

Raffles Museum
Singapore. 16. 11. 91.

My dear Sharpe

Send you ~~what~~ descriptions
of what I take to be 2 more
new species will you kindly
publish in P.Z.S. or Ibis
I have not succeeded in getting
you the ♂ Liza yet but I
will before long. I have my
team out continually on the
look out for it.
Yours very sincerely
W. Davidson

ely I will do with very great
 pleasure. I thank you much
 for your kind sympathy.
 With kind regards to you & all
 yours.

I remain yours very sincerely
 W^m Blandin

With regard to the Waders I cannot
 promise much. I have not a place
 in which I can keep them. If Ridley
 of the Gardens was not such an
 unmitigated beast I might be
 able to do something & get him to
 lend me one of his Bird pens.
 but I will have none of him. I
 will however have the waders
 shot month by month & send you
 the whole series.

I should like to have as many copies
 as are allowed of these descriptions.

Raffles Museum
 Singapore. 21. 10. 91

My dear Sharpe

Just received yours of 21.9.
 which I will answer by next
 mail. The outward mail leaves
 at 4. P.M. today. As I have
 hardly time to write. I send
 descriptions of 5 species of
 birds that I take to be new.
 please publish in Ibis or Zoo
 I am preparing a first paper
 on the Ornithology of the Eastern
 portion of the Malay Peninsula
 which I will send to you for
 revision. I will get you Siges
 & areusis, at present. I have not
 a specimen fit to send. Any
 thing I can do for you you may

Kindly ask Maud Fisher
if she will make copies
for me of these plates on the
same size figures & on the
same size paper as the
Monograph & at what cost.
Excuse my bothering you. I
would write to Miss Fisher
myself but do not know
her address. If she will
send me the estimate as
soon as she conveniently can
I will lay it before the Trustees
& get it passed. With all good
wishes to you & yours I remain
Yours very sincerely
Wm Davidson

Raffles Museum
Singapore. 16. 12. 90.

My dear Sharpe

During my absence from
Singapore on Sick leave, some
Leondret stole & plated from
our copy of Elliot's Monograph
of the Cats. The ones stolen are
Felis Ligris The Tiger; Felis
pardalis The Ocelot; Felis
Lemurinus The Golden Cat;
& Cynictus jubatus The
Hunting Leopard. I want to
have these replaced. Will you

he very kindly sent me a
presentation copy of vol I of
his birds of India I received
it in April last just before
I left for India so ill, and I
was too ill to write more than
a short note of thanks, and
I have not heard from him
since I wonder if he is
offended with me. I see 300s
of his birds of India are out
so I have written to our
book seller to procure them.
I have not heard from
Blanford either for an age.
I am however writing him
by this mail. Our trip to
Pahang which was unfortunately
put off owing to my illness is to

Bowdler Sharpe's name
Skeletons. I don't want
know you don't want
skins. With kind
regards to your wife & the boys
& all your friends
I remain
your friend
Wm Danks

Raffles Museum
Singapore. P.S. 9.12.90.
A glorious & merry
Xmas & happy new year
to all of you
1891

My dear Sharpe
I have not written to you
for a very long time. You must
think that I have forgotten you
But since my return from
India in April September
last (where I went on sick leave)
I have been intending to write
but somehow I have let mail
after mail slip by, but return
you good for evil and let me
hear from you as soon as you
can, & tell me all the news
about yourself and all others.
Where is Bates? I see he has to
leave his work unfinished

come off D.V. in February next. when I hope we
will get a lot of good things I cannot get
about much so do not get the opportunity of
doing much in Birds, so I have taken up
Butterflies & moths and have got a wonderful
collection together already. See you daughter
Emily has written a paper on butterflies. would
she care to have a collection from these parts
if she would I can easily spare her some hundreds
of specimens of butterflies & moths. Has Erant
given up Fishes & gone to Birds. I saw a paper
of his in a recent Iris on birds, & in it he
mentions having put the specimens he got into
spirit & they being made into lovely skins when
he got home. I wish you would ascertain the
Secret for me. I cannot get people to collect in
all sorts of places if they have simply to put
their birds in spirit & send them to me. I cannot
make good skins from spirit preserved specimens.
Perhaps the taxidermist who did Erant's Birds would
not object to tell the process, if he will, I will in exchange
send him a lot of birds from these parts in spirit. Bye
the way do you want birds from these parts in spirit for

Raffles Museum
Singapore S. S.
21. 12. 87.

