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AGENTS:

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MARTIN DEAN & CO., GRENADA.S.S. Maraval, three days from New York.
NEW YORK, 1909.
July 31,

Mr. Robert Ridgway,
Curator of Birds, U.S. Nat. Museum.,
Washington, D.C.,

Dear Mr. Ridgway:

Just before leaving Boston, Mr. Bangs told me you had asked for the material on the Hummingbirds from the Cambridge Museum, so that I presume you are working on them now. I expected to get to Washington before starting for S. A., but was unable to do so, so that I thought I would send you a copy of my M.S. dealing with the genus *Selasphorus*, the only portion of the family represented in C. R., in which did any revision.

I am sorry it is such a poor copy, but perhaps you can make it out. I wished you to see what I had done, because my paper will be out before ~~you~~ the next volume of your book, & if you find that my arrangement is correct, it would save you from ~~having~~ describing a bird which I had already ~~named~~ named.

I am on my way to Trinidad, where I shall stop for a couple of weeks, then do some work on the mainland opposite, on the peninsula west of the Orinoco delta, after which I go up the Orinoco & Apure nearly to the Colombian

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frontier. At that point I will spend several months, as it is absolutely "terre incognita" to scientists. Afterwards I shall cross the Venezuelan Andes, north to Merida, collecting at various altitudes & end my Venezuelan work around Lake Maracaibo, after which shall visit Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil etc.

I expect to make not less than a three-year trip of it, perhaps longer. Wishing you the best of health and expedition in the finishing of your magnificent work, I am, ~~your~~

Yours very sincerely,

Macarriker Jr.

CARNEGIE MUSEUM,

(SECTION OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY)

W. E. CLYDE TODD, ASSISTANT CURATOR,
M. A. CARRIKER, JR., ASSISTANT.

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, U. S. A.

March 28, 1909.

Mr. Robert Ridgway,

Washington, D.C.,

Dear Mr. Ridgway:

Yours of the 16th duly received. I am glad to learn that your paper is coming out soon, for I now have nearly everything finished except the Ant Thrushes and Tree Creepers. It has been an awful big task, much larger than I realized when I began it, but I have not slighted any part of the work and I have hopes that it will be something worth while when finished.

I shall be in Washington for a few days about the first of May, just before starting for South America, but you will be in Illinois at that time so I shall not get to see you. I do not remember whether I told you or not, but I am making a trip down there for about three years and will cover as much of South America as I can in that length of time. I am going independently, but have arranged with the Carnegie Museum to take the most of the birds and with the American Mus. for the Mammals. The other material will go to various places, but I shall not do much with anything besides birds and mammals.

I hope you will get along quickly with your great work on the birds, and trust to see a couple more volumes out by the time I return. I want to thank you for the assistance you have given me on my paper on the Birds of Costa Rica and the privilege of using the records and specimens of the National Museum for without that I could not have arrived at the results I wished for.

With best wish for your health and work, I remain,

Yours very sincerely
M. A. Carriker Jr.

CARNEGIE MUSEUM,

(SECTION OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY)

W. E. CLYDE TODD, ASSISTANT CURATOR,
M. A. CARRIKER, JR., ASSISTANT.

*Boston, Mass.
Room 14
20 Pemberton Sq.*
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, U. S. A.

March 13, 1909.

Mr. Robt. Ridgway,

Washington, D.C.,

Dear Mr. Ridgway:

Your kind favor of Jan. 11, in regard to the Dendrocolaptidae returned to the Carnegie Museum yet remains to be answered. I am certainly very ~~glad~~ glad that the birds were of service to you, and only wish that there might have been more of some of the rarer species. I note what you say in regard to the Costa Rican form of Automolus cervingularis being new, and trust that you have published a description of it or will do so shortly so that I can get it into my paper which is now rapidly nearing completion. I have left the Dendrocolaptine birds till the last, hoping that you would have finished with them and published anything new as you did with the Formicariidae. If you still have the list of species which I sent you at the time of shipping the Carnegie Museum specimens, could you find time to check over the names for me and return it so I could be sure of getting the proper names in my manuscript? If you do not have it I will send you another. Mr. Bangs sent his specimen of Formicarius rufipectus? together with my type of F. castaneiceps to Mr. O. Thomas at the British Museum, and he had them compared, by a good man, with the type of F. rufipectus with the result that my bird is identical with the type (a ♂) and we have come to the conclusion that Mr. Bangs bird (adult ♀) is the female

of the same thing (female of F. rufipectus unknown), because the differences exhibited between these two birds are essentially the same as those between two sexes of the the closely allied species from Ecuador, F. thoracicus Tacz. et Berl.

I am thinking of making new genera for Otus (Megascops) nudipes and Semnornis frantzii, what do you think about it. I do not believe there are any names applicable to these birds which have been used before. Sharpe puts O. nudipes in Coues's genus Psiloscoptes, created for O. flammeola, which I certainly do not think correct. The only other generic name applicable is Acnemis, Kaup, which was based on Megascops gymnopodus, of India, and which Sharpe now makes a synonym of Scops malayana. M. nudipes was placed in this genus by Bonaparte, but certainly not correctly.

As for the genus Semnornis, it was based on the South American species S. rhamphastinus, which I do not believe is generically the same.

Trusting that I am not taking up too much of your valuable time with my affairs, and hoping that your work is progressing well, I am,

Yours very respectfully,

MacCarrick Jr.

CARNEGIE MUSEUM,

(SECTION OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY)

W. E. CLYDE TODD, ASSISTANT CURATOR,
M. A. CARRIKER, JR., ASSISTANT.

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, U. S. A.

January 5, 1909.

Mr. Robert Ridgway,

Washington, D.C.,

Dear Mr. Ridgway:

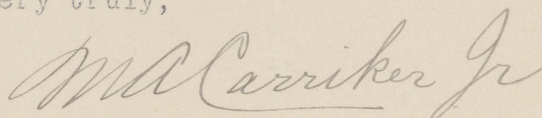
Would it be possible for you to return
our Dendrocolaptidae by the 12th of this month?

I am very anxious to get my paper in shape as soon as
possible, since I have resigned my position with this
Institution, same to take effect as soon as the paper
is finished. In fact I will be leaving here on the 15th
of this month, having some affairs to look after in the
east and will finish the manuscript after leaving here.

There are some things I wish to see about the Dendrocolaptidae,
before I go, or I would not ask you to return them so soon.

Hoping this will not inconvenience you, I remain,

Yours very truly,



P.S. Please tell Mr. Richmond for me, that I have the pamphlet
he wrote me about and will send it to him in a day or two.