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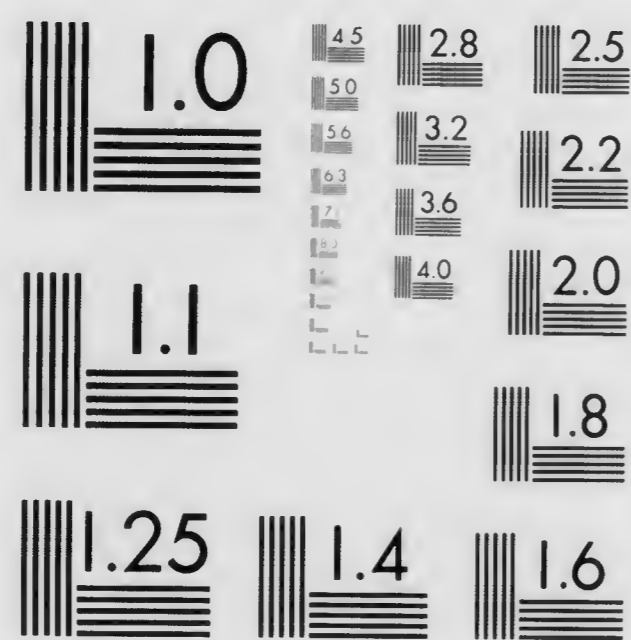
1

CONTENTS:

SERIES 1: CORRESPONDENCE

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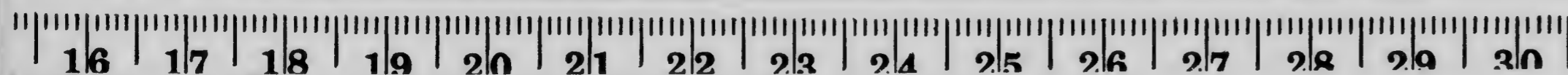
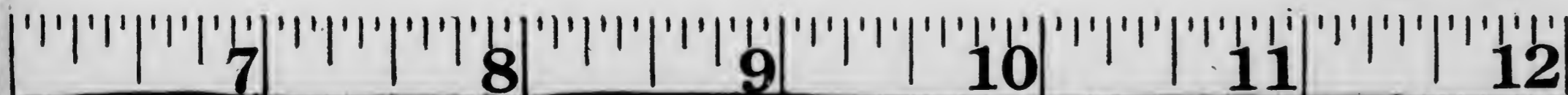
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VOLUME NUMBER:

1

Dec. 1886-April 1900

C. Hart Merriam - Personal

Dec. 1886 - April 1900

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J
K
L
M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
Y

Bagg, C.L. 45,
Bagg, Egbert. 18, 262,

Bailey, Vernon. 1, 118, 137-145, 186, 189,
214, 231, 241, 264,

Baker, A.B. 11, 43, 62, 242,

Barrett, Dr. W.C. 5,

Bean, Dr. Tarleton H. 174,

Bell, Dr. Robert, 195, 203,

Bien, Julius & Co. 170,

Botchford (application for Pension) 173,

Bourinot, Dr. Jno. Geo. 100, 164,

Boynton, C.L. 6, 90,

Brainard, Lt. David L. 36,

Brimley Bros. (H.H. & C.S.) 17, 37, 55,
56, 66, 93, 108, 149, 176, 202, 230, 268, 272,

Bryant, Walter E. 94,

Burroughs, ^{John} 266.

Butler, Amos W. 57,

Adney, E.T., 270,

Allen, J. A. 9, 146, 224, 257,

Allen, C. A. 273,

Anthony, A.W. 246,

Audubon Magazine 236,

Avery, Dr. W.C., 166, 196, 210,

A
B

C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J
K
L
M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
Y

Chamberlain, Montague ~~254~~, 254

Cherris, Geo. K. 34,

Clark, Hubert L. 124,

Clark, H.S. 13,

Coale, H.K. 74,

Coman, Chas. 92,

Cope, Prof. E.D. 267, 329

Dall, Dr. W.H. 256.

Dart, Wm. 27,

Diller, J.S. 218,

Dobson, Dr. Geo. 157,

Directions for preparing skins of mammals. 39.

C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J
K
L
M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
Y

E
F
G
H
I
J
K
L
M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
Y

Hancock, J. L. 61,

Harger, Mrs. Oscar 251.

Hawley, Hon. Jos. R. 205,

Henry, Rev. Ira B. 7, 26, 121, 200, 248,

Herrick, Prof. C. L. 80,

Hiscock, A. O. 88, 179,

Greely, Gen. A. W. 65,

Grinnell, Dr. Geo. Bird, 235, 271,

Hoadley, Dr. F. H. 126, 233,

Hodges, N. D. C. 154,

Holt, Henry & Co. 127-128, 133, 244,

Hoxie, Walter, 156, 165,

G
H
I
J
K
L
M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
Y

Johnstone, Dr. Wm. H. 60, 181,

I
J
K
L
M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
Y

Lewis, John B. 33, 81, 109, 183, 208, 219,

Lloyd, Wm. 58, 96, 152, 222,

K
L
M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
Y

Nehrkorz, Adolph. 221,

Mammals, Directions for preparing skins. 79.

" of Manitoba. 86-88.

Matteson, Dr. F. S. 25,

Macbeth, Col. Alex. 105.

McLaurith, Thos. 83,

Macoun, James M. 243,

Measurement of tail 145,

Merrill, Dr. J. C. 40, 175, 213,

Miller, Hon. Warner, 54.

Mother, 227,

M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
Y

Parker, Samuel. 258.

O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
Y

Quackenbos, Dr. John D. 21, 29, 101, 150,
158, 163, 171, 184, 190, 239, 249,

Rathbun, Richard, 209,

Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
Y

Sage, John H., 193,

Scott, W.E.D. 51, 53,

" W.L.

Tyler & Rutherford 107,

Shufeldt, Lt. R.W. 79, 130-132, 177-178,

Snyder, John J. 35,

Thomas, Oldfield. 91, 260,

Thomomys talpoides perpallidus, 8,

Thompson, Ernest E. 47, 68, 71, 73, 75, 84,
111, 123, 198, 238,

True, F.W. 263,

Stechert, Gustav E. 82,

Stevens, F., 14, 64,

Tullberg, Prof. Tycho. 216,

Turner, Dr. M.H. 19, 24, 103,

" Lucien M. 245,

S
T
U
V
W
Y

U
V
W
Y

Wainright, J. G. 50,

Wayne, Arthur T. 212,

Weeks, Rev. Leroy T. 168,

Whiteaves, J. F. 204,

Wilbur, Chas. S. 16,

Worthington, W. W. 42,

Williston, Dr. S. W. 201,

Winchell, Prof. N. H. 89,

Young, James W. 135,

W
Y

1

Dec. 16, 1886

Vernon Bailey Esq.
My dear Sir:

Have been very much pressed with work lately or would have written you before in regard to the last lot of mammals sent.

They were packed very poorly & rattled about so much that many of them had their tails badly injured. The keeper should have had wire (& good sized one) in its fore leg, to keep them stiff.

The skulls are poor. They are overrotted and very dirty, as if they had been left in an old barn for a long time. I wonder why it is you do not make better skull skins when your small things are so nicely prepared? The gray squirrel, might average considerably better without much trouble. The red squirrel, gopher, & other small things are all right.

I am sorry you forgot to measure

these animals. In some cases, particularly the skunk, Badger, & squirrels, I very much want measurements. Wonder why you used your label instead of mine? If you are out of mind you should have written & I would have sent a fresh batch. A little more care in writing the labels would be well expended. Some of your figures are hard to read - particularly your 3, which look like almost anything.

Of the 6 chand skulls sent, but one has all the teeth. The Badger has lost 1 canine & lower incisor.

One skull has lost 1 back under molar & all 4 premolars
 " " " " both " " " & one "
 " " " "
 " " " " 1 lower premolar.

But 2 of the skulls have perfect teeth, the other 4 having lost the terminal tuft of white. I wonder if you didn't keep them too long before skinning?

You must have left out one box of small things for I find no skulls for any of the following: 6 Rats; 2 weasels; 3 *Sorex personatus*; 4 *Neperomys*; 4 *Blarina*; 8 *Zapus*.

I find 2 extra skulls, 1 of *Sciurus hudsonicus* no. 476, & the other of *Lemmus striatus* by the way.

And what did you do with those other specimens of Casper's Meadow mouse? I wanted them more than anything you sent. Please send them by mail packed in tin cigar box. We'll send the missing skulls.

I am afraid you have a poor place to work in, or else are trying to do too much in going to school & collecting at the same time. Perhaps a little of both?

I will give you \$5.00 for this lot (which price of course includes the skulls to come), but in future please try to be a little more careful & particular.

Now, I want to ask you about those Gray Squirrels. They are very peculiar those you sent me ~~before~~ before are all of the same kind, large & with white tuft in the ear, & in the skin the ear has

down instead of standing up straight. ² of these
 lot some are but 2 of this kind, one
 adult & one young. The rest have
 ears which stand up straight & which seem
 to be a little narrower. Have you noticed
 their condition before skinning?
 All of these squirrels have ~~the~~ the entire
 belly white which is not the case
 with any sent previously. The rest
 have the shells variously grizzled.
 Now what I want to know is this:
 do you have all these variously mixed
 kind of squirrels with you all the
 time, or are they a migrating lot from
 some other place? Your notes indicate
 kind I previously believed to be the one
 with white ear tufts, which is size
 & larger than any of the others.
 How near does the ^{red} squirrel come
 to you? Some of these look like
 hybrids. I wish you would study
 out these matters carefully. It is a
 very interesting as well as perplexing matter.
 I will give you 50¢ each for another
 lot of them - (Gray squirrel).
 W. C. Barrett

Dec. 18, 1886.

Dr. W. C. Barrett,

Corresponding Secretary of Buffalo Soc. Nat. Sciences.

Dear Sir:

I have this day received your announcement of my election to
 Corresponding Membership in the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences.

It gives me pleasure to accept the honor thus conferred, and
 I shall always be pleased to promote the objects of the Society in
 any way in my power.

Very truly yours,

W. C. Barrett

(Dictated)

Dec. 19, 6

Mr. C. S. Baynton.

Dear Sir:

I have not heard from you in a very long time and wonder whether or no you care to do any more collecting for me.

I should like a number more of the mice, squirrels, and other mammals from your neighborhood.

Hoping to hear from you

I am, very truly, yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Dec. 19, 6

Rev. Dr. B. Henry
Mason, D.D.

Dear Sir:

Do you wish to collect
any more mammals for me?

I would like more of the little striped
skunk; of the big skunk with all-white back
& short tail; of the Rock Squirrel; of mink
& several other things.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION OF A NEW POCKET GOPHER FROM CALIFORNIA

(Thomomys talpoides perpallidus^x sub-sp. nov.).

