again later in the winter — to attend Council & Committee meetings separately.

I can well imagine the relief it must give you to find the "Water Boats" at last getting into ^{dry} sight! How-
ing how steadily the matter has for a long time been
in the balance, it is a great satisfaction to find that
the work is now, as far as can be foreseen, to be
practically settled forward to completion. I have uniformly
used what little influence I have to further this result, having
naturally been consulted in reference to the matter.

Yours,
Frederick Douglass
J. Allen

Prof. Allen to L. Coues
J. A. Allen Collection

American Ornithologists' Union.
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, Mass.,
Nov. 21, 1883.

Dear C. —

Prof. Wils review is in hand. It is a much longer and very different paper from the other, in tone and language contains nothing that can unreasonably be objected to. It looks like a fair and candid presentation of the subject, as seen from the writer's standpoint. While your "Lexicon" forms the text, & to which it is primarily and mainly devoted, it aims to cover the general subject. Whether the rulings are correct or otherwise is beyond my knowledge of the subject to decide. I can see, however, that while in some

instances, the Misses provide was likely to be distinct. Hence I suppose the new draft now submitted, obviously prepared with careful reference to ~~correcting~~ ^{answering} all objections of this character.

cases your rulings are pointedly
objected to, in other cases the points
assailed have come down through
many earlier writers. In our case even
Wharton is taken to task.

As said above, it has the aspect
of a fair-minded & legitimate piece
of criticism, & I see no reasonable
ground on which it can be declined.
It would have to be done ^{if at all} as a wholly
arbitrary act — by a flat refusal ^{to accept it}, without
palliating excuses. Therefore, which would
be neither creditable to me nor to the organi-
zation which I in this case officially
represent. — in fact, a piece of down-
right discourtesy, looked at from the
editorial standpoint, or any other. As a
matter of policy, I sincerely believe it would
be unwise & unjust, & would react un-
favorably upon all concerned ~~in it~~, and
especially against the defendant in the case.

Will send you as early as possible a reply to Prof. D. As for
many of the points raised you can undoubtedly make an adequate
defense; ^{respecting} many others, you may be able to honestly characterize ^{them}
friendly & charitable; in some other cases you may find it best to
partly and graciously admit errors; for it is hardly profitable
that such a piece of work can come from the hands of
any one quite perfect.

As ever,

Sincerely yours
J. Allen

Perhaps that I should add that some time since Prof. Brewster,
in a personal interview with Prof. W., & after a little talk by letter, represented
to him, from me, that his paper was objectionable in tone and

Cambridge, Mass.,
Nov. 25, 1883.

Dear Mr. Ridgway: -

In one
of your recent letters you
referred to the subject of dupli-
cate specimens of S. American
birds. In replying I forgot to
answer this part of your
letter. I am sorry to say
that I am not yet prepared
back in the matter, owing to
my illness for the past two
years I have done almost
nothing on our birds beyond

duly caring for the acassions.
 & I do not yet know what
 duplicates we may have, nor
 how far, when found, they
 will fill any of our desider-
 erata. I hope during the
 coming winter to be able
 to give some attention to
 the matter, & shall be only too
 glad to avail myself of your
 offer to exchange with us.

Very truly yours
 J. Allen

Cambidge, Mass.
 Nov. 21, 1883

Dear Mr. Ridgway:

I have much pleasure in
 receiving the list of books
 which you have been good
 enough to send me. I am
 very sorry that I cannot
 give you a more complete
 answer at present, but I
 will do so as soon as I
 can. I have been very
 busy lately, but I will
 try to get it done as soon
 as possible.

Professors Baird.
See especially over
RR-

9/28/83

American Ornithologists' Union
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

C. HART MERRIAM, Secy.
Locust Grove, N.Y.

Cambridge, Mass.,
Nov. 26, 1883.

Dear Mr. Ridgway:-

I have finally decided to
call the Council of the A.O.U. together for
a meeting in Washington, to be held
Dec. 10 next, to deliberate on the general sub-
ject of finances & the to act formally on
various matters relating to the serial publication
to be issued by the Union. It is also
generally understood, I think, among the mem-
bers of the Committee on Nomenclature that
there will be at the same time a session
of this Committee, to begin work on the sub-
ject assigned it for consideration by the
Union.

I suppose there will be no trouble in finding

a suitable room at the Smithsonian where
the sessions of the Council + Committee may
be held.

Very truly yours,

J. Allen

Pres. A.O.U.

American Ornithologists' Union.
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, Mass.,
Nov. 30, 1883.

My dear Mr. Ridgway.
Your very kind
letter of 28 is before me & I hasten
to thank you for ^{your} very cordial
offer of entertainment. I regret
heartily, for various reasons, that
I am unable to accept, for I
know that I could not select other
surroundings so congenial as those
you so kindly offer. I have always
regretted that circumstances have
thrown us so little together, &
that so many of my later visits to
Washington have been made during
your absence from the City. I

therefore regret especially that I
cannot ~~make~~ your house my
home during my proposed visit.
Dr. Coues, however, has so many times
renewed his invitation to me to make
his home my own while in Wash-
ington whenever I should be able
to be there that some two months
since, when it became probable
that I should visit Washington this
winter, that I at once accepted his
kind offer of hospitality. Among
the pleasantest anticipations
connected with my approaching visit
to Washington is the certainty I
feel of being known much with
you, & nothing would be more
agreeable to me than to be able
to accept that intimate com-

companionship for a short time. My acceptance
of your kind offer would render possible
visiting that circumstance near to your natural
it otherwise, Adeline me, as ever

Very
Yours
Allen

Cambridge, Dec. 30, '83.

