Ridgway Collection

Pasadena, Cal.
Dec. 26, 1886.

Mr. R. Ridgway,
Dear Sir:

Your letter of Dec. 11 duly rec'd, and today the box of skins. These latter were in a horrible condition. It looks as though the whole box had gone through a rock crusher, and it evidently has been through something of the kind during the heavy holyday mails. However the Flycatchers and Brewer's Sparrow, were in recognizable condition, and with a little resetting will be all right. Most of the others are redeemable so there isn't much loss.

I am glad to hear your verdict on the Chamaeas, and Fox Sparrows.

I will send you in the near future a dozen of the Aphelocomas from here, and I hope you can straighten those out for us.

In regard to the Alaskan specimens, I do not care to part with any except Fork-tailed Petrels, Steller's Jays, Marbled Marcelets (adult) and Chestnut-backed Chickadees. If you wish any of these at a fair cash price, I would be pleased to let you have them. Of course all the rest are at your service, whenever you wish them for comparison or any other purpose, but I could not afford to lose entirely their ownership.

There are a lot of other birds which I wish you to examine, and I will send them to you in a few days. I will also send the Empidonax greseus for Mr. Brewster to see.

I have no Chamaeas except from the vicinity of San Francisco Bay, but I think I will make a special study of the geographical distribution and variation of the Wren-tits

during the coming year, and see if I cannot add to the knowledge of this unique and characteristic bird of California. I realize that it will be a big undertaking. But I hope by a good deal of correspondence and searching up all the literature on the subject to accomplish something. I will be taking a post-graduate course at Stanford University by next September, and I will have increased opportunity there. What do you think of the idea?

Yours

Joseph Grinnell

Ridgway Collection

6-1-31.

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM.

Office of Assistant Secretary.

DIVISION OF CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

MEMORANDUM.

June 1, 1897.

To Mr. Ridgway:

I return Mr. Grinnell's letter of May 3, with the information that a copy of Proceedings Paper 799 has been sent him, and that his name has been added to our mailing-list for future papers relating to birds.

Yours respectfully,

Chief of Division.

2—1815

Mr. Grease:
Can you send Mr. Grinnell
No. xiii, Proc. U.S.N.M. (see
next page). We are under many
obligations to him, & I would be glad if
Mr. Ridgway, his name could be put on typed
manuscript but for blind papers. Ref.

Pasadena, Cal.
May 3, '97.

Dear Sir:

Added for Bird Papers 5-29-97 W.
Send P.799 sent 5-28-97. B.

6.1.31.

I have as yet received no answer from my last letter to you, which I mailed april 5. However, I suppose you have been very busy with the Nashville Exhibit, which is probably well off your hands by this time. I enclose a description of what I take to be a new Towhee, from San Clemente Island. It is for your perusal and correction. I send also the 7 mainland birds from here, with which I made comparisons, and the types of P. Clementae. All these are for the Nat. Museum Coll., but the remaining 4 P. Clementae, I would like returned.

Of course my description and characterization of P. Clementae is incorrect, if the mainland birds which I used in comparison, are not typical of P. M. megalonyx, and this is what I want you to decide. Also am I running into any synonym?

If you find them typical & the characterization correct, you can forward the MS to Mr. Allen for July "Auk", if it is not asking you too much.

I would very much like the loan of No. XIII, 1890, of Proc. U.S.N.M., or the part which includes Townsend's report on the Island birds. I have some

Ridgway Collection

J. GRINNELL,
EDITOR
BERKELEY, CALIF.

J. EUGENE LAW,
BUSINESS MANAGER
HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

THE CONDOR

A BI-MONTHLY ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE OF WESTERN ORNITHOLOGY

PUBLISHED BY THE

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

AT HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

BERKELEY, CALIF., SEP 12 1909

Dear Mr. Ridgway:

Your kind letter of the 6th has just reacht me; but it is too late for me to get into Sept. issue of The Condor, now in print. (In fact I am expecting advance copies tomorrow.) If I had only gotten your information 10 days earlier it would have saved me from making some additional foolish remarks in our present issue.

But, you may be sure, I will take advantage of the opportunity to announce the appearance of your revized "Nomenclature" in our November issue.

Since my editorial appeared, in July issue, several people informed me that you had undertaken a new "Nomenclature". But this I previously knew nothing at all about, strange as it may seem. After all, the Pacific Coast is so remote from the Atlantic, that many pieces of news fail to reach us at all, unless publisht in some regular periodical.

I congratulate you on the successful arrangements

for the publication of the new "Nomenclature". Its increast scope will make it all the more indispensable to working systematists. We will all immensely appreciate your service in preparing it.

I sincerely hope all is going well with your "Bds. U. & Mid. Am". It is the crowning success of all your endeavors, and brings you the reverence of the ornithologists everywhere.

Very Truly Yours

J. Grinnell

Ridgway Collection

PUBLISHERS OF
THE CONDOR
A MAGAZINE OF ORNITHOLOGY

PACIFIC COAST AVIFAUNA
A SERIAL DEVOTED TO
ORNITHOLOGICAL PAPERS OF UNUSUAL LENGTH

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
ORGANIZED 1893

For the observation and co-operative study of Birds, because of the resulting pleasure;
For the spread of interest in Bird Study, so that this pleasure may be shared by others;
For the conservation of Birds and Wild-life in general, for the sake of the future;
For the publication of Ornithological Knowledge, as being a contribution to Science.