My dear Sharpe

Thanks for your note just received. I can quite imagine how very busy you are. What a glorious collection of Eastern Birds you have now with the Stume & Swaddale collections. The new museum here is a magnificent building but there is nothing hardly to put into it; but I hope before I have been here very long to make some considerable show. I find that there is a very fair Zoological Library but a sad want of knowledge in choosing the books has been shown. No copy of the Ibis, P. Z. S. of J. A. S. B. but £78 was paid for Goulds Birds of Asia, a very pretty Drawing room book no doubt, but one we could have well done without - as far as

range is estimated to be some 10000 ft. high. On the slopes of such a mountain many species are sure to occur. No *Archaeopteryx* has yet been described from the Peninsular but it is certain to occur about 4 or 5 thousand feet. As soon as I have got things into something like order I mean to devote all my time and energies to geology but specially to birds. For I hope before very long to get together sufficient material to bring out a hand book of the birds of the Malayan Peninsula. I hope you have received the few birds I sent you before leaving Rotterdam. My kind regards to you all & all enquiring friends. I wish there were no less than 6 candidates for your office. I am myself for this place. I want you all very much for getting it for me.

Yours sincerely
T. S. Davison

real ornithological work is concerned
and with ornithology I mean to interest
myself first. I wish you would let me
have a list of books you think I
ought certainly to have & the recommendation
coming from you would have such weight
with the Museum Committee & the Govt.
that I would certainly be allowed
to get them. For I would when
applying for the books place your
letter before the Committee (i.e. the Trustees)
I mean of course the following books
that are absolutely necessary.
Ibis from the commencement to 1882
(after which date I have it.)
P. Z. S. from commencement to 1882
J. A. S. B. from commencement -
Salvadori's works on the ornithology
of these regions (we have his Birds
of Borneo)
Dr. Giraud's Birds of Cambodia
and any other works necessary.
and if Thomas would send me
a list of books I ought to get to help

in the identification of the specimens should be somewhat
obliged. Now that I have actually got the opportunity -
I will always be ~~set~~ to do all in my power
to assist you and this I will probably be able to
do very effectively as I will have the Govt. to back me up
in collecting specimens and the interior of the Peninsula
is ~~not~~ much more accessible now than it was when I was
here last. In fact it has been proved that our idea
of the interior of the Peninsula as derived from published
maps is wrong; there are now back some mountain ranges
running down the center of the Peninsula with a large
river between them, and one of the peaks of the Eastern

he can for you either in
 regard to specimens or ^{information}
 I see Vol. XI of the Brit. Cat. of
 Birds is out. I hope I am to
 get a copy. I do hope you will
 succeed in getting me a copy
 of Lieut. Kelham's paper
 (published in the Ibis) on Kerak
 Birds & also the other paper I
 wrote to you about. I wish Hume
 would give me his copy of the
 Ibis. P. Z. S. Proc. & the Asiatic
 Journal. he has them complete
 from the first, & he did promise
 them to me once. they would be
 so use ful to me. I am afraid
 I shall be always troubling you

Botolph Claydon. 25.10.87.

My dear Sharpe.

You will have heard the
 good news about my affair
 all getting the appointment at
 Singapore. I have to thank you
 above all for my letter for in
 the first instance inducing
 Dr. Fri men to write to me. I
 only hope that I may be
 partially able to return your
 kindness, for I never will be
 able to quite do so. but you will
 always have in me a very sincere
 friend and one to whom it will
 be a real pleasure to do what

Thomas & the others to identify my specimens.
I mean to devote all my time and energies in
making the Singapore Museum noted. I mean
to make it a truly representative Museum, &
things from outlying Countries will only have
value when they are either identical with or closely
allied to what is found in the ~~Museum~~ Malay
Peninsula. There is nothing so absurd as filling
up a Provincial Museum with lumber from
all parts of the world. The Ornithological
Department (if I can only get the Central Hills
& the Eastern half explored) ought in a few
years to be a sight. Please thank Thomas
for me. & with kind regards to you all

I remain

Ever Yr. Sincere friend

Wm. Davison —

in the paper was given the Malayan
 names of the birds & this I particularly
 want! If you can get up copies of
 these papers and send them to me
 by return mail I will be immensely
 obliged. If you don't happen to have
 copies yourself and you get them
 for me from the Lib. I will remit
 by me whatever they cost. Another
 thing I want the name of a small
 Australian cuckoo, shot by Lieut. Kelham
 & given to me, it is in my collection
 of Malayan birds. You can't find it
 as it has Kelham's label as it
 I identified it from Gould's Birds
 of Australia & told Kelham about
 it at the time. It may have
 worked its way into his paper. I find