My dear Mr. Ridgway -

The matter
for the Jan. No. of The Auk
is now nearly all in type & there
is some prospect of getting
the number out by Jan. 10. I
have written out various
things for the department of "News
& Notes", I would greatly like
the notes you were desired
respecting the return of Stejneger,
& Murchish, & about collectors
still in the field, as Jouy, Tanner,
& Fisher. Fortunately these items
come at the end of the number
& can be put in at the last

moment. If you have not
time to write them out, if you
can give me a few facts as
a basis in each case I will gladly
put them in shape. Some 6 & 8
lines each is all the space such
notices are entitled to have.

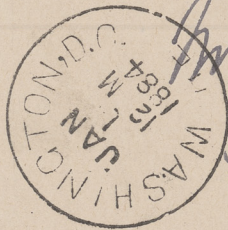
Ever yours heartily

Sincerely yours

J. Allen



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS CAN BE PLACED ON THIS SIDE.



Mr. Robert Ridgway,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington,
D.C.

Ridgway Collection

Cambridge, Dec. 31. 1883.

The items for "Notes & News" Sept.
rec'd this morning. Many -

Thanks — Yours truly

J. A. C.

Cambridge, Jan. 3. 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

Many thanks
for your prompt return of proofs
of The Book & for your careful
revision of the same. - Shall
send you a few more in a
day or two - rather too late I
fear to profit by your revision of
them. I should have sent them
earlier, but four of the articles
(Prof. Merriam's) failed to get from
the printer my usual number of
sets, & so did not send E.C. a re-
joinder, as you would not understand
its application without the other -

Will make the suggested addition
to the review of Dr. Stejneger's
letter. The items for "Notes &
News" were exactly what I wished
to have in our time - am very
glad to hear that the cut for the
cover of Auk is so far advanced.
It ought to reach me in good time.
The only hitch now is in reference
to Dr. Merriam's circular, which has
not yet reached me to which I must
wait for. All the other matter is
in type & half the number is printed.

I send by this mail my photo,
I would be very glad to receive
yours in exchange. Mine is far
from satisfactory, but I had not
time to try for a better one.

Sincerely yours
J. Allen

truly interested to do.

As ever

Yours

American Ornithologists' Union.

Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

J. A. Allen Cambridge, Jan. 12, 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway:-

The block for the vignette to title page of the Auk reached me safely yesterday. It is not, as you and Dr. C. both agree, quite satisfactory, & as you both have left it to my judgment whether to use it or not, & have ^{both} expressed dissatisfaction with it, I have decided not to use it, & print in its place the editorship of the magazine.

The chief criticism I have to make upon it is that there is not enough of it! While the bird is well enough, it looks bare & forlorn, owing to

persons at the time I wrote you about it before I suffered & had mailed one to you, as I intended. The Auk is at last off my hands! It has been tried a long time & my time since I returned from Washington, but it is a relief to get it out of the way. It is now in the hands of Mr. Fowler, & will be ready to print by the 15th of this month. As far as I can be except in the matter of the vignette, it is a necessity. The matter is good, & the map on a whole looks well. In other respects & the demands upon our space I feel to put in 1884 paper, but we can reduce future numbers enough to bring our paper to 100 pp. per no., which is all we promised in our prospectus. When it reaches you please criticize freely in respect to any details which you think may be improved. Your photo. came duly & was heartily welcomed. I have since sent you mine - this time mine! I need not a number to differ with

unfilled space on each side, ~~for~~
I think the background, filled in with
appropriate scenery, should fill the
whole width of the page, & thus
take away the bareness & forlornness
of the present effect. In other words,
the Ark should make the central
& prominent object of a picture, as
the Ark does in the "Ark" vignette.
Some ^{time after} returning from Washington
I ~~have~~ found that Mr. Cary's life-
sized figure* of the Ark in his
"Beautiful & Curious Birds" would
make a good picture to have reduced
to fit our space. It has a bit of
ice-berg scenery in the back ground
on the right, & a group of Arks in
the distance, on a hummock, on the
left. The figure of the bird is excellent,
& the whole picture would make,

*I had forgotten its existence till he called
my attention to it!

as far as the two subjects can be compared, a very
interesting counterpoint to the "Ark" vignette. Unless you
would prefer bringing your drawing for a new cut
by filling in "scenery" enough to fill the whole width
of both pages, I think I could manage to get a good
reduced reproduction of Cary's figure that would
give great satisfaction, show it in relation for the
rest of the work. If a copy of Cary's work is
accessible to you (I suppose it must be in the Congressional
Library) please look at his plate (in Part II of the work) &
send me your impressions of it & of what extent it
would be best to pursue in the matter.

American Ornithologists' Union.
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, Jan. 13, 1883.⁴

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

Now that the stake is off my hands for a short time I am trying to organize the work of the Com. on Faunal areas, at least so far as the apportionment of territory. Through correspondence with the New York members I find that we all agree that the first thing to do is to work up the data already published, & that the best way to do it is to assign to the different members, or to such of them as are able to engage in the work, certain definite areas to work off. Dr. Merriam will take New York & Pennsylvania, & several adjoining

I should like to have you not only state what ~~now~~ ^{are} your and what areas, you will like, but also give me your ideas of the work at large. - Now, in your opinion, the work should be organized around you.

Hoping to hear from you at some length on

these matters

Yours very

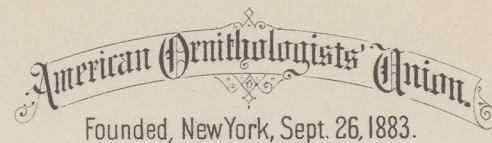
J. Allen

P.S. - I am ^{about} preparing an edition of my Birds not published, to serve as maps for faunal work. Dr. Merriam & others have sent in notes, & I would like to take within your own & know any, & it so how many. The cost will be 3 to 6 cts. per copy, according to the size of the edition desired.