Berkeley
April 14, 1913

Dear Mr. Ridgway:

I am sincerely appreciative of your kind attitude in regard to the Pigmy Owl mess. I ought to have exhausted that possibility of the type's having been the interior form; for that is one of the first principles in systematic science. But I simply took it for granted (an extremely unscientific modus) that either the type had been long ago destroyed or that it was known to be (by Nelson, et al.) of the coast form. I have only to condemn myself; and I hardly see why your use of my name in the genus is deserved — on my part! You are certainly more generous, than custom in such cases prescribes. I am duly grateful.

I am glad to know of the approaching completion of Part VI. Everyone will welcome it. As the series grows, the remaining parts are looked for with increasing eagerness.

I congratulate you, also, on the appearance of your new Nomenclature — which I have not yet seen, tho an order for a copy is on its way.

With very best wishes, Dan
Very truly yours
J. Grinnell

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

JOSEPH GRINNELL, *DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM*
WALTER P. TAYLOR, *CURATOR OF MAMMALS*
F. HARVEY HOLDEN, *ASSISTANT CURATOR IN OSTEOLOGY*
HAROLD C. BRYANT, *ASSISTANT CURATOR OF BIRDS*
MARGARET W. WYTHE, *MUSEUM ASSISTANT*

MUSEUM OF
VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Aug. 19, 1913

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
7 West Madison Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Dr. Wood:

I have to report that all of the skulls borrowed by you have come back to the Museum in good condition as far as I am aware. There was nothing included that did not belong with our material.

We are very glad indeed to have been of service to you in your investigations. I hope that you will feel free to call upon us at any time for the use of material or other assistance within our power to render.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

J. GRINNELL, EDITOR
H. S. SWARTH, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
J. EUGENE LAW
W. LEE CHAMBERS
BUSINESS MANAGERS

THE CONDOR

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EDITORIAL OFFICE
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Jan. 9, 1914

Mr. Adriaan VanRossem,
Pomona, Calif.

My dear Mr. VanRossem:

I return herewith the manuscript of your Flycatcher article for the purpose of showing you wherein I made corrections in preparing the manuscript for publication. There are not many of these, but I hope they will be illuminating as showing how your style can be improved.

I am frank to state that I consider your article excellently written. It shows at the same time a high grade of observational ability. If you can turn out work of this good quality with relatively little preliminary experience, I should say that you would make a mistake in not following up this line of work and thus put your talents to good use.

Will you not compile further articles?

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

Editor.

Enclosure.

Do not return MS; it is all in print now.

Ridgway Collection

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA.
Jan. 28, 1917.

Mr. Robert Ridgway,

Route 7,

Olney, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Ridgway:

Thank you very much for your kind note of the 20th. We were, of course, sure of your own generous approval of our course in quoting from your book; but courtesy on our part demanded formal notification.

We will take further steps in the direction of your publishers.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

Ridgway Collection

JOSEPH GRINNELL, DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM
HARRY S. SWARTH, CURATOR OF BIRDS
HAROLD C. BRYANT, ECONOMIC ORNITHOLOGIST
F. HARVEY HOLDEN, ASSISTANT CURATOR IN OSTEOLOGY
TRACY I. STORER, ASSISTANT CURATOR OF BIRDS
JOSEPH DIXON, ASSISTANT CURATOR OF MAMMALS
MARGARET W. WYTHE, MUSEUM ASSISTANT

Answ'd Jan. 20

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

MUSEUM OF
VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA
Jan. 12, 1917.

Mr. Robert Ridgway,

U. S. National Museum,

Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Ridgway:

Messrs. Bryant, Storer and myself are bringing to completion a volume on the game birds of California. In a number of species we find it necessary to quote single measurements from other than our own information. I would be glad of the privilege to quote items of this sort from your "Manual of North American Birds" (1900).

The extracts we propose to take are so ~~small~~ brief that I believe they would hardly come under the copyright laws; however, we want to make sure, and we would like to have, anyway, the permission of the author. What is your feeling in this matter?

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA
Feb. 19, 1920

Dr. Casey Wood,
The Kingscote,
Stanford University, Calif.

My dear Dr. Wood:

I am glad to know that you are with us in California again. I hope it is not merely for the summer this time, but for keeps. I have an obsession to the effect that west-central California is located in that climatic belt of the world which is most stimulative to mental advancement. In other words, it is a good place for people who want to produce, to settle in.

I am unable to recommend such a person as Captain Beebe would want as an assistant. This is not at all a new line of enquiry. Such persons are in demand; we are looking for them here ourselves, where there might seem to be the best opportunity to find them among the mass of students entering the University. Born naturalists seem to be scarce these days.

Your plan to present an ornithological library to to your alma mater is an admirable one. I am sending you a small packet of book catalogs which I happen to have at hand. Do not return them. There is a Max Weg (Berlin) catalog out. The copy I went through belongs to the U. C. library. It contained a large number of attractive things, both as to ~~appearance~~ Rarities and rarity. Doubtless you could get a copy of this catalog through the Stanford library.