Mr. F. Stephens, one of my Californian mammal collectors, has sent me several specimens of a small Pocket Gopher, of the genus Thomomys, which I do not find described. It may be distinguished at a glance from all its congeners, except T. clusius of Coues, by its color, which is very pale brownish-yellow above, and white underneath and on the sides and legs. It differs from T. clusius in the great length of its tail, which is half as long as the head and body, and in other characters which will be pointed out in a later paper on the animal.

All the specimens were captured on the arid Colorado Desert, in Southern California, in March and April 1886.

^xThe subspecific name perpallidus refers to the very pale color of the animal.

C. Hart Merriam.

Dec. 20, 6

Dear Mr. Allen:

I hope you will pardon my long delay in sending the minutes of the late meeting of the A.O.U. They go to you this afternoon or in the morning.

The reason you did not have them before is that I only yesterday finished with the Cong^l Comm. on Agl. — and it might be added, parenthetically, that the future of the Division looks brighter than ever before.

This morning for the first time I have examined my series of Spermophilus treticardus, and, unfortunately, it looks very much as if you had put your foot in it — as you suggested when here.

Without looking at the labels I separated all my specimens into two files, one with a long, slender, conical tail; the other with a short, thick, sharply bicolored tail.

On reading the label, it appears that the former lot came from the Colorado Desert, and the latter from the Mojave Desert & River. I have just one skin from Yuma, Arizona, and its tail agrees with those of the Colorado Desert specimens, but its back is more red.

The above remarks refer exclusively to skins, as I have not examined my alcoholics.

Now this puts me in an awkward position. Knowing that Merriam suspected a difference I do not feel at liberty to describe the new subspecies. Neither do I care particularly to give him the benefit of my skins, which cost me more money than almost any I possess.

Does not this case serve to emphasize the superiority of good skins over pickles?

Am writing at the house, and hope Mrs. Merriam and Miss Gardner join me in kindest regards to Mr. Allen and yourself.

As ever, very truly yrs,
C. Hart Merriam -

Dec. 20, 6

Mr. A. B. Baker

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 13th inst. has this day arrived.

I will give you \$7.00 for the three skins of Canis latrans (♂♀), but do not want any more of them.

Do not care for anything in alcohol except bats & shrews, and never pay half so much for an alcoholic as for dry skin & skull of the same.

Please send all the small skins you have to date when you send these, and pack the same a little more carefully than the lot you once sent to Liscomb Lane.

Would be obliged if you will send at least half a dozen Butorinus nigripes in that lot. I will remit cash at once.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

P.S. You speak of the lists sent so long ago as if there were more of them than I recd. The total number turned over to me by Mr. True (and all I have ever seen) is right, of which number one is a skin.
C.S.M.

Dec. 26, 6

Mr. W. A. Clark

Dear Sir:

The delay in replying to your letter is due to the fact that I have been trying to learn of something that would enable you to accomplish what you wish in the line of perfection in tanning.

I have ascertained that Prof. W. A. Ward of Rochester, New York, sometimes takes young men who desire to become good tanners, & pays them enough to cover living expenses while they are working with him assisting his skilled workmen. My advice to you is to write him & apply for such a position.

Respectfully,
C. S. Murrison

Dec. 27, 6

Mr. W. Stephens

My dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 15th inst. and suppose the loss of skins will be along in due time.

I shall be glad to compare your Spermophile with specimens of tartaricus and molle, & will return the specimen as you request.

If by "my book" you mean my Synopsis of N. Am. Mammals, I regret to say it will not be out within the coming year. I am constantly overburdened with outside work which keeps me far behind with my own work.

Some time ago you sent me some big-eared hats from Yuma. Among them was a solitary specimen from the Colorado Desert. Can you tell me just where it was found?

Now in regard to the new Dipodomys

the description of which you have sent
to Prof. Cope. Since you have described
it yourself, what will you charge for
all the specimens you have of it, counting
one or two which you may want to retain for
your own collection?

Will write you when the box arrives.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

P.S. When do you start for Denver Cal?

Dec. 28, 6

Mr. Chas. S. Willour.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your request to send
Mr. Rathbun a copy of Dr. Stejneger's report
I beg to state, as I did on a similar occasion
last winter, that it is not in my
power to obtain these publications
except by purchase at the regular
price, and I see no reason why
I should buy books for Mr. Rathbun
when I have not enough money
to get what I need for my own use.

Respectfully

C. Hart Merriam -

Jan. 8, 8

Messrs. W. H. C. S. Krimby
Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of the 4th inst. is before me, together with the ~~same~~ specimens, for which I enclose \$2.10.

The shrew is Blarina brevicauda carolinensis. It is one of the easiest of all animals to catch in traps and mouse traps. I often used to catch half a dozen in a single night.

Please be a little more careful in preparing small skulls. The majority of those you send are injured in some way, which detracts from their value. Be careful, but not to overstuff your skins. One of these harvest mice is as big as a Peromyscus, and the Peromyscus is considerably stretched.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Jan. 8, 7

Egbert Bagg Esq.

My dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 5th inst. I beg to say that I would like \$3,000.00 insurance on skins & skulls of mammals; and \$2,000.00 on books & household furniture, all contained in a brick house, no. 1912 Dunderland Place, Washington, D.C. The house is three stories & basement, and is heated by a furnace. It is about 22 x 50 feet, & fronts north. It is one of a solid block of similar houses, three on one side & four on the other. On the opposite side of the street from these houses is an open space absolutely vacant. There are no wooden buildings of any description in the neighborhood.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

P.S. When does the insurance expire on my stuff at Secret Lane? The policies are in Utica Bank.

Jan. 10, 7

My dear doctor:

Your letter of Dec. 27th came several days ago, but the skulls were not sent up from the Smithsonian till today. I have been in bed with a severe bronchitis most of the time for the past ten days so I should have hurried them up a little.

Enclosed please find my check for \$20.00, the amount named in your letter.

I have not unpacked them far enough yet to come to the scale & balance, but will write later in regard to these.

You ask if I want any more. Yes, I would like as many again, but would like to make a suggestion in regard to the method of handling them. As far as I have unpacked these I notice that they have been allowed to rot a good deal before they were dried.

This is a great mistake as it discolors the bone & it can not be made white afterward. If the brains are washed out with a syringe as soon as practicable after the head is cut off, & the heavy mass of temporal muscle removed roughly, the skull can be thoroughly dried at once and will never smell. This is by all odds the best way, and is very little trouble when a trapper "gets the hang of it". The only danger is the liability of cutting the coronoid process of the jaw in chipping off the temporal muscle.

I am very much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken in my behalf.

Dr. Fisher & I have been fegging away on our annual report, & on some special bulletins which we hope to get through the press before spring.

Respectfully,

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

Dr. M. W. Turner
Sammerville, Tenn. 44.

Jan. 10, 8

Dear Doctor Suckewhese:

I owe you an apology for tardiness in acknowledging your letter of Dec. 27th. At the time it came I was sick in bed with a severe bronchitis from which I have not yet recovered.

One page is tight squeezing for popular remarks on the characteristic mammals of North America. I have more than three written, but can cut it down to fit the place reserved for it. Have not forgotten the economic aspects of the case.

Do you wish me to arrange the matter on characteristic species under geographical or animal headings? That is, shall I treat of arctic species & species of the several zoogeographical regions of N. Am., or of characteristic 'half quadrupeds', carnivora, rodents, & etc. afterward specifying the regions inhabited by each? The latter plan I have followed, but

2

It is not difficult to change the arrangement if you prefer.

In regard to the illustrations I will write later.

Replying to your questions I beg to say: Coues & Stearns 'New England Bird Life' is a fairly good book as far as Eastern species are concerned. But for descriptions of species for purposes of identification Ridgway's new manual, now in press, will be far ahead of anything previously published. It will be profusely illustrated.

My book on mammals will not be out within a year.

Leslie's History of Fisheries cannot be had from the Smithsonian or Fish Commission.

It may be obtained from members of Congress, and from the Govt. Printer at cost of printing (I think under \$5.00).

3

This book of Goadie contains an article
on the Rainbow trout.

In regard to the literature of this fish,
I have had copied from Dr. Keen's list in the
Fish Comm. Report the enclosed list of
synonymy with references. It is not
supposed to be exhaustive, but as all I
am able to lay hands on at present.

Hoping it may be of some service,

I remain, very sincerely yours.

C. Hart Merriam -

Jan. 20, 7

Dear Doctor Turner:

Thanks for yours of the 13th

I will take (if I can get them) 50 skulls more of each of the species sent before at same price, except muskrats. For muskrats, unclean, I can't afford to pay more than 10¢ each. I already have between 2 & 3 hundred of them.

I now have upwards of 5800 skulls in all.

Cold weather has been abundant here this winter, but snow has not kept the ground white much of the time.

As ever,
 Very truly yours
 C. Hart Merriam

Dr. W. A. Turner.

Jan. 20, 7

Dr. S. S. Mutton.

Dear Sir:

Your packet recd of the 6th inst
is at hand. The mouse since
some time ago. It is a true
mouse, but is so different from the
ordinary Mus musculus that I would
much like a series of good specimens
with skulls for comparison.

Glad to know that you will send me
specimens of the Pocket Sopher and
Meadow Mouse. Can you procure

Shuttle or Mountain Racer (Aplodontia)
in your neighborhood?

enclosed please find a copy of my directions
for preparing skins & skulls. Kindly send
me a specimen or two for criticism.

Very truly yours,
A. Wet Merriam -

Jan. 20, 7.

Rev. Dr. B. Henry
Mason, Texas.

Dear Sir:

I should have replied to your letter sooner but have been sick.

I do not care for large things, such as weasels, foxes, coons, or mink etc., though I would like a pair of Beavers and Mill Cats, and also Badgers.

In fact, at present I do not care for many skins except those of mice, rock squirrels, & short-tailed white-headed skunks. Skins does not apply to skulls, as I will take skulls of almost every kind of mammal.

Last winter the skunk skins you sent smelled pretty strong. Now it is easy to kill skunks without permitting them to smell if you catch them in live traps, or let them crawl into a tight box when caught in steel traps. The best way is to attract

a piece of old rag in bisulphide of carbon &
put it in the box. This anesthetic
the animal without producing a discharge
& if the box is tight he will die in a few
minutes. I have killed many in
this way.

Do muskrats occur with you? If so
I would like half a dozen.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

Jan. 21, 8

William Dart, Esq.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 15th inst. has
reached me, together with the box of skulls.
But why on earth didn't you label the
skulls? They are not worth half as much
as if they were marked for use, but since
you have been to so much trouble in
preparing them I will pay you about
as much as if they had the necessary data.