States if necessary, & Dr. Fisher will take doubtless several of the Southern States. I will look out for New England, either working it up myself or putting in good hands. Dr. Mearns will doubtless take some part of the Far West. I wish now to ask whether you will take some portion of the general field, & if so what parts you would prefer. I think you spoke of having already done some work on the Western region.

In this assignment the idea is the mapping of the ranges of the species, so far as it may be possible, in a way to show both their breeding & winter distribution. I do not feel sure that you will wish to go into details of this sort, but if you desire to should be glad to have you choose your own field.

The work in a measure rests itself with you, in the mapping of faunas, or faunal areas, & the mapping of the habitats of species. Of course the work on areas must rest on our knowledge of the ranges of the species, & the maps who works up the distribution of species over a large area may feel that he has the best right to lay down the faunal areas. Now it not for this I would suggest that in making up our provisional maps of areas to present at the next meeting of the A.S.P. as a report of progress, you should take the region West of the Mississippi, you being doubtless, from your knowledge of the subject, best fitted to handle it. In which case I might take the region East of the Mississippi, with which I have already doctored to some extent.



Cambridge, Jan. 18, '84.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

Yours of 15th duly
 recd. I feared you would hardly have
 time for much work on geogr. distribution,
 knowing how fully you are occupied. Your
 Museum occasions will far for this month
 will far exceed ours, I fear, for the whole
 year! While it brings you much work, it
 also must give you great opportunities! As to
 the maps, I find an unexpected hitch, which
 will delay the supply, & possibly cut it wholly
 off, unless we feel able to incur some special
 expense in the matter.

I return the check ~~and~~ block by this
 mail. I personally feel deeply indebted to you
 for your trouble in the matter & hope it will
 not prove altogether labor lost, for the cut is
 good one as a figure of the bird alone. ~~for~~

you will doubtless be able sometime to make
use of it. When I spoke to you about getting it
up I had forgotten entirely about body's
figure.

By oversight I omitted to send you
proofs of Steyer's paper on the new wood-
pecker. You have doubtless by this time
seen it in the Arch.

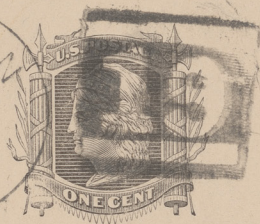
When will we have the next meeting
of the Com. on Nomencl.? For my part any
time before April would suit me as
~~well as another~~, except for the Arch, which
confines me periodically for a few weeks
to Cambridge. On this account the first
two weeks of March are best available to me,
as I must certainly be here the last half of
March. If it will be convenient for you
it would on several accounts suit me best
to go on as soon as possible after the 1st
of March. In the meantime I shall devote
nearly all my leisure to the subject of nomen-

elature rules, & shall try to get something in the shape of
a code to serve as a final basis when we meet again.
My health steadily improves & accordingly I feel greatly encouraged.

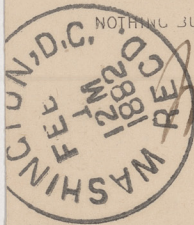
Adieu

Yours truly

J. Allen



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS CAN BE PLACED ON THIS SIDE



Mr. Robert Ridgway.
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington,
D.C.

Ridgway Collection

Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 30, 1882

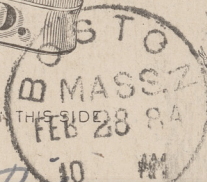
Dear Sir - I send by this mail
seven specimens of Myadestes
from Sta Lucia, & hope they
will reach you safely -

Yours truly

J. A. Allen



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS CAN BE PLACED ON THIS SIDE



Mr. Robert Ridgway,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D.C.

Cambridge, Feb. 27. 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

Yours of 26th recd. Please
send on paper at once. Although the Jan. vo.
is practically full, will make room for
your new species. - Very glad to get them!

Truly yours

J. Allen

Cambridge, Jan. 19. 1884.

Dear Combs -

Am glad S. F. B. on the whole
 commends our rulings. As to the southern
 boundary, it does not strike me that either
 of the alternatives would be an improvement.
 While that of the 26th parallel has most
 of the objectionable elements of a natural
 or faunal boundary; for we do not know,
 we cannot know for many years,
 what Mexican birds pass it & what do
 not. I will throw our list open to in-
 definite additions in the area outside of the
 present proposed line. We know very
 little of the ^{definitely} range of species south of our own
 already well-explored boundary. So my
 mind the political idea, as a political idea,
 does not enter the question at all. Adopt-
 ing the proposed political boundary is wholly
 a matter of convenience, giving ~~facts~~ a
 hard & fast line, which separates a known
 region (ornithologically) from an unknown

one, and ~~secondly~~, restricts our area
to territory we know something definitely
about, whereas in taking the 26th parallel
we include a large extent of country that
will have to be treated hypothetically in
making up our list, & establish a line
running across a terra incognita. So
far as I can see we gain nothing
but ~~uncertainty~~ and lose greatly in cer-
tainty & exactness in the constitution
of our list. I do not know what
arguments S. F. B. may have, but I can
conceive of none that would seriously
influence me to favor a reconsideration.

The "proceedings" not yet to hand,
but will doubtless come tomorrow.

Yours
J. Allen

American Ornithologists' Union
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, Mass.,
Feb. 7, 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

I have been very busy
flats with the preliminary draft of the
'Code', & have it nearly in shape. Am
giving the subject thorough attention,
reading all I can get hold of which
bears on the subject. I have met with
two recent very important 'Codes',
which I wish you would get & read
carefully. They are (1) 'Règles à suivre
pour établir la nomenclature des
espèces', adopted by the Congrès géolog-
ique international in 1882, & (2) 'Règles
applicables à la nomenclature des êtres
organisés, proposées par la Société
Zoologique de France', adopted in 1881.