You will doubtless be over to Berkeley some day, and in case you do, could be sure and give the Museum here a visit. We may have some new material of interest in your line of investigation.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

Casey A. Wood Collection

Letters to Ornithologist

Rec'd Mar 19.21

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

February 22, 1921.

Dr. Casey Wood,
C/O Tropical Research Station,
Kartabo, British Guiana, S. America.

Dear doctor Wood,

I wish you could realize how much good fun a number of us have gotten from reading your Christmas letter. I have passed it around widely, and certain people you never heard of proved enthusiastic over it.

Please accept, therefore, our several thanks for your remembrance of this little coterie within your large general circle of friends.

If you should happen to think of us this summer while you are in England, drop us a line and let us know something of the work you are carrying on there.

Everything here at the Museum is moving along serenely - and yet, I trust with a full measure of industry and definiteness of purpose. I think the two may be quite consistent.

Mr. Storer's and my Yosemite report is rapidly approaching completion. I hope we will have it actucally in Press by the end of June.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

P.S. If you can properly, pick up a specimen of some sort for us — just one, but taken by yourself. A mammal skull, a bird skin, or a common lizard, would do. Then we would have your name on our accession list!

J.G.

Ridgway Collection
Ridgway Collection

J. GRINNELL, EDITOR
H. S. SWARTH, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

J. EUGENE LAW
W. LEE CHAMBERS
BUSINESS MANAGERS

THE CONDOR

A MAGAZINE OF WESTERN ORNITHOLOGY

PUBLISHED BY THE
COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

EDITORIAL OFFICE
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

June 7, 1921.

Mr. Robert Ridgway,
Olney, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Ridgway:

I had the good fortune to spend about three weeks lately in the Division of Birds, U. S. National Museum. Dr. Richmond and Mr. Riley were very kind to me in every way, and I was able to make full use of the time at my disposal to work upon the bird collections and literature there.

However, I missed very much seeing you, though I learned that you are finding it quite feasible to go on with your work on "Birds of North and Middle America" where you are in Illinois.

Let me offer my personal congratulation on the distinction conferred upon you at the April meeting of the National Academy of Sciences - a thoroughly deserved one as ornithologists everywhere will agree.

I am wondering if you might not be prevailed upon to offer some sort of a biographical account of yourself for publication in the Condor. As one of the older men now living, you have a lot of knowledge of personal relationships and happenings from twenty to forty years ago, which no one else has. Such information might prove of important historical bearing, as well as of diredt interest to Condor readers.

I can think of such topics as the history of the publications of "Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway," of your "Manual", your "Color Standards", and, finally, of your "Birds of North and Middle America." There must have been many exceedingly interesting circumstances connected with the carrying out of these enterprises, which really ought to go on record. In a way, you owe this to your field of science. Think it over seriously and see if you cannot decide to meet my request favorably.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

Casey A. Wood Collection

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

April 20, 1922.

Miss Cora Raymond, Secy.,
7 West Madison Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Miss Raymond:

I am glad to have the "round letter" sent out by Dr. Casey Wood from South America. It will be circulated among Dr. Wood's several friends here in the university.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

RB

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

Aves Oct 1.22

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

August 31, 1922

Dr. Casey A. Wood
7 W. Madison st.
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Wood:

Your letter of August 15, from London, to Mr. Swarth, I have just opened, in accordance with general instructions from Swarth before he left the Museum. He started out recently for a two or three months' collecting trip in northern Arizona, in company with Dr. Francis B. Sumner. Their problem is to test out the alleged correlation of dark coloring in rodents locally with the lava beds. Sumner and I did a similar piece of work two years ago at Lavic, on the Mojave Desert, with, however, getting quite the conclusive sort of data that is needed.

Referring to your letter again: Mr. R. H. Beck's present address is; care of American Consul, Papeete, Tahiti. I just have a letter from one of his assistants, Ernest H. Quayle. Also, Professor W. A. Setchell, head of our Botany Department here, spent the summer in the South Seas and met Beck and his party, reporting them to be getting large and interesting collections of birds.

By the time you start for the South Seas yourself, Beck will have covered a pretty large territory there, and certainly will be well posted with regard to the best islands to visit for bird study.

I have met Mr. C. G. Abbott, who is now Director of the Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego. He impressed me as a very admirable fellow, and I hear that he is making quite a success in his new position.

You cannot help coming through San Francisco and Berkeley, of course, on your way to the South Seas. We will look forward to seeing you here, then. If you could let us know in advance about when you are coming through, it would give us the opportunity of calling a special Cooper Club meeting at which we could all hear of your experiences.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

JG:FR

Casey A. Wood Collection

Letters of ornithts.

J. GRINNELL, EDITOR
H. S. SWARTH, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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W. LEE CHAMBERS
BUSINESS MANAGERS

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EDITORIAL OFFICE
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

November 17, 1922.

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
Hotel del Coronado,
Coronado Beach, California.

Dear Dr. Wood:

Yes, we will be glad to have the Brewer ~~article~~ letter for the Condor, with, of course, your commentaries there-on. The additional information you get from W. L. Slater will add to its interest.