If I remember rightly, you still owe
me about ten or twelve dollars on the
gun deal. This I hereby cancel, and I
enclose my check for \$12.00 in payment of
balance in full for the present lot
of skulls.

If you would like to continue
to collect for me I shall be glad
to have you, and will pay for cleaned
skulls the prices named on the enclosed

85 list, provided the sex of each is stated.

Please remember me to Chiffard, Wood,
and other friends -

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

PRICES OFFERED WILLIAM DART FOR CLEANED SKULLS. (Jan. 1887).

Bear	\$1.50
Fisher	1.00
Otter	.50
Porcupine	.50
Fox	.50
Coon	.30
Skunk	.30
Marten	.25
Mink	.25
Weasel	.25
Woodchuck	.25
Muskrat	.20
Flying Squirrel	.20
Red Squirrel	.15
Chipmunk	.15
Meadow Mice	.10
Red-backed Mice	.10
Shrews of all kinds	.10
Rabbits	.20

The above must be labeled with sex.

Jan. 25, 87

Dear Doctor Quackenbush:

At last I have finished the one
for your Secretary, but it is as
much of an elephant that I hardly
know what you will do with it.

I have cut it down as much as I
can without omitting certain groups
altogether. My plan has been to
run over all the larger groups of N.
Am. Mammals, mentioning the more
characteristic and peculiar genera.

I have thought it best to append
the generic name so that the student can
be sure of the animal he is reading about
if he cares to look it up in special works.
The full scientific name (generic + specific) is
given in only a few instances, such as
the Bison, Mount St. Helens, & Right
Wanderer. I do not insist on the

retention of any scientific names, and you are at liberty to omit them if you think best. You are at liberty also to cut down the list in any way that suits your purpose; only when you do this please return the matter not wanted so that I can make use of it elsewhere.

I had hoped to say something about the birds and their uses, but the size of the mammal chapter so affords me that I dare not undertake it.

In compliance with a wish expressed in one of your early letters, I have said more about the Buffalo than any other species. If there is too much you can use the scissors.

A word in regard to the illustrations: as pictures, all are pretty enough, particularly Beards. But the animals they illustrate are not always well chosen, considering how large a number of important groups are not figured at all. For instance, in the plate on Articulate, no less than five crustaceans are given, but not a single insect or other of the multitudinous unfigured; and an entire plate (the most beautiful of all) is devoted to the Anemones & Jelly-fishes. So again with the Crustacea, where two large figures (178) are given to

closely allied forms. And it seems to me that instead of crowding four or five large salamanders into one plate, it might have been possible to illustrate some of the other primary divisions of vertebrates which are not represented in any of the pictures.

Cary's plates are not nearly so good as Beards'. In the one on the Buffalo, the nursing calf's attitude is about the only really commendable feature. And I can't imagine why he stuck three crows on the poor Buffalo's back. Is it not enough to have extermination staring one in the face, without anticipating the end by placing on the still living animal the crows that will fight over his carcass?

The other mammal picture is poor. Not an animal in the dozen & a half composing it can be called good. And these points really

sights to be changed in the engraving before the plates are printed. I refer to the points of the horns in the antelope and female sheep. On the antelope, the ^{right} ~~left~~ horn should be curved toward its fellow. The horns of the female Bighorn are at least a third too long.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

P.S. Terrible as is the bulk of the enclosed 19 pages of type-written manuscript, please observe, before printing, that the pages are very open, & that the matter in type will not fill much space -
C.H.M.

Washington, D.C.
Jan. 28, 1887.

Mr. John B. Lewis

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 25th inst., together with the sample mail, reached me this morning.

If you will send the fossil fragment of a jaw I will try to identify it for you. Flesh never becomes petrified.

The mail skins are very good for a beginner, and with a little practice I think you will make excellent specimens. The skulls are very nicely prepared.

The skins are stretched a little too long, and the fore-feet spread out a little too much. They should be close to the neck.

I don't want any more house mice, but would like at least 10 of every other kind of mouse you can catch. If some species I shall want 20 or more, and will write you which when you send samples.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

Jan. 28, 7

Mr. Geo. K. Chovil

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 24th inst. has
this day come to hand. Is you
are in Dakota!

Yes, I would like some
mammals from your present
headquarters, and also some from
Montana in case you go there.
You may send me half a dozen each
of the smaller species about Dickinson
with a list of all you can secure, &
I will give you an order.

I would like two Badgers.

Very truly yours

C. West Merriam -

Jan. 30, 1

Mr. John J. Snyder
Stockton, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 17th inst. came several days ago, and the specimen of *Bassariscus* has now arrived.

It is, indeed, a beauty, and I am very much obliged to you for it. I have just soaked it up and removed what was left of the skull, and put a heavy wire into the tail, which at the same time was straightened.

I wonder if you would not like to spend some of your spare time collecting and preparing mammals for me? On the supposition that you would, I herewith enclose directions.

I want all kinds of mice, squirrels, and gophers. If you care to undertake the job I will send you my price list for specimens of various sizes. Very truly,
C. Hart Merriam

P.S. At what date was the *Bassariscus* taken? - C.M.M.

Jan. 29, 7

My dear Lieut. Breinard:

Biederbeck has just given me the package you left with him for that purpose, - hence please pardon my seeming negligence in not acknowledging it sooner.

I suppose the dusky owl's egg came from Cooper. Do you remember where the Guillemot's egg was collected? Let me assure you of my appreciation of your generosity in giving me these relics of your Arctic experience and conquests. I prize them very highly and shall endeavor to preserve them as long as I live.

Biederbeck has at last secured a position as 'Inspector' in the New York Customs House. Sorry to lose him, but glad he has a better place. Thanks for the Shufeldt clipping. I had not seen it. It is very characteristic.

Mrs. Merriam joins me in kind regards, and in the hope that your new post will prove pleasant and profitable.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

Lieut. David S. Breinard
5th Cav., U.S.A.

Feb. 2, 1

Brimley Brothers:

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of Jan. 31st & the skins
came today all right. Am glad to
note improvement in the skins & skulls.

I find that I now have so many specimens
of republicans from you that I do not need
any more. Still, if you care to send ten
more good specimens at 25¢ each I will
take them. Of the other species of
mice you may continue to send all you
collect till I notify you to the contrary.

Please put the ^{total} length & length of tail on the
back of the label, as in enclosed sample.

Very truly yours

C. Hart Merriam -

20
C.S. & N.H. Brimley
Raleigh, N.C.

Jan. 21st 7

A. O. Miscock Esq.
Crawfordsville, Ind.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 29th inst
I beg to say that I should be glad to receive
from you a series of the small mammals
of your vicinity if you can prepare them
satisfactorily and we agree as to price.

Enclosed find a copy of my directions.

Please send me two or three specimens
(say of mouse, wood-rat, & salamander) for
criticism and I will then send price list.

You might send, at the same time,
a list of the kinds of mammals you
can secure.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

BRIEF DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING SKINS OF SMALL MAMMALS

For the Museum of Dr. C. Hart Merriam.

Skin all mammals as soon as possible after death. Lay the animal on its back and make an incision along the middle of the belly from just behind the fore legs nearly to the vent. Be careful not to stretch the skin while removing it, and exercise great caution in skinning around the eyes and lips, which parts are easily cut. Skin as far down on the feet as possible, but leave in all the bones of the legs. Remove the bone from the tail by pulling it between the fingers. Take out the skull, being careful not to cut or injure it in any way, and wash out the brains; number the skull with the same number that is attached to the skin, and dry it in the shade. Never put arsenic or salt on a skull, but use powdered borax, if necessary, to prevent the remaining flesh from decomposing. Remove all fat from the skin and cut off any tags of flesh that may adhere to it.

In cleaning off blood or dirt that may have soiled the hair, an old tooth brush and a liberal supply of corn-meal will be found most serviceable.

Poison all parts of the skin with dry arsenic, or better still, with a mixture of powdered arsenic and alum in the proportion of four parts arsenic to one part alum, being particular to put an extra supply in the feet and tail. Put a wire in the body, letting it extend to the tip of the tail, but be careful not to stretch the tail. Use annealed iron wire of as large size as will easily fit into the tip of the tail. In rabbits, foxes, and wildcats put wires in the hind legs also.

Stuff the skin to its natural size with cotton or tow (never use wool, feathers, or other animal substances); sew it up along the belly and place it flat on a board to dry (belly down), with the fore legs extended in front and parallel to the body, and the hind legs and tail directed backward. Attach to each skin a label bearing the same number that is marked on the skull. On this label should be stated the length of the animal (from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail, the spine being stretched for this purpose); also the sex, date of capture (name of month should always be written in full), locality, and name of collector.

All skins should be thoroughly dry before they are packed. They should be wrapped carefully in cotton and packed in small wooden boxes. Cigar boxes do very well for the smaller species but must be strengthened by a thin piece of board across each end. They can then be sent by mail.

Feb. 4, 7

Dear Doctor Merrill:

I am very much obliged for the mammals just recd., and also for the corrections of habitats of birds as given in the A.O.U. Check list.

We now have many such, all of which will help to make the new edition represent more truly the actual distribution of our species.

When were the skins collected? They are not labeled.

What did you do with the skulls of the mice? They are not in the box and the skins are worthless without them.

I cannot for a moment admit that true Peromyscus rufarius occurs west of the Rocky Mts., but it is impossible to do anything with this genus without skulls.

I notice that you do not know

how to make a mammal skin, & therefore
take the liberty to enclose a copy of my
directions - such as I send to all of my
collectors.

Reindeer's skins, which you are liable
to find at Klamath, particularly in swampy
places, is more than double the size of
those sent.

The Pocket Squirrel sent is Thomomys
talpa-like-umbrosus - not typical.

I would very much like to see the
fossil house mouse, & Arvicola, from Klamath.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

Feb. 10, 8

W.W. Merriam, Esq.
Shelton Id., N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Skunk skin & skulls came
yesterday. On receiving and opening
the package my first impulse was
to return it, but I finally decided
to keep it, since you have been so
kind as to prepare it for me.
But if you prepare any specimens for
me in the future please bear in mind
that they must be made up according
to the type-written instructions I sent
you some time ago. It is not
my purpose to buy soft, green skulls
and make them up myself, as I did
this skunk. Moreover, skulls
should be so killed that they will not smell.
This is easily done either by drowning or by
anesthetizing them with bisulphide of carbon,
which costs but 25 cents a pint & a pint would
kill all there are on Shelton Id. if properly used.
I enclose find my check for \$2.00 as for your skunk

Feb. 9, 8

Mr. A. B. Baker.
Kansas, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 5th inst. arrived today, together with the box of specimens.

In sending large boxes in future please ship by freight instead of express, to avoid heavy charges.