More have been received
 \$20.9.87
 My dear Sharpe
 I am exceedingly obliged to you for the list of the
 birds known to inhabit the Malay
 Peninsula from the Straits. I am
 and as they want it with as little
 delay as possible I want you to do
 me a favor I have all the list (3)
 of the birds collected by W. J. B. (unclear)
 your Catalogue of Birds. I am and copies
 of the papers published in the Lib.
 Lieut. Kelham of the birds collected
 by him & in other Lib. also appeared
 since I saw a paper of the birds
 of some of the islands of the Malay
 Archipelago. I forget of what
 particular part of the author. But

is not indubitably of our list - I know you won't mind
troubling you, and I shall be immensely obliged
if you will send me the papers & information & return
mail - I have heard nothing yet whether I am to get
Singapore or not - The Straits Government have not yet
heard either or they would have telegraphed to me
I believe the Committee are willing to accept you if
Sir John Holland sanctions the appointment - So
you think you could ascertain definitely and let
me know by telegram? one word "appointed" or "not
appointed" will do. I will remit you the cost of
the telegram, which will be about 10 shillings. I should
think the reason I am to ask you to know is to be rid
of the uncertainty - If I am to go to Singapore I
have an immense deal to do, & if not I will make
arrangements to open up another plantation. I want
to know definitely one way or the other I got a letter
about a month ago from Dr. Selatun saying that he had
written to Sir Robert Herbert the Permanent Colonial
Secy and had urged my claims very strongly, perhaps
Dr. S. would be able to present me definitely if I am
to have the appointment or not. I am, sir, yours

I was thinking that if I do not
see the *Sin. japonica* *Muscra*
perhaps the British Govt. would
give me a job to explore the
Philippine Islands. I could do that right
well. If you ascertain that I can
not get the necessary ~~and~~ would
you write & suggest it to your
friend Mr. Bissell. He appears
to be a very influential person
with Singapore and able to carry
any thing he wishes. And if he
will my friends and I will be
able to get one or other of the
specimens. Will you tell me
please if *Collocalia* *trig. Polyas*
is a good species. It is it is not

An absolute lot of trouble but I
will try to repay you by doing
what I can for you. I have taken
in my old Shikaree & landowner
I can go in search for the
Hapton. I will be able to get you
lots a dozen at least of specimens
of *Buteo desertorum*. I find I
have only 4 specimens of *B. desertorum*
some of *B. ferox* left. & these I
am sending to you. I have a
lovely young of *Syrnium* *indane*
I offered it to Mr. Emsley but he
says he has one from Ceylon &
does not want it. Would you care
to have it? You are quite welcome
to it if you would care to have it.

of the *Supplement*? It is strange that I who was
deaf as all. Swift should never have met with it: ~~that~~
when is the type. If you have it will you look it up and
let me know. Have you numbers of the *Str* or P. 38
since published this year I have not received a single
number of this year of either I have written to both
Messrs. & D. Selatun but have not heard from them.
I hope the *History of the Brit. Mus.* will eventually give
me the vols. of the *Cat.* as they are published. I have
no more vols beyond vol. 4 been published. I have
lots of things to send to the *Brit. Mus.* but I am
always so very busy that I never can find time

but I will make an effort & get them off as soon
as I have finished this list. I shall be for the *Str*.
I shall be for the *Str*.

Do let me hear from you soon like a
good fellow with kind regards to all.
I remain your sincere friend
John Lubbock

of State - for Colonies. If the
 Museum Committee were not
 willing to accept me they surely
 would not have directed me to
 apply to the Sec^y of State. Your
 friend Mr. Benson is one of the
 Committee & will I am sure assist
 me to get the place. It can't be
 long now before I hear - I find
 on looking over my birds that I
 have only 4 *Buteo decoloratus* &
 1 *Buteo ferox* left. These I am
 sending to you. I have lots of
 specimens still left of *Trochospiza*
fairbanki & *meridionalis*. Would
 you care to have any more. Will
 you kindly post the enclosed. With
 kind regards to you all I remain
 Ever yr. sincere friend
 Wm. Davidson

Shoreham. botolphclaydon
 13. 8. 87 -

My dear Sharpe

I thought I might have
 heard from you last mail or the
 mail before. I have not yet
 heard whether I am to have
 Singapore or not. I heard from
 my friend Dr. Bennett the former
 Curator of the Singapore
 Museum, he says the Straits
 Gov^t or rather the Museum
 Committee would not have Mr.
 Von Seudenfeldt as altho.
 strongly recommended he had
 they considered not sufficient
 experience in the museum work.
 I hope that I will get the place
 it all depends upon the Sec^y