Doubtless it was Charles Emil Bendire, with whom Brewer was in correspondence in 1877. In 1874-1877 Bendire was stationed at Camp Harney, Oregon (see Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. 1, April, 1876, p.50). I am sorry we haven't Bendire's articles on Camp Harney birds in separate form. They are in the bound volumes of the proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History for 1875 and 1877. One of the articles is entitled "Notes on seventy-nine species of birds observed in the neighborhood of Camp Harney, Oregon", compiled [by Dr. T. M. Brewer] from the correspondence of Charles Bendire, First Cavalry, U.S.A. (see Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. 3, Apr. 1878, p. 81).

The name of the Argentine Cowbird is Molothrus bonariensis (Gmelin).

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

JG:MM

Ridgway Collection

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

April 25, 1923.

Mr. Robert Ridgway,
Route 7, Olney,
Illinois.

Dear Mr. Ridgway:

I like very much your stand in the question of trinomials, as expressed on page 375 of the last Auk. The test invariably should be of "intergradation clearly proven;" otherwise the binomial. Friend Oberholser has gone to extremes in this matter, following certain Europeans. I am not so sure that I agree with you all the way through in your defense of generic subdivision. I think the points Stone makes in his note following yours are very good.

Regards of the season to you.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

JG:MM

Casey A. Wood Collection

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA May 15, 1923.

Rec'd. June 22 23 asked for
Bahis paper & other information re Fiji birds
also a good taxidermists' text book

Mr. Casey A. Wood,
General Post Office, (To await arrival)
Suva, Fiji Islands.

Dear Doctor Woods:

I was glad to have your note of April 3rd and to be assured that your program was working out as per schedule.

I hope to see Prof. Setchell this noon, and will tell him of your experience in Papeete. I hope you will have found Thomson in New Zealand. I will look forward to hearing your impressions of him and of other people there.

The Albatrosses you saw off the California coast were in all likelihood D. nigripes. At least, this is by far the commonest species here. We see albatrus only at intervals. This species becomes more common in the North Pacific, toward Western Alaska.

Your Brewer letter is coming out in the May "Condor", on which I have read last proof. As soon as a copy of the issue is available, I will forward it to you.

Things are going along smoothly here--nothing has happened since you left, that, at least to me right on the ground, seems note-worthy.

Best wishes for your further enjoyment of your trip.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

JG/ELG

Casey A. Wood Collection

May 17, 1923.

Dr. J. A. Leach,
President Royal Aust. Orn. Union,
2 Temple Court,
Melbourne, Australia.

My dear Sir:

At the instance of Dr. Casey A. Wood I am sending you by insured mail a copy of our book entitled "The Game Birds of California".

Dr. Wood assures me that you are much interested in the subject matter of this book, and I trust you will find some use for the copy.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

JG/ELG

Director of the Museum.

Copy

Casey A. Wood Collection

May 21, 1923.

American Railway Express Company,
Berkeley, California.

Gentlemen:

Should any packages arrive for Dr. Casey A. Wood please deliver them to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology on the University Campus.

Dr. Wood has asked us to take care of materials consigned to him until his arrival from the Orient.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Joseph Grinnell

JG/ELG

Director of Museum.

Copy

Casey A. Wood Collection

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA May 21, 1923.

Mr. Casey A. Wood,
General Post Office,
Suva, Fiji Islands.

(To await arrival)

Dear Doctor Wood:

I have your further letter of April 23. I have sent Dr. J. A. Leach a copy of the Game Bird Book, as per enclosed carbon. This goes from the Museum stock of copies, and you need not concern yourself about any "costs thereof"!

I will watch out for the shipment of slides from Australia, and will keep them here subject to your further instructions.

I have sent you a copy of the May issue of the Condor in which you will find your T.M. Brewer article.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

JG/ELG

Casey A. Wood Collection

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA June 16, 1923.

Ans. July 26.23
Wrote Latta re this

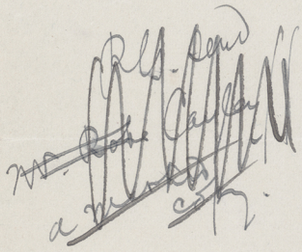
Pls. return this to

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
General Postoffice,
Suva, Fiji Islands,

(To await arrival)

My dear Dr. Wood:

Your letter of May 3 from Australia has just come. I will hold whatever packages or other mail, as may come for you, and will use the $10.00, if need be, to defray appertaining costs.



I am much interested in your report of your experiences among the ornithologists of Australia. Especially interesting is that announcement of the wonderfully comprehensive and co-operative work on the birds of Australia. I will make announcement of it in the Condor.

It is certainly fine that we Americans, and Californians in particular, can have a representative like you travelling abroad. This will put remotely located ornithologists more in touch with one another than could be possible through correspondence alone.

I have just read with great interest and approval Edwin Ashby's article on "Private Collections and Permits" in the Emu for January, 1923. I hope you have met this man, and will be able to tell me something about him. I see that his name is included among those who are going to contribute to Cayley's Birds of Australia, so he must be an experienced bird man.