I am sorry to see that the taxidermist's idea prevailed in all your skins. You do not seem to have been able to throw off the idea that these skins are not to be mounted, but are to remain exactly as they are as cabinet specimens. In the following particulars they are all wrong for my purposes: tail split open; tail bound in between hind legs; sole of feet slit in more than one line & left gaping open; fore legs rolled in under body and tied together (instead of extended along the sides of the body); skins made up & dried on their backs or in paper tubes (as the case in the badgers, pocket squirrel, Arvicola, etc.) instead of being placed flat on their bellies

to dry. I think I called your attention to these points two years ago, and sent you a copy of my directions for making skins. If I did not, I am at fault. With this you will find a fresh copy. On the theory that these skins are to be softened and made over they are all right.

The dozen specimens of Arvicola auctore sent are worthless to me because their skulls, with a single exception, have all been gnawed (apparently) by mice. In most of them the occipital region is absent. If you can dispose of them elsewhere I will return them by mail at once; if not, I will give you a dollar for the lot since you have been to the trouble of preparing them.

One only of the three Siphonura has a perfect skull; and one of the Badger's skulls is badly smashed.

Enclosed please find my check for \$36.20 - the amount of your bill minus \$3.00, the price of the Arvicolas.

Two of these cotypes are beauties.

Very truly yours,

E. Hart Merriam -

Feb. 16, 7

My dear Clint:

About two weeks ago I wrote you, but having recd. no reply fear the letter mis-carried. I did not then remember your address, but have since learned it.

Some years ago, I think about five, you told me you wanted a good microscope but did not have the money to get it. I said I thought Mr. Deyan would sell Jen's microscope at cost, & if so I would buy it for you & you could take your own time in paying me for it. You replied that this would be a great favor to you. So on going home I at once saw Mr. Deyan and purchased the microscope, paying him cash for it, & sent it to you without delay.

Do you have never said anything about paying for it, & suppose you

are not using it & that you do not care to keep it. If this is the case I wish you would be kind enough to return it to me by express at once, as I have a chance to sell it here, and I am in need of all the money I can get just now.

As ever yours
C. Hart Merriam

In 2.7.0. of Feb. 11th, did you not, by a slip of the pen, say "red color" when you meant white color (*Lepus occidentalis*)? Surely referring to not a likely locality for the red color (*Lepus virginicus*).

Feb. 16, 18

Dear Thompson:

Your letter of the 7th, packet of the 10th, & box of specimens are before me.

Rabbit skins, according to my notion, should be made up with legs stretched out exactly as in the case of other small mammals. The legs must be wired, as stated in my type-written instructions, which, by the way, you do not seem to have paid much attention to.

The legs in most of your skins are too much sprawled out sideways, so that the skins take up altogether too much room in the drawer. The legs never should project beyond the hind of the side of the body.

Your hard bodies are a great mistake in all cases, & are particularly objectionable when you leave a great gaping opening in the belly - afterside. This is unrightly when the skin, & lets the arsenic spill out.

2

Your method of labeling is simply atrocious. Why don't you invest in a few cents worth of parchment paper, cut it into strips, and thread with good strong thread which can be tied firmly to the leg in a Christian manner? And finally, you ought to take just a little trouble in packing & not jam a lot of flying squirrels & newspapers promiscuously into a rough box & trust the same to the cruelty of the expressman.

True so Mrs., not Prof. This exp. at 7 he made the daughter of Dr. Brewster, a most estimable girl.

What price do you set upon a diagram of flying sq.? It lacks date & locality.

Your Bleasins appears to be lucenicanda. Can tell better when the skull is cleaned.

The scars probably is personatus, but no man can positively determine the species of scars till Johnson's monograph appears.

The Arvicola I can do nothing with till its skull is cleaned. Apparently it is not referens.

The reparans is typical Michiganiensis.

Now in regard to identifications which require study & time, as in Arvicola. I am

3

Where are English Sparrows found in Manitoba?

far too busy to do this sort of thing for fun now. It takes about as long to make a satisfactory determination as it does to describe a new species, & I have at least half a dozen now awaiting description. Your first paper (Mammals of Manitoba) contains several errors and many assumptions.

And you were saved several other errors by taking advantage of information supplied by me, for which I have no credit.

Now in ^{regard to} your coming 'revised list' I will either have nothing whatever to do with it, or I will revise the technical part of it & receive credit for the same — as you like —

Very truly yours

C. Hart Merriam

P.S. There are two skulls (nos. 64 & 65) of Thomomys without any ^{or accompanying skin} data. The value of this lot is \$10.00, which I enclosed. C.H.M.

February 16th, 7

Mr. J. G. Wainright.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter just received I beg to state that I have about all the mammals that are likely to be obtained in Illinois, and that I never purchase specimens "in the flesh", or in the shape of "skins ready for stuffing". The only material I have any use for consists in well made cabinet skins, with perfect skulls to correspond. If you care to undertake the preparation of such, and will send a list of the species of your vicinity, I will send directions and let you know what I want.

Respectfully,

E. J. Mearns

Feb. 24, 7

Prof. W. C. C. Scott.
Dear Sir:

Your letter reached me about ten days ago, and the box of specimens, after the delay usual to Southern railways, has finally put in an appearance.

I must confess to considerable disappointment on opening the box, for, instead of the 'samples' of mice & wood rats for which I asked, I find a lot of huge specimens which will not fit into any of my cabinets, and not a single one of which is prepared in accordance with my directions.

The flying squirrel's skulls are chipped off behind, rendering the specimens worthless. The skunk has no skull, & the skin has no wire in it & looks as if it had been singed. The squirrels & otter are made up in grotesque attitudes, highly effective from a theatrical standpoint,

but absolutely unfit for cabinet specimens. But it is needless to criticize, as you already have my type-written directions telling exactly how a specimen ought to be prepared. I should be very glad

to get a large number of skins of the smaller mammals prepared properly, but don't want any more of this kind of material. I am anxious

to secure all kinds of mice, woodrats, shrews, water rats, etc. in skins & skulls, and bats in alcohol.

If you care to dispose of the specimens sent at the following terms I will take them; otherwise will return at your expense.

3 Wild cats @ 1.50	= \$4.50
1 Otter	3.00
1 Skunk	.75
2 Fox squirrels @ .50	1.00
1 Salamander	.25
4 Flying squirrels @ .10	.40
	<hr/>
	\$9.90

I have already paid \$3.25 express chgs. on two above.

Very truly
C. Hart Merriam -

February 24th.

7

Prof. W. S. P. Scott,
Tarpon Springs, Florida.

Dear Sir:

I am glad to learn, from your recent letter, that there is a project on foot to establish a Zoological Station in southern Florida. Such a station, if in charge of a Biologist of recognized ability in this line of research, could not fail to be of great benefit to science and would be an ornament to the State.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam -

Feb. 28, 7

The Hon.
Warner Miller
Chairman Senate Comm. on Agriculture.

Dear Sir:

I am informed that the Senate Committee on Appropriations, acting under a misapprehension of fact, have reduced my salary from \$2,500. to \$2,250.

From the enclosed copy of my commission you will see that my present salary is \$2,500., instead of \$2,000. as wrongly supposed by the Committee.

Should the amendment in question pass in its present form, great injustice would be done me, for the unavoidable inference would be that the members of the Committee are dissatisfied with my work as Chief of the Division of Economic Ornithology & Mammalogy.

Very respectfully,
C. Hart Merriam -

March 1, 7

Kinley Bros.

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of the 19th ult. and box of skins are before me. I am very glad to note improvement in the preparation of your specimens. This lot is worth \$4.²⁵ which I enclose.

The small skins do not too same as the other, and I would like a number of them.

When your skins are placed on the drying board please see that the legs are not spread out sideways beyond the line of the sides of the body. If a leg is unruly, a pin will control it.

If you like, you may send me half a dozen musculus caught in the field at 25cts each.

Very truly yours,

G. Hart Merriam -

Kinley Bros.
Raleigh, N.C.

March 1, 7

Krimley Rose.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 19th ult. and box of skins are before me. I am very glad to note improvement in the preparation of the specimens. This lot is worth \$4.²⁵, which I enclose.

The small shrews do not run round as the other, and I would like a number of them.

When your skins are placed on the drying board please see that the legs are not spread out sideways beyond the line of the sides of the body. If a leg is unruly, a pin will control it.

If you like, you may send me half a dozen mesomys caught in the field at 20cts each.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

H.H. & C.S. Krimley
Raleigh, N.C.

Mar. 2, 7

Mr. Amos W. Butler

Hydrar Lic:

Yours recd. 26- Synaptomys
was a female.

I have selected for you, & shall
mail tomorrow, three skins & 1 skull
of Arvicola aratus (typical) from Iowa.
Could not find two skulls belonging to
the other skins, so much of my
collection is still packed away.

You are welcome to these specimens
— do not think of returning them.

My truest ser

C. Hart Merriam -

March 2, 1887

Mr. Wm. Selys
Saint Paul, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of Feb. 5th has only just reached me. I am very glad to hear from you again, and to know that you are willing to help me in collecting small mammals. It is true that I have recd. a large collection from central Texas, but I am still in need of many things from your region and southward.

Enclosed you will find a copy of my directions for preparing skins & skulls. Please send two or three skins for criticism first, so that no time will be lost in putting up good material in an unsatisfactory manner.

I do not want any big things - no deer or
beaver or musk rats. I'll expect animals
I want few are mink cats and Badgers, if
with I would like one pair each.

What I particularly desire are the various
kinds of mink, musk rat, gophers, ground
squirrels, etc. Of most of these I shall
want at least ten specimens.

Now as to prices: The price varies
somewhat with quality of skin & rarity
of species. For good specimens I pay
about 50 cts. for mink & skunks, 50-75
for Rock Squirrels, 6 for mink or weasels
(sometimes called Linnet cat) etc. & more
for larger mink kind 2.00 each for good
Badgers & mink cats -

If you will send me a few sample
skins of mink & gophers, & a list of
what you think you can get, I will
send detailed price list & number
wanted of each.

~~I do not want any kind skins just now~~
~~except the mink & gopher - not the typical.~~
I'll have any of these that I want.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam -

March 31, 7

Dear Doctor Johnson:

In reply to your letter this
day recd. I try to say that I accept
your offer for my galvanic battery
and electrodes, & you may pay for
it in quarterly payts. as you prefer.

The electrodes are in the glass-covered
case in the room adjoining my office. I
will write further in regard to the matter.

Charley & John arrived here last evng. &
are now at the Capitol seeing the sights.
The weather is balmy & spring like - no snow.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam -

March 5, 7

Mr. J. L. Hancock
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 3^d inst. has just reached me, together with the squirrel of which you speak.