Shoreham, Botacum and
11. 6. 87-

My dear Sharpe

There is yet hope. I have just
this moment received a letter from
the Acting Governor of the Straits
saying that Singapore Museum is
still open (so I suppose Lendenfeld
has refused it) and telling me to apply
at once to the Sec^y of State for
Colonies. I am writing by this mail
and sending copies of my testimonials
by next mail. I enclose a letter I
got from your friend W. Benson
and I do hope that you will
use any influence you have and
get any friends you can to use
their influence on my behalf

with the Sec^y of State. If I
can only secure Singapore you
will find that you will have
a truly grateful friend as
long as I am alive, & I will
always do all I can to help
not only you but the British
Museum generally all I can.
I would have written to Dr. Eumeth^{er}
asking him to use his influence
in my behalf but I do not know
him sufficiently well, and do
not like to presume so far, but
if you ~~will~~ think you could
speak to him about me, do so
I want all the help I can get for
I do want Singapore.

Tell Thomas please that if

we too can do anything for me I shall be thankful
I have at last secured him a fine ♂ of *Teas*
blaufordi (in spirit) I have never seen the rat
before but it is very attractive indeed from
its common white bellied rats. I have lots of
letters & little birds. & the little goes out in half
an hour so I must close with kind regards to
all I remain ever yr sincere friend

Wm. D. Anderson -

a source of great grief to me that there was ever any split between Mr. Hume & myself & his showing that he is willing once again to be friends has made me feel very happy. Professor Larsson who is a friend of Dr. Fineman wrote to that gentleman Mr. & the Present Governor of Madras Mr. Bourke has written to Sir J. Weld the Governor of the Straits Mr. & so has his private Secy. who is personally acquainted both with Sir J. Weld & the Col. Secy. Dr. Bidie also the late Supt. of the Madras Museum has written & I know that Sir M. E. Grant Duff who is personally acquainted with Sir J. Weld will write strongly in my favour for we became great friends during his Governorship, & the last thing he said to me before leaving India

Shoreham. Botolph Claydon
28.2.87.

My dear Sherpe

Though it is just over a month since I wrote I have heard nothing as yet about the Singapore Museum. If testimonials will secure it then assuredly I ought to get it. I took the bull by the horns and wrote to Hume asking him either to send me a testimonial which I could forward to the Straits Govt. or to write directly to the Colonial Secy. He did this latter but sent me the letter to read & take a copy & then forward it on. It was a most magnificent testimonial & it alone ought to secure the place for me. Whether I get the place or not I shall always feel very grateful to Mr. Hume. It has always been

was that - if he could do anything for me he would. I am
sure that you & Thomas Blanford & Dr. Sclater
will say a good word for me. Oh how delighted I
shall be if I do get it - it will give me the chance of
devoting my whole time to the only work I care for.
I have been and am so continually busy that I really
have not the time to devote to ornithology. I have two
most interesting papers (one the Birds of Travancore &
the Anamallais) both lying unfinished & I never
can get time to finish them. I have been months
making a fair copy of the Birds in the Travancore
Museum, but if I can only devote my time to
Zoology I will I feel be able to do something - & I
will have the chance of continuing the work I
commenced under Sturms of working out the
ornithology of the Malay Peninsula.

I have just received Part I. of Murray's *Ornithology*
of India & its dependencies. I am awfully disappointed.
It is feeble in the extreme, incorrect & incomplete
to say the least. He says for instance of Buteo
desertorum "Occurs throughout the Himalayas."
& he has omitted *Microhierax latifrons*, *Spilornis*
minimus, and other really valid species. and his

letter press is even more fable
than anything of Gould's in the
Birds of Asia. I have written to
Murray about it - but I don't know
how he will take my letter.

I have been trying to work up the
Buzzards here but they are very
puzzling. I have sexed every specimen
myself carefully, so carefully that
I am certain there is no mistake &
in 14 specimens of what I take to
be *B. desertorum*. I have large &
small males & females. in the males
wings vary from 12.87 to 14.75 &
in the females from 13.82 to 15.12.
I got only one undoubted specimen of
of *B. ferox*. ~~In~~ About 2 years
ago I sent a collection of birds.

telling you to take what specimens
you wanted you wrote to say that
you had taken a number for the
Brit. Mus. Among that collection
was a Buzzard in the dark
fuliginous or smoky black plumage
which I at the time put down as
B plumipes of Hodgson. have you
that specimen, if so ~~can~~ ^{will} you
tell me what it really is. I have
never succeeded in getting another
in similar plumage. though
this year I think I have had
every buzzard shot in these hills
pass through my hands -

In Vol I of your Cat. you omit
to notice what I call the white
brown stage of plumage in

Sporornis when the young
much resemble Circus gallicus
but of course without the ashy
breast-band. I have had several
such, and I have sent one
such young one of S. melanotis
♀ with wing about 16 to Mr. Curney
I see Bates has started a family
I saw the notice of a daughter
born unto him. I don't know what
has come over Bingham & Bates I
cannot get either of them to write to me.
Hoping you are all flourishing
& with kind regards to you all

I remain Dear Sharpe
Ever Y^{rs}. I must
Wm. Brewster.