The first occupies pp. 590-608 of the "Compte rendu" of the 2nd Session, Bologna, 1881 (Bologna, 1882). The other I have seen only as a separate brochure published by the Soc. Zool. de France (1881, 8°, pp. 37). Both are very important in their general bearing, but especially on the starting point of binomial nomenclature. Both favor a point antedating the 10th ed. Syst. Nat.!! - false radicalisms on other points, somewhat in line with our tendencies. It will be well, in the way of saving time, if you can make yourself familiar with them before we meet.

As to names in zoology, preoccupied in botany, the consensus at large is strongly ^{in favor} of not rejecting them if otherwise acceptable. So I think it hardly worth while for Dr. Stejneger to spend much time in looking up the question ^{of} names in current use in the two kingdoms.

To retain such names is the tendency everywhere outside of strict devotees to the

B. & C. eds. I think we may adopt easily a rule already or previously advocated.

Very truly
yours
J. Allen

American Ornithologists' Union
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, Mass. 18. 84.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

You will see
that I have added your note on
~~the~~ Cormorant to the article to which
it relates, as being apparently the best
way to publish it - Note also that I have
made a few verbal changes near the
end of your MS., which if not sat-
isfactory please modify ad lib.

I am glad to find that my Florida
penicæas turn out much more
nearly uniform & "true blue" than
I expected.

As ever sincerely

J. A. Allen

American Ornithologists' Union.
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, Mass.,
April 4, 1884.

Morris H. Jessup, Esq.,

President Board of Trustees,

American Mus. Nat. Hist.,

New York City.

Dear Sir:—

At a recent meeting of the Council of the American Ornithologists' Union it was voted to hold the next meeting of the Union in New York, the session to begin on Tuesday, September 30, 1884.

At the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union held in New York last September (from which I was unavoidably absent) I understand that the Board of Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History kindly invited

the Union to meet again this year at
the Museum, and ~~that~~ the offer was informally
accepted on condition that the place of meeting
should be in New York.

In behalf of the Union I therefore ^{now} beg
leave to gratefully accept the kind offer
of the Trustees of the American Museum
of Natural History.

Very respectfully yours,

J. A. Allen,
President Am. Orn. Union.

twice by an author in the same work, both names being published simultaneously, that the name which is accompanied by a diagnosis which best fits the species may be taken, — as, among other cases, when the first name is based on an immature phase of the species, or is very faulty as compared with the other later given in the same book. With such a ^{leave of option} provision we could take americana instead of occidentalis for the Turkey. But I fear it might open up some loophole that would lead to trouble.

I enclose a brief notice of Capt. Bendire's gift to the Nat. Mus. which I wrote & had set in type for the April 'Cuck', but which was left out for want of room, & partly for your criticism.

Please return it, with any change you see fit, or even an entirely new one.

Truly yours
J. Allen

Cambridge, April 15, 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway:—

Yours of 11th about Bartramian names came duly to hand, but I have not till today been able to get hold of a copy of Bartram, in order to look up each case carefully.

If we throw out Tauolatus pictus I should favor also excluding Melospiza americana, & leave the Turkey names as they are in Baird's report, 1859. To apply rigidly the law of priority in this case we should have to take M. occidentalis, which has 200 pp. priority in Bartram's work, as by our rules occidentalis cannot be thrown out on the ground of false signification. (Bartram gave the name in antithesis to the "Melospiza of the Old World.") Bartram's description

of the Turkey (see p. 14) amounts to very little, & is scarcely more accurate than is his description of the Laying Bird. Of course in each case we know what he meant - beyond a doubt, as we do in other cases when we must reject his names. His 'description' of Falco glaucus is erroneous, yet there can be no doubt, - if we take into account his typographical signs indicative of habitat, his foot-note on the Kite-hawks, & the Coulelt, & then apply the 'rule of exclusion' - as to what he means. The case of F. subserulius is even still better. The Raven & the two Crows, his Corvus naja, & possibly (but more doubtfully) his Monticola domestica, and some other species come very into the same category. Yet I do not consider for an instant that such names ^{are} tenable.

Another, however, may have to be considered, & that is G. phalaenoides (well described on p. 221), in case G.

On the whole it strikes me that Vultur atratus & Corvus floridanus is about as far as we can go in accepting Bartram's names.

canadensis (as E. C. claims) must be restricted to the so-called G. fraternus.

Then is there any way of dodging Lucar for the Catbird group? That -

Bartram meant "vertices nigri" is evident on reference to p. 288, when he quotes the phrase from Colesby. So to take this up would be simply 'arful'! That the bird meant by Lucar lividus is the Catbird is unfortunately placed beyond doubt by his reference to Colesby, as above cited. There is a Latin word Lucar, lucaris, but it has no pertinency in this connection.

The case of Meleagris occidentalis & M. americana brings to mind a modification of the rule of priority I have been intending to propose, as this is a case that forcibly illustrates the point I would like to cover. The modification is this: - That where a species is described

American Ornithologists' Union

Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, April 24. '84.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -
I am very glad
indeed to receive your two papers
for the 'Auk', just now to hand.

I wish very much we could
publish a plate of the new Snow
Bunting but hardly see how it
will be possible. Unless new
subscribers come in rapidly
during the rest of the year, we
must make up our minds to face
something of a deficit on Vol. I.

Thus far money does not come
in fast enough to promptly meet

the bills for paper & printing.
I am, however, by no means
disheartened, as I expected we should
hardly make ends meet the first
year. But all this renders the
prospect of giving plates in the
first volume, at our own cost,
quite out of the question. The
plate in the first no. was a
contribution from Mr. Cory, &
cost the A.O.U. nothing.