The animal is the common Say's Squirrel or Chipmunk (Tamias lateralis) of the great plains & westward to the Pacific. It is of no particular interest or value to me, hence I return it by the mail.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

March 10, 7

Mr. A. B. Baker
Barnes, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Yours of Feb. 25th is before me.

Let me assure you once for all that the skins and skulls which I purchase are neither for sale or (save in rare instances) for exchange, but for my own personal collection, which now consists of about 5,200 skins and nearly 4,000 skulls; and further, that I never have any skins mounted.

Of course the skins you sent could be released & made over properly, but this would cost nearly as much as the specimens are worth.

However, since, as appears from your letter, I neglected to send you my type-written directions long ago, the fault is mine & not yours. But in future you will know just what I want.

In regard to splitting tails: I have skinned at least a thousand mammals

and the muskrat is the only species thus far met with whose tail I have been obliged to incise, and I find an incision an inch & a half long underneath, commencing at the constricted portion, and runs every where.

Will send you the syringe by mail in a few days.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

9, 7

Mr. H. Stephens,
San Bernardino, Cal.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of Feb. 24th came nearly a week ago, but the box of skins did not arrive until yesterday.

All the specimens sent are in excellent condition. Enclosed please find \$9.²⁵ in pay for the same.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

March 10, 7

My dear Gen. Greely:

Since you have been kind enough to consent to deliver, on Saturday of this week (March 12) at 4.15 P.M., the first of the regular course of 'Saturday lectures', the Lecture Committee and the authorities of the National Museum are anxious to help you as much as possible in the way of furnishing appropriate stage scenery.

Do not be surprised, therefore, if on entering the room you find the platform occupied by an Eskimo, and surrounded by a group of northerners consisting of musk sheep, polar bear, walrus, walrus, ptarmigan, and perhaps a few others.

Any suggestions from you in regard to this matter will meet with immediate attention.

Gen. A. W. Greely
Chief Signal Officer, U.S.A.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

March 10, 7

Brinley Brothers
 Raleigh, N.C.

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of the 4th inst and specimens
 are before me, for which I enclose \$2.20.

The shrew of which you speak is Blarina
cinerea, which seems to be the prevailing
 small shrew from this latitude to Florida.
 I am trying to get all I can of them
 in order to determine the relationship
 it bears to Blarina exilis.

Glad to know that the mice are fond
 of peanuts. In northern New York hick
 nuts make the best bait I have tried.

Very truly yours
 C. Hart Merriam

March 12, 7

Dr. Thompson:

I am very much surprised at the unreasonable tone of your letter of Feb. 22^d in regard to the skins sent me by you a short time before.

Am I not at liberty to criticize and object to poor skins without being taken to task for 'vituperation'? Had I kept the good and returned the poor, as you suggest, I could not have retained half a dozen.

If the price was unsatisfactory to you, you were not bound to accept it for I would of course return the specimens at your request.

But it is clear from your letter that you place an exaggerated value on your skins. To prove this I will mention some of the prices I pay these of my best collectors for

3

simply beautiful skins - each of which is worth at least twice as much as a poor skin of the same species. The prices I pay these men for perfect skins with perfect skulls are: -

Flying squirrel	.40
Red "	.50
Meadow wren (<u>Arreola</u>)	.25-30
White throated " (<u>Merulopys</u>)	.25-30
House " (<u>Mus musculus</u>)	.20
Short-tailed shrew (<u>Blarina</u>)	.25

In alcoholics I pay from half to two-thirds as much as for skins, but as a rule do not want them at all except in the case of bats & small shrews.

Your skins at these rates, allowing the largest price for perfect skins in each case, would come to exactly \$7.88.

In other words I have paid you for this lot of four skins just \$2.22 more than I am in the habit of paying for good skins of the same species. You may draw your own conclusions.

In regard to hard or soft bodies I can only repeat in substance what I said before, namely, that my skins

3

which are acknowledged by all to be the best mammal skins ever made are stuffed with loose cotton, and that I have never seen a skin stuffed with a hard body which looks half as well. Hard bodies are proper for mounted specimens in cases, but not for skins to be handled. It is time enough to improve on my method when it has been equalled - not before.

In your letter you say: "I am sorry to be obliged to omit the Arreola from Rat Portage, but suppose it must go." I don't understand what you are driving at here as you have sent two specimens of Arreola from Rat Portage and a third from Carey's Lake of the Woods.

In regard to the softer matter: I believe I have a printed article by Ernest E. Innes in which Geomys burcarinus is said to do great damage in Manitoba; and if my memory serves me correctly I printed out the fact to the author, that the species probably was Geomys talpoides. In this you are a most American.

I have a printed article by Ernest E. Innes

March 12, 7

Dear Thompson:

The remarks contained in your letter of Feb. 22^d concerning drawings of mammals do not tally very well with our last conversation on the subject.

In the first place I have distinctly said from the start that I should never want ^{drawings of} these animals in the same genus, & but very rarely two in the same family. This would defeat the object of my book, for I shall not be allowed enough figures to illustrate even all of the larger groups. This dispenses of the two for business.

Now in regard to the kind of drawing. When you were here last winter I told you over & over again that the publishers of my book would not consent to wash drawings, because of the cost of reproduction, but insisted

that all must be in line so as to reproduce by photogravure.

Furthermore, I told you that I was not prepared to go to any more expense personally in the matter of drawings but would leave that to my publisher whose business it is to pay for the drawings.

And right here I may add that I have not yet recd. from them (or anyone else) one cent in the way of refunding the very considerable amount of money I have already paid out for drawings.

If I had the means I would gladly go ahead with these illustrations, but unfortunately I have not the cash.

Remember, I am glad to say that the time is rapidly approaching when I hope to be able to give you a very liberal order, if you wish it. In connection with my official work I expect soon to arrange to have a number of drawings made, particularly of such species as of economic importance.

Very truly yours,
 Ernest C. Thompson. C. Hart Merriam -

March 13, 8

Dear Thompson:

In reply to your letter of the 27th ultims: I will take the cuts at your price - \$10.00 for the lot. The drawing (diagram) of flying squirrel comes to just \$3.25, making 13.25 for the batch. Am I to understand that these are woodcuts made by yourself? or are they electrotypes, or what?

In the case of the mule deer I think the antlers are unusually large. Are the tails of wild cat and lynx on the same scale?

Did you draw the caribou head from a living animal or a stuffed head? The nose does not look right to me.

Very truly yours,
 C. Hart Merriam -

March 14, 7

Mr. Henry K. Coak
Sec. Ridgway Ornithological Club.
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Your notification of my election to corresponding membership in the Ridgway Ornithological Club has this day come to hand, and I hasten to assure you that, in accepting this membership, I hold myself in readiness to promote the interests of the club whenever within my power.

Very respectfully,
C. Hart Merriam

March 13, 7

Dear Thompson:

This, I believe, will complete the series of letters for yesterday and today.

Now for your ms. on the mammals of Manitoba. As I wrote you a few days ago, I shall not undertake to revise this manuscript; nor do I want my name to appear on the titlepage at all. I have not read more than one-fifth of the text, and do not intend to till I see it in print. My connection with it consists solely in the determinations of species, for which I wish to be held responsible except where I have not seen specimens. Hence I have changed your language in the preface in regard to this matter.

Am very glad you have given the Indian names.

This will add much ^{to} the value of the paper.

Under Cariacus virginicus you have fastid on a printed slip stating that the average weight of this deer probably is not much over 100 lbs. If you will consult my mammals of the Adirondacks you will find (page 119) that I give the average weight of bucks at 200 to 225 lbs. which certainly is low enough, and I have seen bucks that weighed close to 300 lbs.

You will observe that I have struck out a lot of hats and skins. The reason is that many of them have no existence except as synonyms, and there is no reason to suppose that the others reach Manitoba at all. It is highly probable, however, that Neotoma nectinans will be found to be one of your common hats.

It is much to be regretted that no specimens have reached me of the two species of Tamias mentioned, and of Neotoma palustris.

The Arctic Fox I have struck out as extra limited beyond the possibility of doubt.

Mar. 13

3

The silver, black, & cross faces are nothing but individual phases of coloration, exactly similar to the case of the red & gray screech owls, and the black and gray squirrels.

I have grave doubts of the occurrence of Arvicola aucterus in Manitoba. Of two hundred or more specimens I have seen from Minnesota and Wisconsin not one is aucterus. Coues' record of the Pembina specimen is taken from Baird & based on the type & only specimen of Baird's A. cinnamomeus. But as I have no Dakota specimens of Arvicola I do not feel prepared to express a positive opinion.

Arvicola riparius will have to stand, for the present at any rate, for the material at hand is not sufficient to warrant the separation of the Manitoban specimens from the common eastern species. Have been two days in coming to this conclusion.

4

It is a pity that several species are included on Dakota specimens. The Dakota, ^{Minnesota} *Neotoma leucogaster pallidus* was described by C. S. Merriam from specimens collected by him at Lake Traverse and the country about the sources of the Minnesota and Red des Sioux rivers.

The shrews you have sent me are *Sorex foresteri*, *S. personatus*, and *Blarina brevicauda*. The latter are of the form described by Baird as 'talpides'.

The nomenclature of the entire article is the best I can supply at present, but it is not final, & several of the names (notably those of the Miceles) must be changed some of these days.

The sequence of species is not exactly in accord with the latest views on the subject, but I do not know that you care to make it so as this would involve considerable change in arrangement.

The other changes I have made will be clear to you when you look over the MS.

My truly yours
C. Hart Merriam -

Ernest E. Thompson
Toronto, Canada.

March 14, 7

Dear doctor Shufeldt:

Chipmunk recd. this morning.

It is the Kila chipmunk (*Tamias scitaceus dorealis*). I should be glad of a good skin accompanied by the skull.

My truly yours

C. Hart Merriam -

P.S. The known habitat of the above beast is New Mexico, Arizona, and a small part of Nevada.
C.H.M.

March 15, 7

Prof. C. S. Merriam

Dear Sir:

I am anxious to see specimens of your Onychomys leucogaster pallidus, and if agreeable to you will exchange one or more skins with skulls of the typical Kansas form for your Dalmanella pallidus.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam -

Mar. 16, 7

Mr. John B. Lewis
Eubanks, Ky -
Dear Sir:

Your card recd. I shall be
glad to get good skins of all the
kinds of mice you have sent
except the house mice.

~~They~~ should be shot with no. 10
shot, and should be preserved in
alcohol. After they have been
in alcohol a week they can be
wrapped in cotton and sent by mail.

Respectfully

C. Hart Merriam

March 18, 1887.

Mr. Susan E. Stechert

Dear Sir:

I have just recd. the separate sheets of the 3^d vol. of Seeborn's List of British Birds, together with your bill of \$9.00 for the same.

There must be some mistake about the price, for \$9. is about the cost of the three volumes without the plates, and if I must pay for the entire set I might as well have them.