Everything is going smoothly here, with no special news that I can think of to report.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

JG/ELG

Casey A. Wood Collection

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

omith.
ans July 26.23

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

June 27, 1923

Dr. Casey A. Wood
General Post Office
Suva, Fiji Islands

Dear Dr. Wood:

Yours of May 25, from Auckland, has just come. That is most inspiriting news, that you are gathering in some specimens for this museum. Since we have absolutely nothing from New Zealand, save some English Sparrows, collected for us by Mr. C. J. Wilson, anything you can lay hands on will prove valuable to us.

Your hint that you may be able to get some things, not ordinarily obtained, rouses my imagination. Of course, I do not want any efforts made that will cause any conflict with the export laws, or that will hasten the extinction of any species, but at the same time, where there are still specimens of a vanished or vanishing species available, I can certainly think of no better place in the world to put them on safe deposit, than in this Museum.

More and more in years to come this will be a center for ornithological studies. We have a big start already, and our momentum is increasing. Whatever you do for us will receive recognition in our records and your name will be associated with this growth.

As I think I wrote you, a box has come for you, said to contain a picture, and I paid the customs charges on it from your deposit.

I will be mightily interested to hear some of the "inside" facts about Australasian bird people.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

Casey A. Wood Collection

MVZ

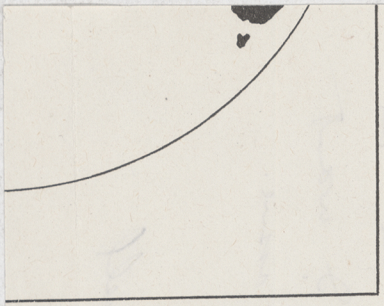
AUG 24 1923

Dear Dr. Wood: address w/q.P.O Sawa

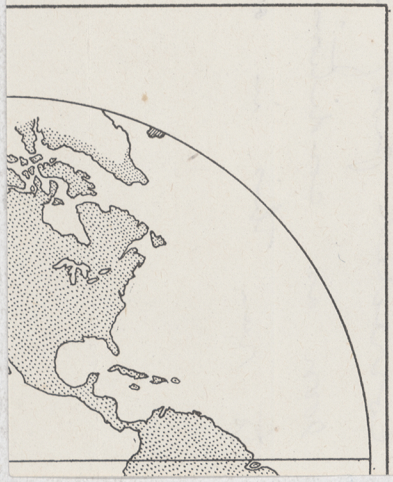
I have had this read to copy; and I will read it again, myself. Even so, you had better go over it pretty carefully. Send back corrected proof and MS to me as soon as conditions allow. I want to run this in our November issue.

Yours

J. Grinnell



of Man. On account of the difficulty
orld map so small as this, the peoples
ns, Ainu, and Polynesians, are here
ces to which on the whole they bear
Hemisphere.)



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

September 1, 1923

Dr. Casey A. Wood
General Post Office
Suva, Fiji

Dear Dr. Wood:

Your letter of July 26 is before me. As you will see by inclosures, I have followed your suggestions and written to Mr. Cayley. I will also try to have a notice of his forthcoming work in the ~~Museum~~ Department column of the next Condor. Furthermore, I have put in a requisition for the work through our University Library, though with incomplete data. The Library will write to the publishers, Angus and Robertson, for specifications, I suppose, before actually placing the order.

Bahr's Ibis list of Fiji birds ought to have reached you by this time. All specimens you can collect will be of lasting value -- whatever you get, and wherever you place them (the factor of safety of course considered). Take in, most particularly, such species as are in danger of extermination through factors accompanying the development of human civilization: Ducks, for example, that nest on the ground, and that are subject to having their nests raided by such alien carnivores as the Mongoose. A series of the Jungle Fowl would be desirable, even though non-native. There is always the chance that a new environment will be found to have induced changes in specific characters -- evolution under way, possibly, though well attested cases of this sort are so far wanting.

Among shore-birds far-flung vagrants ought to be watched for, as providing data concerning theories of migration.

Y ou have a thrilling opportunity in so many directions, that I, of course, envy you. With the collections you are making, and all the information you are gathering about the present status of each species, and with your illustrations ~~you are gathering~~, you will surely find yourself able to put out an important scientific contribution on the Fijian fauna. Such a contribution ought to be put out here in California, where activities, sooner or later, will center for all the Pacific region.

Dr. Casey A. Wood - 2

A few days ago I sent you the proof of your article on the Cayenne Ibis. Your corrections surely will be back in time to run the article in our November issue.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

September 1, 1923

Mr. Neville W. Cayley
c/o Angus and Robertson
Castlereagh Street
Sidney, N.S.W., Australia

My dear Sir:

Through the kindness of Dr. Casey A. Wood, I have seen the proofs of a prospectus of your forthcoming "Birds of Australia". Judging from this prospectus you and your publishers are going to provide a wonderful compendium of Australian Ornithology. I congratulate you upon the opportunity to put through so important an undertaking.

I am anxious to know more about the work, and would ask you to have your publishers provide me with details as to cost and so forth. It is quite likely that I will be able to have an order placed by our University Library.

Very truly yours,

(J. Grinnell)

Copy

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

September 21, 1923

Dr. Casey A. Wood
Genaral Post Office
Honolulu, H. T.