I am both disgusted & puzzled
at the non-arrival of your copies
of the 'Auk'. Although I have
not written you about it, I
have not been inactive in the
matter, & because I believed you
would get your two nos. of
the April issue as soon, or before,

a letter of explanation would
reach you. In the first place
I will say that I requested ^(in writing) that the
publishers send you two (2) cop-
ies of ~~the~~ each number of the 'Auk'
as issued & sent in this request
when I first returned from Wash-
ington. When you first wrote
me that the April no. had not come
I immediately wrote a note to Estes
& Lauriat stating the fact & renew-
ing my order for two copies to be
sent you. When your second
letter came there had been hardly
time for the copies to reach you,
but presumed - indeed felt sure -
they must be in your hands by
the time your letter had reached
me. So be sure about the
matter, however, I called on E. & L.

last Monday (April 2!) and personally
asked the clerk who has the
'Auk' in charge if they had been
sent & he said they had, ex-
plained how it happened that
they were not sent when the No.
was originally mailed. So of course
I then rested in the belief that
they must have reached you
last week.

I will now write E. & L. again,
& give them the substance of what
you say in your recent letter about
the numbers not having reached you.
As they have probably been misdirected

I will give the address in full
again & ask to have the matter
promptly attended to. I would mail
them direct myself, but I have
only a single copy by me - not
even a duplicate!

American Ornithologists' Union.

Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

A word in regard to the Crossbills.
The status, or rather our report, of course
cannot be reached till Mr. Brewster
returns here for over the subject
with me. In the meantime I am
having measurements of all accessible
material taken by Mr. Chadbourn,
who is working with me on our birds,
& who is careful & perfectly compe-
tent to take them. I find we can
muster a valuable lot of specimens,
including some 30 or more taken
in various parts of New England
in the breeding season, and even
a series of young birds in the first
plumage, or just beginning to moult.
The first moult? I do not know
just how it will come out, but
Mr. C. tells me that he finds a ~~the~~

small proportion of big-billed, large
birds among birds shot in New
England the same day & in the
same woods, from breeding colonies.

Mr. Walter Bryant of Oakland,
Cal., is now here & has with him
many interesting birds, which later he
intends to take with him to Washington.
He seems to get mostly intermediates
between the northern & southern Pacific
coast races — very few birds that
are decisively, or at least typically, of
either the northern or southern types.

Hope you & Dr. Stejneger
will have other papers for the
July 'Auk'. Please give my com-
pliments to Dr. Stejneger & tell him
I should like to hear from him,
& that he must not forget the
'Auk'.

Very truly yours

Many thanks for news
received from you & Dr. Stejneger

J. Allen

Ans. Apr 29

American Ornithologists' Union.
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, April 24,
1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway: -

I value Prof. Baird's opinion in the case, & will leave it to your judgment as to whether you shall also show him this letter & ask him for his advice. I am sorry to trouble you to this extent, but you will recognize that this is an A.O.U. matter of no little importance. - J.H.A.

You of course know that Dr. Coues is to sail for England on May 24, & be absent for several months, & as he will meet many of the B.O.U. people & will naturally talk over the whole subject of nomenclature with the 'British School', & being an "member, founder, & officer" of the A.O.U., he raises the question whether it would not be well for ~~the~~ it to appear that he is sent over by the Council of the A.O.U. to confer with

the B.O.U. in reference to our new "Code". While he would do all this naturally, he thinks it would be better if he were supplied with due credentials, drawn up with regard to strict form & dignity — in short, a "Commission" to do these things by authority, etc., etc. He thinks "the B.O.U. would take it as something of a compliment for a V.P. of the C.O.U. to be sent over to confer with them before finally making up the Am. Code of Nomenclature."

He proposes that I shall draw up the document in proper form, sign it as Pres. of the C.O.U., & then send it to each member of the Council for his official signature. As this seems to be a matter

that should be carefully considered before taking action, & as I have no one here to consult with, I have thought it best to bring the matter to your notice first in this informal way for your consideration, advice & suggestions. Please write me at once how the plan strikes you.

Sincerely yours,

J. A. Allen

I have written a letter of the same import as this to Dr. M. & to W. B., who will not be here before May 15. I should consider it a great favor if you would show this letter to Mr. Henshaw & ask him to kindly write me his views on the matter. I should also highly

Ans May 6.

American Ornithologists' Union.
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, May 1, 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

Yours of April 29. + 30
received. I agree with you that it is
better to let well enough alone. I
see nothing to be gained by the plan
& many possibilities of complications
& harm. For the Council to send a
delegate in the way suggested struck
me fully as unfavorably as it has
you & Mr. Henshaw, from whom
I have just rec'd a long letter. I
purposely withheld all expression of my
own opinion in my other letter that
I might not in the least influence
the judgment of others. I wrote to

It you & H. reply to the regarding the enclosure letter
as I have reason to suppose you will, I shall receive
from the plan in letter, & give S. G. full reasons for
my feeling down.

Thank replies,

Thanking you for your prompt &

Yours very sincerely

J. Allen

E. C., however, that the plan seemed impracticable & stated why. He writes back that my objection to the delegate plan is sound, & now suggests a circular letter of credit, so to speak, to be drawn up & signed by me officially & passed on for other signatures from the Officers of A.O.U. This seemed less objectionable, & I roughly drew up one, making it very mild & non-committal in all its bearings. A copy of this I have sent to E. C. & this morning mailed another copy to H. W. H., asking him to show it to you. He will also show you my letter to him accompanying it. Your letter of 30th puts even such a letter as this in an objectionable light — in fact the whole plan was distasteful to me from the first, even when simmered down to the proposed

letter scheme, & it becomes more so every time I think of it. You give several reasons against even the letter project, & I now strongly feel that we had better keep our nomenclature matter strictly to ourselves. If E. C. wants to talk up the subject with B.O.A. people he can do so on his own individual responsibility — not as an ^{associated} representative of the A.O.U., or even of the Committee on Nomenclature. He naturally will discuss these matters with the English ornithologists, & may perhaps do so unofficially. Just as you or I, or any other American might talk over mooted points as ornithologists, but not as members of our Committee.