Enclosed you will find my check for \$9.00.

Respectfully -

C. Hart Merriam -

March 18, 1887.

My dear Mr. McIlwraith:

I was very much surprised and delighted to find in my mail, this morning, your kind letter of the 15th inst. together with a copy of your long looked-for 'Birds of Ontario'.

The work is much larger and more complete than I had expected, and contains a surprisingly large number of species.

Of course I have been able only to glance through the book, but I can see that we shall find much in it bearing on our work here, and I am very glad to give it a prominent place in my ornithological library.

Complating you on your success,

I remain very truly yours

C. Hart Merriam

Wm. McIlwraith Esq.
New York, N.Y.

March 18, 7

Dear Thompson:

Your letter of the 15th inst. came this afternoon, together with the Measel. But why did you not send the skull? In winter pelage it is almost impossible to determine the species from the skins alone. So please send the skull at once, and if you have a skin of any kind in summer pelage send it also. I do not think there is any doubt that the animal really is P. langiardi, but we ought to be sure.

The Me. goes back to you by this mail, but there are several points which I do not feel satisfied about.

There is too much doubt about the Lorenzine to make it safe to use either name.

Be fear the printer would stumble over some of the names, Mrs. Merriam

has made a type-written list for my benefit. You will find it enclosed.

I would like to see a proof of the paper, but do not insist as I know it may be impracticable.

If you chance to have a skull of a Manitowish porcupine by all means send it at once so that we can settle the species.

I have sent to a man out west to get specimens of Red River valley Neotomys leucogaster in order to determine the validity of the northern subspecies, but they have not yet arrived.

Less skins should be made up exactly like small mammals, only flatter & not so full.

I am at best

Yours
C. Hart Merriam

Have spent all my spare time on your list for the past 10 days & nights. C.H.M.

If you have a genuine Lepus arizonae send it as soon as you can. Remember that summer pelage are best for identification of species.

MAMMALS OF MANITOWISH

- 1. Canis macrotis Say.
- 2. Canis virginianus Boddaert.
- 3. Urocyon stansburii Erxleben.
- 4. Lynx baileyi Jardine.
- 5. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 6. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 7. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 8. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 9. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 10. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 11. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 12. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 13. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 14. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 15. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 16. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 17. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 18. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 19. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.
- 20. Lynx baileyi Kirtland.

- 24. *Mus decumanus* Pallas.
- 25. *Thomomys talpoides* Richardson.
- 26. *Zapus hudsonius* Zimmermann.
- 27. *Perthizon dorsatus* Linn. (or *pixanthus* Brandt).
- 28. *Lepus americanus* Erxleben.
- 29. " *campestris* Bachman.
- 30. *Atalapha cinerea* Beauvois.
- 31. *Vesperugo serotinus* fuscus Beauvois.
- 32. *Neosorex palustris* Richardson.
- 33. *Sorex forsteri* Richardson.
- 34. " *personatus* Geoffroy.
- 35. *Blarina brevicauda* Say.
- 36. *Condylura cristata* Linn.
- 37. *Ursus americanus* Pallas.
- 38. *Procyon lotor* Linn.
- 39. *Lutra canadensis* S. Turton.
- 40. *Taxidea americana* Boddaert.
- 41. *Mephitis mephitis* Shaw.
- 42. *Gulo luscus* Linn.
- 43. *Mustela pennanti* Erxleben.
- 44. " *americana* Turton.
- 45. *Putorius vison* Brisson.
- 46. " *ermineus* Linn.

Dear Thompson:

your letter of the 10th inst. was received
 afternoon, together with the *Urocyon*
 but only did not see it until the
 he winter pelage it is impossible to determine
 impossible to determine the species
 from the skin - a skull would
 send the skull at once if you
 have a skin of any kind and I will
 pelage and it also. I do not think
 there is any doubt about the
 animal really is a *Urocyon*
 we ought to be able to
 The *Urocyon* is a very
 mail, but there are several points
 which do not feel safe to
 there is too much doubt about
 the description to make it safe to
 use either name.
 As for the *Urocyon*, I would like
 see some of the names, but I am

- 46. *Urocyon* Linn.
- 45. *Putorius vison* Brisson.
- 44. *Urocyon* American Linn.
- 43. *Urocyon pennanti* Exlieben.
- 42. *Urocyon* Linn.
- 41. *Mephitis mephitis* Shaw.
- 40. *Taxidea americana* Boddaert.
- 39. *Taxidea canadensis* Linn.
- 38. *Procyon* Linn.
- 37. *Urocyon* Linn.
- 36. *Urocyon* Linn.
- 35. *Blepharidopterus* Say.
- 34. *Blepharidopterus* Geoffroy.
- 33. *Sorex* Richardson.
- 32. *Sorex* Richardson.
- 31. *Vesperugo* Linn.
- 30. *Vesperugo* Linn.
- 29. *Vesperugo* Linn.
- 28. *Urocyon* Linn.
- 27. *Erethizon dorsatus* Linn. (or *Erethizon* Brandt).
- 26. *Zapus* Linn.
- 25. *Thomomys* Linn.
- 24. *Thomomys* Linn.

47. *Putorius longicauda* Baird.
48. " *vulgaris* Linn.
49. *Vulpes velox* Say.
50. " *fulvus* Desmarest.
51. *Canis lupus griseo-albus* Sabine.
52. " *latrans* Say.
53. *Lynx canadensis* Desmarest.

March 19, 1887.

Prof. W. H. Minchell
State Geologist,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir:

I am very anxious to beg, borrow,
or buy a specimen of the mouse from
the Traverse Lake region which was
described as new, under the name of
Onychomys leucogaster, var. fallidus, by Prof.
C. S. Merriam, in the 13th annual report of
your Survey, for the year 1884, pp. 183-186.

I want to compare the animal
with the typical form from Kansas.
Prof. Merriam writes me that the specimens
are in your charge.

An early reply will greatly oblige,
as respectfully yours,

W. Hart Merriam

March 19, 1887.

Mr. C. E. Boynton
Highlands, N.C.

Dear Sir:

In looking over some of the small white-footed mice you sent me I am surprised to find three immature specimens which look very much like the Michigan mouse, a species not previously known from south of Illinois.

I write therefore to ask if you will not be kind enough to catch and send me a number of these mice as soon as convenient so that this important question may be settled.

Very truly yours

C. Hart Merriam

March 20, 1878

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Thanks for two more of your mouse papers, which Mr. True handed me awhile ago.

I wonder if your Neotomys Taylori is not Achetodon humilis? I have just compared a Texas specimen of the latter with your description and find that they fit one another like a duck's foot in the mud - skull measurements and all. Please see if you can't discover a groove in the upper incisors, and let me know the result.

My collection has grown to be the best in the world so far as the smaller North American mammals are concerned. It now numbers upwards of 3200 skins and 4000 skulls; and I hope to be able to devote more time to it in future than in the past.

A few copies of some of my mammal papers go to you by this mail. More will follow shortly.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

March 23, 7.

Mr. Charles Coman
St. Landry, Florida.

Dear Sir:

I have just received a letter from Mr. M. E. Spencer stating that you would like to collect small mammals for me. I am sure I should be very glad to have you do so, and enclose the necessary instructions.

Please prepare a few samples - say of mice, wood rats or salamanders - and send me by mail for criticism. I will then send you my price list.

Very truly yours

C. Hart Merriam -

March 28, 7

Messrs. A.H. & C.S. Krimley:

Dear Sirs:

Your recent letter is before me, together with 14 mice, for which I am much obliged and enclose \$3.70.

Please wrap your skulls together in soft paper instead of scattering them through the cotton which latter method is risky. Also, please hold your specimens till you have at least 20 before sending, as it is a nuisance to enter so many small lots.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

April 3, 7

Dear Mr. Bryant:

Many thanks for your letter of the 24th ultimo, and for the pair of Neotomas just recd.

These specimens are very interesting. They seem to be (from superficial examination) somewhat intermediate between Baird's "bagli" and true californicus.

I would be very glad to get a good series of skins with skulls for study.

Can you send me 20 good specimens at 35¢ each?

The larger species of which you speak may be true californicus.

Would like specimens of all the Neotomas groups found in your neighborhood.

The photo. seems to be a Neotoma but I can't be sure.

You once gave me a very small mouse
from Mt. Diablo. I would be
glad to give \$1.00 each for a dozen more.
It is an echinomys, with ground upper
incisors.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

April 3, 7

Mr. Wm. Selys,
Saint Rock, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 25th ultimo is
before me, together with the three mice
and the pressed bat. Bats should
be preserved in alcohol. After they
have remained in strong spirits for
a week or two they may be removed
and sent by mail. They should be
wrapped in a piece of cloth and put
into a small tin box. Spiced boxes
and baking powder boxes do very well.
In all cases the label should be firmly
attached to one of the hind legs.

The mice skins are poor, part of which
is due to the hard bodies. Mammal
skins should always be stuffed with loose
cotton. The tail mice should be wrapped
enough to fill out the tail to its natural
size. Care should be taken not to
stretch the skin or tail. Those sent

2

are stretched a good deal.

The legs should be placed close against the sides of the body. These are spread out in such a way as to prevent close packing.

I will send you a few samples which please return promptly.

Please send a few samples of bird skins with your nest, and mark on the labels what you think them with.

Did you use lead or aniline pencil? I never knew alcohol to wash off lead pencil numbers.

Should think you might find two species of halcyon, according to the season.

Does Empidonax minimus ever breed in Texas? Prof. Cooke says you have found it breeding there, but I think he must be mistaken.

The largest mouse sent is Peromyscus (Onychomys) leucogaster. It must be common with you. Can not be sure about the two others (also a Peromyscus) till I see better specimens & study their skulls.

3

The skulls of two of these are broken or cut. Please be very careful not to injure the skulls.

Rats, unlike plants, are not easy to identify from pressed specimens. When you send me a lot of alcoholice, I will try to find you their names.

When you learn to trap small mammals successfully you will have no difficulty in securing all you can possibly skin. Bowl traps, jar traps, mouse traps of several kinds, and small steel traps bring in quantities of material. As a rule, bird's heads and small nuts or acorns are good bait. Poisoning by grain or otherwise is not a good practice because most of the animals which die can not be found. Most small mammals are nocturnal, & hence not often seen, but easily trapped. Small tin box traps (not over 5 or 6 inches long) baited with nut or pork rind are best for shrews.

4

I would like to get some of your black water rats; also every other species of rat and mouse found in Concho County.

I particularly want Black-footed Ferrets. Would like a pair of Badgers, and a pair of each kind of skunk (probably you have 3 skunks). Skunks should be caught in ordinary live traps & killed by fowling hi-sulfide of carbon into the trap. For want of traps they may be drowned. Under no circumstances should they be permitted to smell.