Shoreham, Botolph Claydon
29. 10. 86.

My dear Sharpe

I was away in the Wynaad when your letter arrived, & I have only just returned & consequently only just got your letter. I am glad you have got the Home collection safe, & I shall watch with interest for the appearance of a detailed catalogue of it. My trip to the Wynaad & Coorg owing to the very heavy rain was not a brilliant success. I was away exactly a month & returned with only 300 odd specimens. I had one chi Karce & one boy to help skin & if I had had really good weather I should have got at least 3 or 600 specimens. One of the chief reasons of my trip was to get specimens of *Drochalopecterum ferdini*, but owing to the incessant rain, & the grass bordering the forests about 14 feet high I only succeeded in getting 2 specimens

The nest is unmistakable the texture of the blue & yellow paper distinguishing them. I. playana had just done breeding brood of the young had flown, but I found one nest with 3 colour & one addled egg. - I am off in Jan. to the Lacandias. I'll be able to get a lot of eggs of I. muridiana, & as I have a good series of I. fairbanki I will be able to compare the 2. That is the reason I don't send you the specimens of I. fairbanki now, but as soon as I have done with them you may rely on having the lot. but to let me leave all the I. ferdini you care for. I need require little of any kind.
Yours truly
A. S. Bowdler

and one is not perfect. You have
a lot of specimens of it now, & I want
4 or 6. There were 9 in the Hume
Collection. I gave you one when I was
in England, & I sent you about a
dozen afterwards, as the bird does
not vary with sex, you don't want
such a lot. Send me half a dozen
or even 4 specimens & in exchange
~~to~~ I will give you a dozen specimens
of *Lochalopteron fairbanki*, you
are badly off for this species. Hume
had only 2 in his collection, & you have
only one or 2 now in your collection at
the Brit. Mus. The specimens are all
good & are particularly interesting
because they comprise adults, &
young, showing the gradation between
fairbanki & *meridionale*. Do please
let me have what you can of *L. jerdoni*
After I have finished with the Madras
& Lucknow Museums. You know that

Bowdler Square Collection

Whatson's Pink-foot - I may get the birds or any thing else
will always go as a fine gift. In the B. M. I found
Colicota sniki, & *Leucocitta leucogaster* are names now in the
Brachyophanes, but owing to the tail & claws I think that
they represented I was not able to get many specimens.
Colicota sniki was in perfect plumage having just
completed its moult, & a point that I have thoroughly
satisfied myself of by the dissection of over a dozen
specimens is that the ^{adult} male at this time of year at a young
always has the head uniform ochraceous, absolutely unmarked
& the female & young of the year have extensive suffusion the
head striped. The young only being about a month from

Shoreham. Bolacumund,
b. 2. 86.

My dear Sharpe

I shall have to give you up as
hopeless. Why will you not write to me?
Do send me a line and let me know if
you can let me have a few specimens of
Trochalopsterum jerdoni. I have just
returned from a trip to Travancore. I
got a fine series of *Trochalopsterum*
meridionale Blaup. it is a very distinct
species from *fairbanki*. the points of
difference noticed by Blauford hold
good in a large series. I have shot
a large number myself of both species.
There is a small museum at
Trivandrum and I was asked to go
through the birds & name them. when
doing so I came across 2 specimens
of *Trochalopsterum* & 2 of *Merula*. I checked
as from the Nilgiris, & named *T. caelimanus*.

The *Simulium*. I saw at once they were not of these species. I got permission to bring them away with me & I have described them & sent the descriptions to Dresser for publication in the next no. of the Ibis. I have further obtained permission to keep one specimen of each species, which I shall of course send to you for the British Museum and next cold weather I hope to find the habitat of the species & obtain more specimens. Both are very distinct. I did not send the M.S. to you well knowing how very busy you are, but if you could just go through it before publication, I shall be so much obliged to you. I have asked Dresser in the enclosed note to let you see the M.S. - I am writing a paper on the birds of the Anaimallai Hills & Travancore. I find the *Zosterops* of S. Travancore

is not *palpebrata* so common everywhere in India but the *Ceylon* species. When are you getting on with the *Alcedo* collection? There is some work at it is doing. I send you some field time to send me some & do please let me know about *S. pardoni*. I will shortly be sending you a fine series of both *S. fastuosa* & *S. meridionalis*. Please regard to you all & I remain Dear Sirs
Yours very truly
Wm. D. Anderson.