Museum of Comparative Zoölogy,

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

May 1, 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

May 3 trouble you, at
your leisure, to give me the names of 5-
S. Am. Thrushes I send you by this mail.

Two specimens seem to agree with Seeböhm's
Turdus albiventer, but they do not agree with
two other specimens labelled with this name
by Mr. Cassin. The other seems to fit no
description or figure I have yet found. It cer-
tainly does not seem accounted for in See-
böhm's monograph of the Turdidae. Which is the true
albiventer, my Santarem specimens or those so
labelled by Cassin?

Truly yours

J. Allen

American Ornithologists' Union.
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, May 5, '84.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

Yours of May 2
in reference to cut of wing-pattern
of L. kumleini duly to hand. I will
inquire your printer if he has the
electro., but I am strongly under
the impression that it was given
to Mr. Brewster as soon as the Cat.
No. of Bull. was printed - Mr. B.
having furnished the cut at his own
expense. The electro. is certainly not
in my possession, & as Mr. B. is
away I fear it will not be possible
to get hold of it in time for use in
the Water Birds. If there is a possibility

I getting it in time, in your opinion,
I would advise your writing to W.B.
at once (at Charleston, S.C.) & asking
him if he has it & if so how it
can be obtained. Probably he could
write to some friend there & let them
where it is & how to get it.

If I find it at the printer I will
write you this evening to that effect,
but if you do not hear from me
again by next mail you may infer
that it is beyond my reach.

Many thanks for your papers from
Proc. Biol. Soc. - I did not know
you had written a paper on the
Crossbills till your paper came there.

Please let me hear from you about
the S.C. letter to B.O.U. people I sent last
week to H.W. H. & asked him to
show you.

Caring you J. Allen

WILLIAM H. WHEELER,
PAMPHLET AND JOB PRINTER,
416 HARVARD STREET.

Cambridge, Mass., May 5, 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

I find the cut
at the printers & will take the re-
sponsibility of lending it for use
in the Water Birds. I enclose proof
for use in your gally proofs & will
hand the electro. to Prof. Whitney, as,
the Water Birds being printed here, I
suppose you will not wish to have
it sent on by you.

Sincerely yours

J. Allen

Cambridge, May 8, 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

Yours of
May 6 rec'd yesterday, & also
the birds. Many thanks for
your kindness in settling my
doubts. I suspected one of the
species was ~~*T. megalometes*~~ *T.*
leucomelas, but it did not
seem true that the lores were
dark enough to be described
as 'black', as Mr. Seebohm gives
them.

The nondescript is unfortunately
a borrowed specimen, but
possibly I can buy it. Although
I you confirm me in my belief
that it is new, I do not care

can describe it, at least
till others are forthcoming. The
collector (Mr. W. H. Williams of North-
ampton, Mass.) returns in a short
time to the locality & spent consid-
erable time collecting, & I shall
urge him to keep a sharp lookout
for others.

Very truly
Yours
J. Allen

Cambridge, May 9, 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

Thanks for your
 interesting paper on Scarlet & White
 Ibises.

Do you ^{not} suppose ^{that} the change
 in color with the moult in the Scarlet
 Ibis in confinement ^{may} be something
 analogous to the ~~the~~ loss of red in
 the Purple Finch in confinement,
 which always loses ~~the~~ red, you know,
 with the first moult, even though
 kept in the locality of capture? The
 same ^{kind of change} happens also in other Red
 Finches, & even in the House Finch. In
 view of these facts is it not possible

That confinement may have some-
thing to do with the change of color
in the Pearl 96's, or do you
believe the change wholly due to
removal from a tropical to a cool
climate? I do not suppose you
have for a moment forgotten the
facts in the case of red finches, or
that you have failed to consider them
in this connection. The fact of the
96's changing was quite new to me,
& your remarks on the same are
certainly very suggestive.

Trusting you
J. Allen

American Ornithologists' Union.
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, May 14, '84.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

Many thanks for
note for July 'Auk' - "the auk-
word organ, etc." - 3 in our
'His' friends take this view of
A matter! But we are finally
indebted to S. F. B. for the name!
It will sound better by & by!

The maps for the bird-distrib-
ution work are at last in
my hands. Should you want
25- or 50, or more, I can supply
them at a cost of 6½ cts each.

The bill for the edition of 1000 was
\$65.00. — By the way - Mr. Belding
has ordered 200. Will it be safe

to send them to Stockton, Cal., or
had I better write him first?

Will you kindly give me his
present address. It is now several
months since I have heard from
him.

The proposed letter is laid on
the table & will then stay, E. C.
takes it regretfully but with good
grace -

Sincerely yours
J. A. Allen

American Ornithologists' Union.
 Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, May 30. 84.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

The enclosed came to me through E. C. some months ago, but we both thought the items too doubtful till in some way confirmed. Do you know anything about any of them? Is the Houpariel the one that was sent to Mrs. J. for identification? What is your advice in regard to them?

The July no. is more than half in type, except of General Audubon's full, & half enough good matter left over for Oct. no. There is also a

heavy pressure on dept. of 'Recent
Literature', & 'General Notes' are
also well-provided for. There are
several communications for 'Corres-
pondence'; but 'Notes & News' step
thin. Have you any thing for
the latter?

Subscriptions come in slowly;
unless there is a 'boom' soon, there
will be a considerable deficit to
meet or provide for at the annual
meeting next fall.