Would like a pair of each kind of cat found in Texas. Also a few Prairie dogs & a pair of each kind of rabbit and squirrel & Sopher. But you had better send sample specimens again before undertaking to prepare many, in order to be sure to make acceptable skins.

Would like to see a pair each of your Armadillo and Coonhound -

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

April 9, 7

Dear Mr. Brewster:

In reply to your very kind letter of the 6th inst. asking me to take part in the sixth meeting of the Royal Society of Canada, to be held in Ottawa the 25th of May next, I beg to say that it will give me much pleasure to comply with your request, and that I shall be most happy to avail myself of your very kind invitation to make my home with you while in Ottawa.

With compliments to Mrs. Brewster

I remain,

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Mr. Geo. Leo. Brewster
Sec. Royal Soc. of Canada.

April 12, 7

Dear Doctor Quackenbush:

The proof sent me several days ago is herewith returned.

I must confess to considerable surprise and disappointment at the liberties which have been taken with my MS. I do not refer to the numerous omissions of portions of the original manuscript, but to the changes and interpolations that have been made, and which literally bristle with blunders. I do not know who

is responsible for all this, but it looks wonderfully like some of Rosseter Johnson's attempts to display knowledge he never possessed.

When you asked me to prepare this article, I supposed your chief object was to secure an accurate and trustworthy handling of the subject; but from the changes, additions, and references made in

the prof. one would infer that the principal object in view was the amusement of the children and the filling of their heads with erroneous information.

These remarks must not be construed to refer to the omission of technical matter to which I fully consented.

Most of your books of reference introduced are wholly unreliable. More misleading works than Liguier's 'Ocean World' and 'Hidden World of Zoology' could hardly be found.

And in all cases I am forced to ask what possible advantage was supposed to follow the substitution for my plain list of mammalian mammals (p. 105) of your present unnatural and inconspicuous arrangement of couples and triplets?

The atrocious blunder made under the name of *Siphon* (bottom of p. 105) affalls me.

If my name is to be connected in any way with this paper I must see another prof.

Very truly yours,

C. West Merriam.

April 12, 7

Dear Doctor Turner:

Your letter and the skull came all right, and I have had a lively time in cleaning up these fossils. The box was so 'loud' when it reached the house that my wife took the top off to see if there was not a dead baby in it!

It is a bad plan to receive skulls with the temporal muscles on & brains in for this reason: it is impossible to tell whether the skulls have been smashed or not. Amongst these, one of the coons and fine of the fossils had the vault of the cranium badly broken.

Enclosed please find my check for \$8.00 which is I believe correct.

I cannot make out what you say about the Kentonians using for skulls

for floor mats. would like a little more light on this interesting + to me novel subject.

We have had a pretty cold and stormy winter for Washington, but it is hot enough & dry enough now. Sunday and yesterday the therm. was 85° in the shade, & it may reach the same height today.

Fisher, who is at my elbow, joins me in kind regards.

My truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Personal.

April 11, 7

Col. Alex. Macbeth.

My dear Sir:

Many thanks for the squirrels. They are the common Gray squirrel. What I want are Red squirrels and Less squirrels, such as you told me about last fall.

Now as to another and more important matter. I have long felt that if called upon for a statement of your time account I should have great difficulty in rendering a statement which would show any reason for your continuance on our rolls. In other words, I have very little to show for the money expended — nothing at all commensurate with the time you have been in our Division.

And now, to my dismay, I am called upon by the investigation committee of which Senator Cockerell is chairman (concerning which you doubtless have seen numerous press notices)

for an explicit detailed statement of the character, quantity, and quality of the work of each employee by months. This is a difficult enough undertaking in any case, but in yours it is imperative. So I must call upon you to help me out by sending me as full an account of your work from July 1, 1886 to Mar. 1, 1887 as you are able to prepare, and as soon as possible.

And I would suggest that in future it would be well to spend a portion of each day in some systematic work connected with some of the numerous branches of our investigations. A complete collection of the small mammals would throw light on the distribution of species. Also positive information concerning the birds which breed with you; and concerning the various blackbirds which affect the rice-fields.

We are encountering more difficulty than I expected in arranging for experiments with live Hawks.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

April 14, 7

Zylor & Rutherford
1226 - F. St. N.W.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find my check for \$60.00 in pay of rent for use of house 1912 Dunderland Place for month ending May 15th prox. This completes the period of my lease and I am preparing to move into a small house for the summer.

If you have no tenant in view, and, rather than allow the house to stand empty, will take a monthly rental of \$20.00 for the summer, I will remain, subject to 30 days notice to leave if you secure a purchaser or tenant. Otherwise I shall vacate the premises promptly May 15th.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam -

April 15, 7

Brimley Brothers.

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of the 9th inst. and
 box of specimens are recd. Your
 identifications are correct.

5 of these skulls are badly injured - two
 cut out behind, apparently in removing
 brains. If you used a syringe to
 wash out the brains you would
 save both time and skulls.

Enclosed please find money order
 for \$5.00 in payt. for these.

Yours truly,

C. Hart Merriam -

April 10, 1

Dear John De Soto
Columbus, N.Y.

Dear Ann!

Your packed and specimens are read.
The skins show considerable improvement
over the last lot, but will bear still more.
But you must be careful not to break
the supraciliary arches of the skulls.

Now do it that you send but one kind
of mouse this time! I want all the
kinds you have except house mice. They
would like more of the kind sent this time,
particularly the skulls with bright cinnamon
red and fulvous sides.

Don't want any more flying squirrels,
and not more than one pair of grayish
skulls must never be sent in any
direction, but always with string all
behind where they belong.

It is a good plan to stick the lips together
loosely - not tight enough to draw down
the tip of the nose.

011

will send you label soon.
Enclosed find draft for \$2.⁷⁵ in payt.
for these -

I shall be glad to receive another
lot from you soon. I want
a large series of good skins of mice
and shrews from your locality -

My best regards
C. Hart Merriam

April 17, 8

Dear Thompson:

I spent four evenings & parts
of several days in working over that
skull matter, but was unable to
arrive at a conclusion. And
the Nat. Museum material did not help.

There is no difficulty in distinguishing
skulls of western Lepus from
those of eastern crinitus (as called).
The differences are numerous and marked.
But your single skull from Manitoba
is so intermediate that I hardly
know what to call it. A skin
in summer pelage is needed to
settle the matter, though this skull
leads me to suspect that the
Manitoba form really is intermediate
- wh I did not believe before, as I
have regarded the two as specifically
distinct.

opened your box several days ago & was glad to find it properly packed. Took the birds to Ridgway.

All of the skins from British Columbia I have returned, and trust you have read them all right. They were so full of hatching moths & grubs that I was afraid to put them near my skins. And the kit box is badly damaged by moths or domestic. You will have to be very careful or you will lose all your collection from this cause, now that warm weather is coming on. I am now going over mine with biculphide of carbon.

To return to the Delhird hills skins: the nestora is the largest I ever saw - he must have been the great granddaddy of the tribe. The Arctomys has the small a tail for flaviventris.

I imagine the flying squirrels were taken at different altitudes. The big-tailed one killed by a cat is of the occidentalis pattern. The dores seems to be perconatus, but I cannot be sure. The spermophilus

empetra is not typical of any of the subspecies, and I would greatly like to get some good specimens ^{with skulls} from the locality from which it came.

Have not yet published my instructions for making mammal skins. A type-written copy is enclosed.

I am perfectly willing to exchange good mammal skins, but the trouble just now is that it is difficult, & in some cases impossible, to find the skull belonging to a particular skin, as fully $\frac{2}{3}$ of my skulls are packed up in boxes preparatory to moving.

Thanks for offer of notes on food of sparrows. We shall be glad to receive all information possible on this subject, but all in no particular hurry.

4.

Glad to know you are going to the coming meeting of the Royal Soc., as I shall then see you. Am very sorry Macdonald will not be there - he has gone to Vancouver.

Will send your labels in a day or two.

They are too small for exhibition specimens (intended for the public to read through glass cases), but are just right for museum cabinet specimens - the study collection.

It is a great and common mistake to use too big labels. Will send you samples of Nat. Mus. labels in use on exhibition series.

Some western college gave Allen the Ph.D. since you left N.Y. I still call him Mr., but put Dr. on the envelope & in print.

In return to labels: I always give measurements on reverse of label, but have room on string end for both skin & skull numbers, i.e. $\frac{2012}{2112}$ & I don't know any such measurement as that of body. Head + body together is what I take.

Allen's letter is returned herewith.

5

Now as to the skins sent: I find 2 foses, 10 rabbits, 4 muskrats, 2 red squirrels & 3 remains of pocket papers. See the lot I make the following cash offer:

2 foses	4.00	} \$14.00 + \$2.00 express chg. pt. = \$16.00 these are <u>low</u> prices for me.
10 rabbits	6.00	
4 muskrats	3.00	
2 sq. + 3 pph.	1.00	

Glad to see that this lot of skins is very much in advance of any previously sent by you, as far as quality of make up goes. Some of them are very heavy, but otherwise they are good skins.

Can you supply bibliographical reference for the article you enclosed from the hor-nut farmer? Place of publication & date will do.

enclosed sample is done correctly.

These use better ink, write more legibly on labels, and make your numerals more distinctly. I have difficulty in reading some of them.

Your large weasel is not much bigger than many in my collection, and is exactly the same size as one you sent me collected in Dec. 1885.

Its tail, however, is about as long as that of longicauda. I would like to get some of these weasels in summer pelage.

Have you been able to get any more light on the squirrel problem?

Enclosed find money order for \$13.25 in part for the present lot.

I have mislaid your last letter.

You may expect to hear from me again before long -

My truly yours

C. Hart Merriam -

Do you know of any better way to catch bobbit sapsucker than in steel traps?

April 20, 7

Mr. Chas. A. Allen

Nicasio, Cal.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the 8th inst. is before me. The specimens came yesterday and are in excellent condition. They were well prepared and well packed, and came safely.

I am glad to get them and enclose \$4.00, the amt. of your bill.

I wish you could send some more of those small minks (Lilbe's mink) that your children found by the school house.

These bobbit sapsucker skins are the best mammal skins you ever made and are good enough for anybody.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

April 26 7

Rev. Dr. B. Henry.

My dear Sir:

Yesterday I wrote you that your box had not arrived. Last night it came. It contains the best-prepared lot of specimens (excepting the mice) that I have recd. from you. But the big skunk is not the kind I wanted. It is the short tailed,

badger-like species, without any black on the back, that I particularly desire.

Did you ever see another red squirrel like the one sent? It looks strange to me.

The skulls of the mice are so broken as to be practically worthless. There is hardly a specimen in the entire lot from which one or both zygomatic arches are not broken. This is too bad, and is wholly unnecessary.