Will you kindly send enclosed letters.

Shoreham. 2. 7. 86-

Dear Sharpe

Hope this will catch you before you leave India, I intended writing days ago but have been very busy. Yes I see you are quite ~~that~~ right in not asking Hume & I was a muff to ask you to do it. I heard from Thomas last mail Miss Fisher has promised to send out the plates this month hope she will. I wrote mail before last to Mr. Harting & Miss Fisher about the plates. So sorry I shant see you mind you let me know if I can assist you in any information about the Birds while when you get home Pleasant & safe voyage to you

Ever Yr. sincere friend
Wm. D. Davis

Sharnau. 60. 14. 6. 85.

My dear Sharpe

So glad to get your letter today
 Yes I can quite understand how very
 busy you have been. Had I only known
 it I would not have bothered you. Thanks very
 much for all the trouble you have taken for
 me. Will you kindly write to your man and
 ask him not to get the Electric suit; as I
 do not want it now. The £7 can go to
 paying Miss Fisher (poor Maud what a
 shame to make her cry.) Will you please
 ask Harting to send me the plates as Geo.
 is asking me about them. I will myself
 write to Harting next mail. & please let
 me know what you have arranged to pay
 Miss Fisher. & if the £7 will be sufficient
 to pay her & if not what more there will be to
 pay & I will send it at once. I do most
 heartily thank you for your efforts on my
 behalf about the Madras Museum. Prof.
 Flower has recommended a D. Shortman

or Thorburn, late Curator of King's College
Museum, & he has got the Post and is
now on his way out. I believe he is expected
next month so Dr. Bidie tells me, however
I am not sorry, much as I should
personally have liked the place, my wife
dislikes Madras, & besides we are very
comfortable & well off here, & the Governor
Mr. Grant Duff is very kind indeed to
me & has helped me to some work, & I
have no doubt will do all he can for me.
I hope after the monsoon is over to work
Travancore, the Eastern Ghats &c.

Is Mr. Hume going to England too or will
he remain behind.

Yes indeed I am glad that you came
out about the Collection. I can't understand
how some of our birds could have gone bad
since I could afford to go to England
for a couple of years or so, how I should
like to help you in arranging the specimens,
now that you have actually seen the

Howard's Birds Collection

Collection you will be able to form an idea of the work & idea for
Mr. Hume. I think he might have a little more kindness in
his nature & not treat me as he is doing, how gladly I would
be friends with him. I am so sorry I shall not see you
I can only hope if I have good luck that I may be able to
take a run over to England for a spell before long. Remember
me kindly to Mr. Sharpe & all friends. Thomas will be
glad to get the manuscripts. I have acknowledged the receipt
of the insects & reptiles sent, & I have received the last lot (x)
by the catalogue. I have got a new lot of Quakers &c. for Dr. G.
I hope again you have him like a dear good fellow. I hope
you will succeed in getting that 28th June from Mr. Hume for me
I am your friend
John D. Wilson

Shoreham. July 7. 6. 83.

My dear Sharpe

You will no doubt think the request I am going to make an odd one, but it is worse my writing direct to Mr. Hume for he won't take any notice of my letters.

The year before I left Mr. Hume I got out for him from Sam Buckley of Birmingham a 28 bore D. B. B. Loading gun & 30 solid drawn brass cartridges. The gun came out damaged by sea water. Mr. Hume I don't suppose has ever used it; or is likely to use it; & it can be of no use to him, but it would be of immense use to me. Will you ask him to give it to me. I should be very thankful to him if he would. It is of comparatively small value, & he would never miss the giving of it.

I am hard at work in my spare time working for the Madras Museum. The

Gouverneur W. Grant Duff is extremely
kind to me, & treats me in a way that
I shall never forget: This cold weather
I am going D.V. to make trips to
L'Anse-au-Loup, the Eastern Chats, &c.
& I hope by Feb. or March next to
have made a complete collection of
the Birds of this Presidency. The Govt.
will give me letters of introduction
to the Officials of the different places
I have to visit: so that things will be
facilitated.

I hope you got my last letter. The
Governor asked me the other morning
how it was that I had not succeeded
in getting the plates for my monograph.
I am now waiting to hear from you
to tell them that I cannot get them
done, & that they will have to make
arrangements themselves.