Sincerely yours
J. A. Allen

American Ornithologists' Union.
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, June 18/84.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

The notice of 'Ornithologia Columbiana' rec'd this morning. It comes, however, too late, as I have a review of it already in type. But Mr. McCombs's review is not too late if it can be thrown into a little different ^{form}, not only retaining its present substance, but I would suggest little fuller treatment of some of the points noticed. It might come into 'General Notes' in the Oct. No. for instance, under some such title as 'Notes on Birds of the District of Columbia', or whatever may seem appropriate. If too long for dept. of 'G. N.' it might go in as a general article. The principal changes I would suggest would

be weeks, I am very busy with pressing work, & so will have to defer till fall the selection of much duplicates or we may be able before.

Prof. Whitney has just given me photo proofs of 2nd vol. of Water Birds on far as east. (This volume I do not see in gallery.) I have ~~rather~~ filled out the reference to the July 'Auk', but I notice one I do not understand. That is in respect to a Puffin — frater is 'Hesperus'. I have gone carefully over Dr. Hesperus paper in July No. & find nowhere any reference to Puffin. I should not therefore the reference be changed to 'Hesperus No. 1'. If Dr. S. has written something on Puffin for the 'Auk', I am quite sure he has not sent it, or at least that it has not come to hand, for I should surely remember it if I had seen it. It certainly is not in July. J. H. A.

be a formal statement of what "four species" were omitted, giving the data for each, & perhaps also adding the "four species taken since the last were taken". Also stating what "eight or ten" species are wrongly given as 'casual' or 'migrants'. In other words, point out the errors of the list & supplement its deficiencies. somewhat as Dr. Stejneger is doing for Nelson's Report.

I reviewed the list simply because I supposed no one else would take the trouble to do so, & my review of course is not critical, from the local standpoint, & in the nature of things could not be; it simply gives an outline of the work as it would naturally appear to an outsider.

If you think the writer will kindly take the trouble to recast the article, I will gladly return the M.D. for ^{his} revision. It seems

to me highly desirable that he should see into the matter a little more minutely, & in case the author should decide to do so he would doubtless produce a paper of sufficient length to be in so a several articles, & which would give much desirable information.

Briefly given

J. Allen

Your letter since I received a revised copy of your S. & F. M. observations. On looking it over I roughly estimated that we have about 125-130 species which are still on your list, but in most cases they are represented by only a single bird, or by a pair. Possibly I could contribute a dozen species, but I fear not more than that. As I leave Cambridge for the summer in about

American Ornithologists' Union.
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, Mass.,
June 25, 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

I send you by
this mail proofs of General Notes & a
few other galleys. I fear, however,
I shall not have the benefit of
your corrections, unless I delay the
'Arch' especially for that purpose.

There being no other cause for
delay, my printer now takes his
turn, & at this date I have not
yet all the proofs in hand, & none
of the last 30 pp. till last night.
By pushing the matter with all
possible dispatch there is still a

possibility of getting the No. out by
July 1st. This is especially ~~import-~~
important for me to accomplish,
as I have made my arrangements
to leave town for the summer next
week (My address, however, will be
as usual — Cambridge, Mass.)

Begging you will excuse my
not getting proofs to you in time,
I will "try & do better next time".
But despite all my efforts & early
start with the printing there is
bound to be something to work
delay in getting out each num-
ber.

Yours truly
J. Allen

no special sequence

J. A. A. Pres. A.O.U.

R. R. V. P. "

C. H. M. Secy & Treas. "

W. B. Councillor "

H. N. H. " "

S. F. B. " "

etc.

[Cor] either, or both!
all signs, however
shd be official
as to signature
in A.O.U.

Simply the member of the Committee
on Nomencl.? — follow the
signature with "member Com. of
A.O.U. on Nomencl. & A. Adv."

Introducing on envelope
Dr. Coues if used at
V.P. A.O.U. used at
all

American Ornithologists' Union
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge + Washington,
May, 1884.

to ^{the} Officers and
~~and~~ Members of the
British Ornithologists' Union; —

Gentlemen, —

The bearer of this, Dr. Elliott
Coues of Washington, needs no introduction
to the Ornithologists of England, nor any
endorsement from his brother members
of the A.O.U.

His visit to you, for his own pleas-
ure and in the interest of ornithology,
gives, however, a timely opportunity for
the undersigned to send, informally, ^{kindly}
^{friendly} greetings and best wishes to such of
our brothers of the B.O.U. as it may

may be his good fortune to meet, and
^{we wish, through him} ^{questions of}
at the same time to compare and discuss
^{ornithological nomenclature}
with leading ornithological lights abroad
^{and to compare views}
notions, entertained here in respect to
certain points of nomenclature which
especially interest us, in view of our pro-
^{posed} ^{new} ^{list} of North American
Birds.

On entering upon the preparation of
this list it was found necessary at the
outset to consider carefully current rules
of nomenclature, to discuss and weigh
them, and decide on what basis in
regard to such rules our list shall rest.
In so doing we took, as all previous
prominent and meritorious codes have
taken, the "British Association Rules" as
a basis, retaining in substance all
of their good points, and departing
from them only to make them more
explicit, and ^{perhaps more} in harmony with recent
scientific progress, resulting mainly

from acceptance of the modern doctrine
of evolution. Our rulings we believe to
be in the spirit of the "Stricklandian
Code", but at one or two points, ^{especially concerning} ^{trinomials} we
have ^{judged} ~~believed~~ it advisable to depart
somewhat radically from the letter of
that Code, in order to meet contin-
gencies unforeseen when that Code, in
the main so admirably conceived, was
given form. Dr. Coues will explain
these points of divergence and give the
reasons therefor, and through him
we should be glad to receive and
carefully weigh, before the final adop-
tion of our code, any criticisms or
suggestions our ornithological friends
in England may be pleased to accord.