Dear Dr. Wood:

I have just received, to hold for you, a box of "fragile" specimens. It came by way of Captain B. M. Aldwell of the Steamer "Tahiti". I have not opened the box, but I should judge that everything in it is likely intact.

I find that Mr. Swarth has fully covered points in recent letters of yours. In a few days we will forward to you at Honolulu, first class mail which has accumulated. I infer that you have been getting very gratifying results in the way of collections and information.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

December 26, 1923

5+8
additions

Mr. A. J. van Rossem,
514 Lester Avenue,
Pasadena, Calif.

My dear van Rossem:

Here is some data with regard to Spotted Sandpipers, as bearing on your problem (letter of December 20).

No. 179 -- ♀, Glacier Bay, Alaska, July 14, 1907, taken by J. Dixon with set of 4 eggs, now in MVZ collection.

No. 154 -- ♀, Chichagof Island, Alaska, July 27, 1907, taken by F. Stephens, with downy young one (no. 155).

At Cottonwood Lakes, 11,000 feet, Inyo County, California, I took a ♂ with two half-grown but still downy young ones on August 25, 1911 (nos. 19752,-51,-50). Both adults seen in vicinity of young.

With regard to incubation, I note that Witherby (et al) say with regard to the near-related "Tringa hypoleucos" (Handbook, page 610): "apparently chiefly, if not entirely, by female. And with regard to the Wood Sandpiper (page 615): incubation -- shared by sexes, male taking considerable part".

My own impression with regard to the Spotted Sandpiper is that the two sexes participate quite evenly in both incubation and the care of the young.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

Casey A. Wood Collection

Ans. Aug 17.24

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

Grinnell's Story
The Castaways.
Book.

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

July 15, 1924

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
7 West Madison Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Wood:

I sent along an advance copy of July Condor just as soon as it came to me from the printer. I think, as I hope you will, that the frontispiece came out well. It gives a soft effect, less glaring and contrasty than it would have been on calendared paper.

Your essay on the Starling family strikes me as one of the best contributions that we have had in years. It happens to deal with a subject of far reaching current importance. And the way in which you have brought together a digest of data bearing on the past, and probable future, course of events, is admirable. Let me thank you again for having contributed this article together with the accompanying illustration to the Condor (rather than to some other journal.)

The Museum is pretty well deserted these days save for Summer Session students. Our staff is pretty widely scattered -- Swarth with Brooks in extreme northern British Columbia, Dixon just back from the east, having enjoyed a very informing trip. I am reading proof as time permits on my California Bib. I will send you one of the first copies of this off the press.

I will be glad to have a note from you, from wherever you happen to be along your planned itinerary. Please give my regards to Mrs. Wood.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

Casey A. Wood Collection

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

Ans Sept. 22. 24

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

September 5, 1924

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
Authors' Club,
2 Whitehall Court,
London, S. W. 1, England.

Dear Dr. Wood:

Your letter of August 18 certainly contains a lot of interesting points to us here. I will send you a September Condor when it is out, in two or three days, and this sets forth practically every bit of news we have to offer from this direction. Note in particular Beck's defense of his goat procedure! There is no doubt in my mind but what Beck did a very foolish thing. But I think he, and other potential benefactors of "castaways", will have learned a lesson. Judging from what he had to say in his "Natural History" article his defensive arguments were thought up after the goats were liberated!

Referring to your Starling article in July Condor, I note that a good deal of publicity matter is appearing in the daily press emanating from the Provincial Game Office of British Columbia. Your article has evidently incited them to some sort of a campaign against the bird, as the facts are almost verbatim as you gave them, though neither your name nor that of The Condor appears.

Anent your remarks concerning "Formenkreisen", President Dwight of the A.O.U. has just announced that the old A.O.U. Committee on Nomenclature has been dissolved and that at the coming conference at Pittsburgh a new committee will be formed, with instructions to proceed at once, under the responsibility of the Chairman alone, to the compillation and publication of a new A.O.U. Check List. I inclose to you a copy of my comments to Dr. Dwight, in as much as the notification was addressed to Council members of the A.O.U. You will see that I am perfectly frank in stating my fears with regard to the dominancy of one particular gentleman!

And by the way, I am planning to attend the Pittsburgh meeting and will therefore be able to "sit in" when it comes to consideration of these momentous questions.

You speak pleasantly of my forthcoming California Bibliography. I am happy to say that the thing will be off the press now in a day or two. I will send you one of the first copies available. I think you will agree that the typography, at any rate, is excellent.

I am really greatly pleased that you should continue to consider MVZ as your ultimate headquarters. Rest assured that any books or other materials that you send in our care will be stored here safely pending your arrival from the Far East. By the way, MVZ has a very good friend in Mr. Charles J. Wilson, whose address is 14 Suffolk Street, Pall Mall. By "good friend" I refer to the fact that he is continually picking up, in his travels around the world, specimens of birds which he sends for presentation to this Museum. His latest sending consisted of two splendid examples of English Red Grouse -- which, as of course you know, is a species of Ptarmigan which has not white winter plumage. It was altogether new to us here, and was decidedly interesting and valuable by reason of the fact that we have such a large collection of nearctic ptarmigans. I hope you have a chance to meet Mr. Wilson and convey to him in person our acknowledgements.