How do you like India. You will

have plenty of time to write now, so do please write. I still
love everything - which Mr. Sturges would be more charitable
& be friendly with me. I hope Mr. Sturges will your daughter
are flourishing. My little daughter is such a little darter, & is
doing so well, & I need not say that my married life is as happy
as it can possibly be. I am very dear from you soon.

Believe me Yrs. Sincerely

J. A. Baird

Shoreham bolācamund

28.5.83.

My dear Sharpe

I see by today's paper that you have arrived in India. I think I must have written some 6 or 8 letters to you this year without getting any reply. Last mail I got a paper the Richmond Times, in which your early departure for India was notified. Did you ever get the P. O. order for £ 7 I sent you in December last for when I asked you to get me an electric suit from Hugh Martin of Regent Circus, because the person I wanted the suit for & who gave me the money to send has been blackguarding me in fine style & I have had to repay the money to him. Suppose you did not make any arrangements for getting the plates done that I asked you about do please let me know as the Director of Public Instruction is waiting for those plates to publish my monograph on

the insectivorous birds. If you haven't
done anything about them please let me
know and I will let the Govt know that
I cannot get them done and see what
other arrangements can be made.

I know you have been and still are, &
will always be very busy but please
do let me have a line from you
when are you likely to go back to
England? Did you come via Madras
& will you go back via Madras? for if
you do let me know, & I will run
down to Madras & see you. I should so
like to see you again. I am afraid
it will be some time before I can
see you in England. I won't write
much now I will wait till I hear from
you. Hoping you had a pleasant voyage
out; & left all yours well behind you
I remain dear Shafer
Ever yours Suck
Lth Davidson

Shoreham. Doléacant
29. 3. 85

My dear Sharpe

What an age it is since I have heard from you. but you are so perfect. very busy however I do want you to send me a few lines and let me know if you ever received the money I sent you to purchase an electric suit for one from Hugh Martin of Regent Circus. if you have will you kindly purchase the things and let me have them by Foreign Parcels Post. ~~without~~ as soon as you can. You have never either answered me about the illustrations I asked you to get done for me. Can you get them done or not? as the Govt. now want to know & I can't get paid for the work I have done till it is completed by the illustrations. I know Langvining you are awful lot of trouble old fellow but there is no one else in London whom I would care to ask to do it for me

all the time I have been he has had anything to do with
 to send me all & to all surprising friends.

Remain Dear Sharpe
 Your sincere friend

Wm Dairies

get about these parts. Has any portion of Sturges' collection
reached you yet. During the last lot of birds sent you there
was one very much colored Beryard. What was it. phoeniceus
or deserti. Have a lot of Beryards this year which I
identify as deserti. When Sturges' collection comes (I send
about you carefully) I'll name the Beryard distinct on the
Bramagheries notice I identified as deserti. & it was
sent. I believe it is the same about it. but Sturges
never saw in Sturges' specimens. Sturges has some in for a
new pair was seen, identifying himself with the wingers.
& calling them all brothers. I really think he has a tile loose
he seems to have made himself pretty well drilled among

and you know I will always be only too
glad to do all I can for you
I don't think I told you that - I am now
a Father & have such a dear little daughter.
Bingham writes me that he is to be married
in August next. he goes to Bombay to
meet his wife & then takes a run up
here on his way ^{back} to Burma.

Do please write & let me know whether I
you got the P.O. for £ 7. as I find that
the draft for £ 3 sent to Dresden on
the 21st of last June has never reached
him.

By the way has Howard any specimens
of Lochalopteryx jerdoni left. I sent my
man to the Bramagheries to get some
specimens as I want them for the Madras
Museum. but the Coorg Govt. have absolutely
stopped all shooting in the Hills & so I
have not been able to get any. If you
can get me a couple of pairs I shall be
glad to give in exchange as many
of T. fairbanki or any other kind I can

July. 3. 2. 85

My dear Sharpe

I enclose a letter for Dreesen, which I wish you would read and then ~~enclose~~^{send} to him. On the same day I sent Dreesen the draft for £ 3 I sent Dr. Selatū me for £ 13 which has been duly acknowledged & I have received the P. Z. S. in due course. The draft has apparently been cashed for the acc^t has re-passed through the local bank here, but I must find out who cashed it if possible. If Dreesen received the draft is it not extraordinary that he should have so absolutely ignored it? The money has not been acknowledged, nor have I received any copy of the Ibis. I really cannot understand it. I am now fairly at work with Lot's work, but I am exceedingly busy. I sent you a small box of Indian butterflies which you might care to have. It will amuse your girls to set them