With highest respect and most cordial
goodwill
We have the honor to be ^{excellent!}
Fraternal yours

American Ornithologists' Union.
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, Sept. 7, '84.

Dear Mr. Ridgway -

I sent you yesterday some galley proofs of papers for Oct. 'Auk'. Will you have anything for this No.? You will of course contribute your usual quota of notes for the dept. of 'notes & news'.

You of course have Sumner's 'List of Birds of Prey preserved in the Norfolk & Norwich Museum', & I wish very much that you would review it for the 'Auk'. - say for the Jan. No., as the Oct. No. is likely

to be very full in the Review dept.

I have Mearns's paper on ~~the Columbian~~ 'Archaena Columbianae'; he has remodelled it, but does not give details as fully as I hoped he would do. My review, intended for July No., was left over in type for want of room. I enclose the proof, which please return, as I have only this copy, with any suggestions that may occur to you. As I wrote once before, my notice is from the outsider's standpoint & wholly superficial.

Have had a pleasant summer at Hyannisport & feel much improved in health. I go to Dr. Merriam's in about two weeks for a short stay. I am glad to learn that ^{you} may join our little coterie there. Certainly hope

you will be able to do so that we may all be on the New & New York together. It will give us a chance to swap for the A.S.N. meeting, or reports about of business, etc.

Wishing you all sorts well,

Sincerely yours
J. Allen

American Ornithologists' Union
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

C. HART MERRIAM, Secy.
Locust Grove, N.Y.

Sept. 22, 1884,

Robert Ridgway, Esq.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir: —

There will be a meeting
of the Council of the American Ornithologists' Union at the American
Museum of Natural History in
Central Park, New York, at 10 A.M.,
Monday, Sept. 29, 1884, in reference
to important business preliminary
to the Annual Meeting of the A.O.
U.

J. A. Allen
President.

American Ornithologists' Union
 Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, Oct. 24,
 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway,

I am quite willing to draw up the letter suggested, if necessary, but my own individual opinion is that you need not anticipate that any such backing will be required.

I understood from your letter that you have already written Little, Brown, & Co. I know one member of the firm personally, & shall probably see him in a day or two, & perhaps I might

venture to "feel the pulse" a little
& put in a word. Could do
so better if I knew a little
more definitely the probable size
& form of the book, proposed illus-
trations etc.

You may certainly count
on all the aid I can possibly
render in the case, & my readi-
ness to take such steps as
may seem best.

Sincerely yours
J. Allen

Museum of Comparative Zoölogy,

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Nov. 4. 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway:-

yours of Nov. 1,
and also the Mss., duly to hand.
Will try to meet Little, Brown
& Co. within a few days & will
do all I can to interest them
in the work. It is much work
as I constantly feel the need
of & shall do all in my
power to have to bring it before
the public -

Sincerely your
J. Allen

Museum of Comparative Zoölogy,

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Nov. 4. 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway:-

yours of Nov. 1,
and also the Mss., duly to hand.

Will try to meet Lillie, Brown
& Co. within a few days & will
do all I can to interest them
in the work. It is much work
as I constantly feel the need
of & shall do all in my
power to have to bring it before
the public -

Sincerely your
J. Allen

Museum of Comparative Zoölogy,

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Cambridge, Mass.
Nov. 7. 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway:-

Has Mr.

Henshaw returned to Washington
yet? If not can you inform
me as to when he is expected?

An early reply will greatly

Oblige

Yours sincerely

J. A. Allen

Museum of Comparative Zoölogy,

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Nov. 10. 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway: - Saw Mr. Bailett
(head of firm of Little, Brown, & Co.) on
Saturday, & left with him the MSS.
& plates, which he said he would
like to examine, & would communicate
directly with you. I had a very pleas-
ant interview with him, & he seemed
satisfied with the assurance I gave
him as to the merit of the work & the
great need for such a publication.
I left him feeling that he was
very favorably impressed with the
work, & that it was a project he
would consider favorably.

Thanks for postal in reference
to H. W. H.

Sincerely yours J. Allen

American Ornithologists' Union.
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Cambridge, Mass.,
Dec. 12. 1884.

Dear Mr. Ridgway: -
The Jan. stock
is now passing rapidly through
the press. The first third is printed
& another third is in type. Get with
this good start, it will be rare good
luck if the number gets out on
time. As yet I have very little
for 'notes & news', & now write to
make my customary appeal to you
for help in this department. Shall
be glad to get as soon as possible
anything you may have for this
number.

Communications still pour in, all
"for the Jan. Auk". I have at
least very good matter enough
for two full numbers, & for a
several articles are concerned.
Also plenty for department of 'Recent
Literature' + 'General Notes' - more
of the latter than I can use -
for this number. I shall hope to get
from you a review of Surveys
work in time for the April issue.

While there is no lack of good
matter at any time, the more important
articles, - those which cannot well
be deferred - always come in at
a late hour, & have to begin to give
out copy 6 or 7 weeks before the time
for the number to appear - and obliged
to begin thus early in order to bring
out the no. on time - but the articles
that "must go in" do not reach me

til several weeks later, & they consequently give me
more or less embarrassment. Within a week or two
days for a fine week paper have come in, mostly
in the shape of nearly 40 pp. (pulpit matter), & in con-
sequence have decided to make the number larger than
usual, so some of the contributors say they would rather
pay for the printing of their paper than have them
left over. The matter averaged more popular in
character than usual, but is all good. This will
make a 'popular' no., a good 'specimen' issue, which
it is to be hoped will do something toward increas-
ing our subscription list.

With kind regards to Dr. Hagerman, I remain
Yours,
J. A. Allen