Very truly yours, J. Grinnell

Casey A. Wood Collection

August 2, 1924

Captain John Bollons,
Govt. S. S. "Tutanekai",
Auckland, New Zealand.

My dear Captain Bollons:

I am very glad to have your letter of July 5, re-assuring me with regard to the prospects of obtaining specimens of birds for this Museum, in accordance with the provision of Dr. Casey A. Wood. I am glad, too, for your personal well-wishes in this regard.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of our magazine, The Condor, the first article of which, by Dr. Wood, will likely prove of some interest to you.

Very truly yours,

(J. Grinnell)

Copy for Dr. Wood.

Casey A. Wood Collection

September 5, 1924

Dr. Jonathan Dwight, President,
American Ornithologists' Union,
Tadousac, Quebec,
Canada.

Dear Dr. Dwight:

I am deeply interested in your communication of August 25, addressed to members of the A.O.U. Council. In general I think the movement initiated by Dr. Stone is in the direction of progress. I have long felt that no "committee", in these modern times of rush and pressure, could put through such an undertaking as the publication of a new Check List of North American birds, unless some one member would assume chief responsibility and authorship.

I therefore grant (1), (2), (3), (5).

But (4) I grant only with the understanding that authority be sought by the individual primarily responsible, from various other competent people in the field.

To repeat, while I believe in centralization of responsibility, I do not believe in an arbitrary one-man authority for taxonomic usage. The judgment of several minds must be sought, and heeded, in order to bring a well-balanced, conservative product.

To be perfectly frank, and specific, I do not for a minute approve of giving Dr. Oberholser sole authority to issue a Check List of North American birds, backed by the A.O.U. This would imply that all other students in North America, in accepting such a list of names, would be adopting Dr. Oberholser's personal preferences, which are radical! We need radicalism — to advance the frontiers of progress; but radicalism brings only experimentation. The main advance is essentially conservative; while some of the steps advocated by the radicals are to the good and are adopted, many are faulty and are discarded.

Briefly, the new A.O.U. Check List should be drawn up with conscientious regard for provision of the most usable, significant and permanent nomenclature it is possible at one period to draw up. This means conservatism; and no one man can insure this when it comes to matters of deciding on the criteria for generic limitations, for the designation of specific versus subspecific status, and for the finer limit of recognition of subspecies.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Stone. Of course, in bringing in Dr. Oberholser's name, I do so with no personal aspersiveness toward him. I hold him in high regard as a man and as one who has by his studies advanced American ornithology very greatly. But his is not the type of activity, it seems to me, that should be represented in the chairmanship of the new committee organized in accordance with your proposal.

Very truly yours,

(J. Grinnell)

Copy for Dr. Wood

Casey A. Wood Collection

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

ans. Nov. 6. 24.

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

October 11, 1924

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
Authors' Club,
2 Whitehall Court,
London, S. W. 1,
England.

Dear Dr. Wood:

Your letter of September 22 arrived in advance of your letter of the 21st -- showing the vagaries of mail transportation.

We are all exceedingly interested in everything you say. I, personally, am particularly glad to have your proposal that you write up, for The Condor, a full-sized, illustrated article on the general topic, "California as a center for aviation" -- or other words to that effect!

That would be quite new to the subject matter of The Condor; and it might initiate a movement which in time would lead to really important developments along the lines suggested by Lord Tavistock.

So go ahead just as fast as you can. I will be glad to get the manuscript and illustrative material whenever opportunity permits you to complete your work upon them.

Be sure and let me have your foreign address as soon as you have decided upon one. Will send you a copy of November Condor and other things of possible interest ~~to you~~.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

Casey A. Wood Collection

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

rec'd Feb. 3. 25

U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.
~~BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA~~
Nov. 16, 1924, 11 a.m.

Dear Dr. Wood:

By a very special dispensation, I am allowed to work in the National Museum bldg. on Sunday! I have a desk in the Biol. Surv. mammal rooms, near Jackson's. There is a sadness in this department, due to the so recent death of the much-beloved Ned Hollister. His loss as editor of the Journal of Mammalogy is a serious one. The Directors have a meeting here shortly, for the purpose of finding a new editor. Glover M. Allen's name has been suggested.

I understand that the Regents of the Smithsonian have offered the Directorship of the National Zoological Park to Alexander Wetmore, a very good man, of course. So it comes about, that the dropping out of one man near the top means a shift all along the line.

The A.O.U. meeting was wonderfully successful — a very long program of papers, most of them of exceptional merit. I thought bird photography, stills and movies both, had long ago reached the acme of perfection. But this a.o.u. meeting brought out the "best yet", by several steps. A.A. Allen's, McClintock's (of Heath Hen), and Harrison Lewis's were simply marvelous.

As to "politics", the only excitement had to do with the Committee on Nomenclature. The old committee was discharged; and Stone was voted chairman of a new committee, he himself to appoint any number of committeemen he chooses — whomever he wants. Oberholser was in very sad minority!

(over)

I have your letter of October 3 with me. As I had already written you, I will eagerly welcome your contribution on aviaries for The Condor. It will strike a new note in our repertoire and I am sure will be read with keen interest.