Let me know when you have a little spare
time about the illustrations I ask you
to have done. Have you received any
portion of Sturges museum yet; you
will be busy when you get it - & no
mistake. I wish I was sufficiently
well off in filthy lucre to be able to
run over to England for a year, &
help you to arrange & catalogue.
I have sent Mr. Godman another box
of Macmillan butterflies, & have
asked him to pay over to you all
money, as I have closed my acc^t. at Kings
You will want to pay for the illustrations
you ~~has~~ will have done. I still hear
from Bates, he is going in for Spiders
now. I have not sent the birds I said
I would but the fact is I have been
so busy that I have not had time to do more
than just look in a very superficial way
over the last lot of birds from the

Macmillan's. I believe write when you can spare the time
& feel that I shall ~~not~~ see the matter till I can arrange to
pay England another ~~intended~~ visit, but unfortunately money
is not made so easily now in America as it was 20 years ago.
Kind regards to yourself & family, & kind remembrance to
all enquiring friends. I remain
Dear Charles my Wm. Susan friend

Yours &c
T. M. Davidson.

P.S. I find I have only one small envelope, so I enclose
them. Mr. Selah tells me covered with you kindly
put them in covers & address them.

Botae annuud. 7. 6. 84.

My dear Sharpe

I have been so very busy during the last few months, that I have had no time to write - so you must excuse the fact of not having heard from me. Very many thanks for the Photos which came to hand safely & quite as a surprise. Thanks also for the box of lithographs.

When you send me any plates in future please send coloured ones, as I don't care for uncoloured ones, any plates that you can at any time get hold of on any branch of Natural History, but especially in birds.

I have sent you a case of birds. I have directed my agents in Madras to pay all freight &c. so you will have nothing to pay in London, you will have sent to B.L. &c. Some of the birds are not ticketed they were the last lot brought in, & I was so busy at the time that I could not ticket them.

1887. 7. 1. 84

all following

European Warblers

and young birds

You may find something of interest -
 There is one Kites which I wish you would
 let me know what it really is. is it
Desertorum or only a small female
plumipes? Of course you understand
 that these birds are for yourself. Keep
 the lot & do what you like with them.
 I have a lot of insects & some reptiles
 & mammals in spirit which I want
 to send to Dr. Guntter but I have not
 had time to pack them yet.
 I received a notice from the Zoo
 saying that ~~Joan~~ had been elected
 a fellow. I am writing to Dr. Selater
 asking him to wait till next month
 when I will send him the £30 I
 have to pay. Thank you very much
 for proposing me. Will you kindly
 give the enclosed to Dr. Selater the
 first opportunity.
 Remember me kindly to all enquiring
 friends, with kind regards to W. Sharpe
 Yourself & the girls, & hoping you are

Solacumund. Nilghiris

1.10.83.

My Dear Sharpe

Yours of 6.9 to hand. I cannot tell you how pleased I am to hear the news about the Strome Collection. Ever since my return here, when it was decided I should not go back to him I have been in fear lest the collection should be broken up & sold & so dispersed. Ah! I do wish the Trustees will see their way to secure it - there is not a more will again be anything like it - got together. I think Mr. Strome is wrong in his estimate of the ^{number of} birds there. Surely must be more than 50,000 unless since I was last at Simla they have been spirited away in some mysterious manner. Just think besides my 10 years hard collecting in the Andamans & Nicobars, Burma, Assam, Siam, & the Malayan Peninsula

to say nothing of odd parts of India
There are in the Museum the entire
Collections of Brooks, Butler, Bingham
Maudelli, Gamucci, Chill, Reid
All Bates' & Shroobalds' East Burma
collections, besides collections made
by Sir & S^r John & others in Afghanistan
all Hume's own collecting since 1858
in all parts of India. Then there are
the duplicates all picked specimens
If I mistake not there are about 30
of Pitta Turvey's alone in duplicates.
I should calculate the entire collection
near 70,000 than 50,000. The
collection of eggs (all carefully
sorted & labelled & all authentic) I
should say number about 8000.

It will be a great acquisition for
the Museum. & I do hope they will
not ~~lose~~ let the chance slip.

I am exceedingly busy, so you must
excuse this not being a longer letter.
I will write again in a ^{mail} day or two from

this. I forget to mention that there is also in Hume's
Museum a very fair collection of Mammals, including
types of Pleistocene mammals & Quaternary & Recent things.
Almost all the mammals are very collected & preserved.

I have a good collection of birds & also in Hume's
when I have time & a good collection of insects & in spirit
for Dr. Smith's which will be deposited as soon as I can
get time to pack them. I have sent Mr. Edwards with
the last for his collection - some 2000 butterflies. I will see to the
birds & insects & the Hume's collection.