I do thank you for the book, Farrar's experiences with his aviary birds, especially since it has in it the autograph of the Duchess of Wellington. I shall prize it always. The copy of "Bush Boys" was read by the Grinnells, both jaws and ads., with relish. Then, on October 25, I forwarded it to the E.S. Wood Library of Ornithology, at McGill, as per your instructions.

I will have about 6 days here in Washington; then back to Berkeley, where I must be by Dec. 1. While here, I must make the most of my time looking up Californian specimens in the B.S. and Nat. Mus. collections. Of course, I am meeting many new and delightful people, too. It is all very agreeable.

I do hope this will find you and Mrs. Wood well, as to both spirit and body. I am glad you found Mr. Wilson a pleasant fellow to know, and with some useful information to impart. Let me know what your first impressions of Ceylon are.

Very truly yours

J. Grinnell

Casey A. Wood Collection

W. W. CAMPBELL,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY

MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

March 11, 1925

Dr. Casey Wood,
c/o Thomas Cook and Son,
Colombo, Ceylon.

My dear Dr. Wood:

Just received your letter of February 3. I had previously gotten a card from India dated December 12.

As usual we are all glad to hear of the fortunes and experiences of yourself and Mrs. Wood in your wonderfully interesting exploration of the far eastern countries. Your vivid accounts always help compensate us for not being lucky enough to make such a trip ourselves.

I am glad to know that you are actively working on that article dealing with English aviaries. I am sending you a copy of March Condor which will show you among other things that we are financially able to make appreciable expanse in size. I hope this year that we will publish 260 or even 280 pages. The boys down South, Dickey and Chambers, have been fairly successful in their campaign to increase the income of the Condor.

Our latest visitor was Dr. Charles W. Townsend, a most accomplished naturalist, as we found. He gave us a charming talk, illustrated with slides, at last Cooper Club meeting. He is making a circuit of the West -- his first trip to the coast; and he threatens to come to Berkeley to live, eventually! I hope this latter idea is still being entertained by yourself and Mrs. Wood.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

Enclosure

Casey A. Wood Collection

W. W. CAMPBELL,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY

MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

May 11, 1925

Sent Miss Kusbel
2 or 3 copies of
The Condor
ought to exchange with
the Auk and Wilson Mag.

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
Hotel Suisse,
Kandy,
Ceylon.

Dear Dr. Wood:

Your manuscript, and letter of March 30, have reached me safely. I am delighted to have both, and will try to follow your instructions closely.

As regards the illustrations, I hardly think it will be possible to publish all of the pictures; some of them I feel quite sure will not half-tone satisfactorily. I shall, of course, consult with the engraver before final decision.

The text is of decided general interest; it is sure to appeal to a new section of the Cooper Club's membership. Indeed, it may give our magazine entrée into entirely new circles. In this connection I would be glad to have from you a list of addresses to whom copies of the issue containing this article should be sent.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

P.S.- I infer that you and Mrs. Ward have found Ceylon the best heaven yet and that you are to stay on there indefinitely. We feel a little piqued here that any place better than Berkeley, or at least California in general, should exist! No special news here, outside May Condor, which will be mailed in a few days. Will send you a copy direct. Dixon was to have been on his way to Alaska by now, but an attack of the flu has laid him low for this season. Yrs JG.

Grinnell

Casey A. Wood Collection

W. W. CAMPBELL,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY

MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

ans. Sept. 20.25

August 15, 1925

Dr. Casey Wood,
Hotel Suisse,
Kandy, Ceylon.

My dear Dr. Wood:

There has recently come to my attention for curatorial consideration an accession of Fijian birds' nests and eggs which were a gift from you in 1923. This gift was set aside until your arrival in Berkeley, at which time Mr. Grinnell intended to ask you to give them the proper scientific names, as per your letter accompanying the gift. In this letter you said "if you will kindly send the vernacular names on the small tickets placed by the small boy collector in each nest, I will be glad to forward the proper equivalents."

For some reason this was not called to your attention at that time. Now, I am wondering if, after such a long lapse of time, we may trouble you to do this for the Museum, so that I may finish cataloging the sets.

This is the data that I have taken from each set, and for which we would appreciate scientific names if you can give them.

"Fire Tail"	5 eggs; with nest
"Bulbul"	2 eggs; with nest
"oster sp."	2 eggs (light blue); with nest
"Robin"	1 egg (broken); with nest
"Kikau"	1 egg; with nest
"Lia sia"	2 eggs; with nest
(unnamed)	1 egg (white, with sienna spots and faint lavendar spots in heavy ring about larger end; with few spots of same scattered over surface); with nest.

Mr. Grinnell tells me he has just received a letter from you. Your plans as given therein sound immensely interesting. Will you stop in Japan en route for Berkeley? When you finally reach here again you will surely have a rich store of experiences and interesting information to tell us. I, for one, anticipate with great pleasure this future visit.

Sincerely,

Margaret W. Scythe

Assistant Curator of Birds.

over

P. S.

The above title was acquired through the unfortunate passing away of Mr. Richard Hunt last June, after a long illness of acute suffering. His death has been quite a loss to our Museum's working force.

Dear Miss Wythe: —