I wonder why you don't send more

kinds of mice? There must be field mice (Arvicola -) & several other species in your neighborhood. Of the 29 skins just recd. all but 3 are Neotoma and these three are house mice (Mus musculus) of which I don't want any more.

But I would like more of the Neotoma and all other kinds if you will send good skulls. You ought to find a very small mouse with a groove running lengthwise of each incisor.

In what sort of a place do you get these mice?

Cannot just now put my hand on your letter in regard to these specimens, but if it contains anything requiring further reply I will write again.

If you get any more Rock Squirrels or jaspers I will take more of each.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

P.S. Enclosed find a money-order for \$32.⁰⁰ in fact for this lot of specimens - C.H.M.

Apr. 26, 7

Dear Chapman:

You have doubtless recd. proof before this - also first batch of your labels.

Enclosed find money order for \$15.⁰⁰ sub squares specimen deal to date.

I am going to strike out Citellus leucurus & insert A. ermineus in its stead, as the more conservative & safer plan for the present.

Will return galley proof as soon as recd -

In great haste,
Yours, as ever
C.H.M.

April 26, 7

Mr. Robert S. Clark,
Amherst, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I am very much obliged for the copy of your "Birds of Amherst" which you have been kind enough to send me. It is well printed and neatly gotten up. But I can't imagine the excuse for so nonsensical a performance as that of getting another man (who is not an ornithologist) to write half a page of preface and stamp his name on the title-page. This is a pity. Still, if you are satisfied, the rest of the world ought to be.

There is little doubt that the "Redbird" of which you speak (p. 49) really was a Cardinal, & not a Tanager at all. Tanagers don't live in cages.

I question the record of Semiothis carulea.

Very truly yours,
A. Wetmore

[Over.]

Washington, D.C.
April 26/77

My dear Doctor:

I am very much obliged for your kind letter, and for the enclosed \$150.00, which I accept for this purpose: first, because I know you would feel badly if I did not; and second because it is a fact that I kind a much more easily leave than I would have taken had I not expected you to live with me; and I could not give up this chance till the expiration of my leave, May 15th prox.

Also excuse everything to do with, and I am very grateful to you for it.

I have not laughed so heartily in six months as I did over your misinterpretation of my description of *stictis* with 14 letters. I did not say "slim-green", but olive-green. The clothes are very handsome and new. Never, of course, I shall not think of giving them away; but shall keep them till you come, - and I hardly need add that we are very glad to know you are coming so soon.

Yours
Sincerely,
Dr. Ralph H. Whittier

Your question asking about a place where a few weeks can be spent with profit ornithologically is hard to answer.

Anticosti, which you suggest, is difficult of access, and both Brewster and I have been there. Still, it is an interesting place to explore.

A much easier and less expensive trip would be to the islands off the coast of the Carolines, or the mountains of the Carolines or Georgia.

R.H.W.

April 28,

Henry Holt & Co.,
New York City.

C. Hart Merriam -

DEAR SIR:

Your check for \$12.25, in payment for five copies Adirondack
Mammals sold during the six months ending December 31, 1886, has
just come to hand, for which I am obliged.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam -

April 28, 7

Mr. Henry Salt
New York City.

My dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 25th inst. I beg to say that I am still accumulating material for my work on the mammals of North America.

During the past two years I have published descriptions of a number of new species, and have prepared several synopses of groups, but have been too busy with official work to do much writing on the book proper.

Some additional drawings have been made, and I hope to be able soon to devote more time to the book.

The greatest hitch is likely to come in getting the drawings. There is but one man in America able to make satisfactory drawings of mammals, and it is very difficult to bring together the specimen and the artist.

Hence it would be advantageous to all concerned, and would save much trouble and many lamentations by why, if we could come to an agreement now in regard to the number of drawings of animals, and number of figures of skulls to be contained in the work. Then I could give the artist a positive order, which I cannot do now as I cannot afford to pay for the drawings myself.

Shall you not be coming to Washington this spring? I would like to show you the material now in hand, and talk the matter over with you.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

May 3, 7

Dear Doctor Shufeldt:

On receipt of your letter of the 26th ult. this morning, I opened a pile of boxes supposed to contain bird's stomachs, and found the one containing the specimens you were kind enough to send, and for which I am very much obliged. If the letter which I found in the box had been sent in an envelope the specimens would have been discovered and acknowledged at once.

Thanks also for a separate in "Veterinary Service" this day recd.

I have been pained, for some time past, by the character of the majority of your multitudinous recent writings. In many of them it is difficult to find a raison d'être.

your effusion on "specific variations in the skeletons of vertebrates" as a typical illustration of the kind of cases I have in mind, and I have just written a brief criticism of it which I shall send to Science.

If, instead of attempting to cover the entire universal with a thin layer of ink, you would concentrate your time and energy upon some of the many real gaps in our knowledge, you would erect a monument to yourself and at the same time secure the admiration of your friends. For I must tell you in all candor that your many friends here, without a single exception so far as I am aware, deplore the course you are now taking.

With best wishes

I remain,

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

SHUFELDT ON "SPECIFIC VARIATIONS".

The last number of Science (vol. IX, no. 221, April 29, 1887, pp. 414-416) contains a paper by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, entitled "Specific variations in the skeletons of vertebrates". In the first place the title "specific variations" is a misnomer, unless Dr. Shufeldt deliberately intended to displace the familiar, long used, and descriptive term 'individual variation'--which exactly expresses the meaning intended-- by a new and confusing term which is not descriptive of this condition, and consequently is objectionable; and in the second place it is hard to see why the article was written at all, since it not only contains no new facts, but does not even present old facts in new clothes.

Dr. Shufeldt speaks of the well-known variations in human skulls, and then says: "It will be my object in the present letter to show that these differences are quite as marked among the species that go to make up the classes below man, as they are among the skeletons of the same species of men".

If, instead of preparing articles of absolutely no scientific value, the Doctor would make himself familiar with the writings of such authors as Hensel, Peters, Flower, Jentink and others, it is reasonable to hope that he would cease flooding the current literature with such effusions as the present, for he would become aware that no fact in osteology is better known or more clearly recognized than that of great individual variation in the bony framework of vertebrates. And if, instead of attempting to ridicule the painstaking accuracy of his fellow-workers, he would supplement some of his own multitudinous papers by a few reliable measurements, or would determine the limits of individual variation in a single species, his time might not be less profitably employed than at present, and he might congratulate himself on having made an actual contribution to his favorite science, osteology.

C. Hart Merriam

May 3, 7

Mrs. Henry Holt,
New York City.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of yesterday is
before me.

The only book at all comparable
to the one I have in preparation
is Cassin's Key to North American Birds.
Of this book, two large editions have
been exhausted, and a third is now
in press. It is published by
Eaton & Charnick, of Boston.

My book will not have so large
a sale as the above because many
more people are interested in the
study of birds than in the study
of mammals. At the same time
there can be no reasonable doubt
that, if properly advertised, the sale
of my book will be large for a
work on natural history.

and thus brings me to your remarks on the sale of my Alaskan Mammals which book has never been properly advertised - i.e., has not been brought to the notice of the class of people who would be likely to purchase books of that kind. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that this work was originally published in the transactions of the Linnean Society, and that the members of that Society recd. copies as soon as published. Furthermore, I gave away more than 100 copies (bound), and gave them, of course, to the persons who would be most likely to want the book.

I expect to pass through New York about the end of this month and shall try to see you at that time.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

May 2^d 7

Mrs. James W. Young
20. Wrangle, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

Our mutual friend, Mr. Henderson, tells me that you have a son who might be willing to help me in procuring a series of the small mammals of Alaska. I want skins and skulls of everything from the size of a lynx down to the smallest shrew or mouse, and of many kinds I would like a number of specimens. To save time I act on the assumption that your son will collect for me, and therefore I take the liberty to enclose a copy of my directions for the preparation of specimens. If he will be kind enough to send me a few skins by mail, as samples of the kind of work he can do, I will

at once give him an order, naming prices, numbers wanted, etc.

Please send me a list of the kinds you can probably secure.

I will send you by this mail a sample skin or two for models. Please return them.

hoping to hear from you by my next mail,

I am,

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Personal.

May 5, 7

Mr. Norman Bailey
Elk River, Minn.

Dear Sir:

By this mail you will receive your commission and accompanying official instructions.

In addition to the \$40. for month which you will receive from the Department, I will pay you \$10. for month personally, so you will receive in all \$50. for month besides all your expenses, which I think you will find profitable as well as agreeable.

I have planned for you a remarkably interesting trip and enjoy you in it. I would give almost anything if I could go myself.

You will find new mammals and new birds constantly after

2

entering Dakota.

Your visit to Swan Lake is based on the assumption that you are personally familiar with the birds reported as breeding there, among which may be mentioned Swainson's Thrush, Franklin's Gull, Striped Gull, Black-billed Gull, Lesser Frigatebird, Red-tailed Tropicbird, Black-billed Tropicbird, Black-billed Gull, Lesser Frigatebird, Red-tailed Tropicbird, Black-billed Gull, Lesser Frigatebird, Red-tailed Tropicbird.

If you do not know these birds when you see them there will be no advantage in stopping at Swan Lake at all, and you may go direct from Round Lake to Dakota. You understand, of course, that the idea is to keep in good fruitful localities as much of the time as possible. I have so worded your instructions as to give you entire liberty to stop off wherever and whenever you find promising places, and to pass over places which prove unfruitful. I have so planned the trip, also, as to take you into the most interesting found regions

3

of Dakota, and at the same time the regions characterized by most diverse physical conditions, as you will see later.

What sort of a collecting gun have you? You will of course take plenty of arsenic and alum, and a good outfit of traps. You can send all the specimens you collect direct to the Dept. from the field. You had better ship a box or having each locality. I will send you a lot of envelopes which you can stick on the boxes, & use for correspondence also. Take pains in packing your skins, particularly the green ones, for you will have to send a good many before they have time to dry.

4

While I want some skins of everything you can get from the smallest ^{mammal} up to a Coyote in size, yet I particularly want things that you have not already sent me from the River. For instance, I don't want more than a single pair of striped gophers from each locality in eastern Dakota. But when you reach the arid regions you will find a small pallid race of the same species. Of this I want a good series. But you will understand all this without further instructions, and I expect to correspond with you frequently.

By this mail I send you a blank book to use as a specimen catalogue. It will suit to keep like index of skins.

A large part of your journey will be made by stage & wagon, & some special trips on horse back and by boat. In all of these, as in everything else, be very particular about getting sub-branches properly signed.

5.

Therefore, you have not kept - or at least have not sent me - much in the way of field notes. On this trip it is essential that you keep full notes on the habits, food, etc. of all species, both of mammals and birds. You need not take the time to prepare skins of birds, except in cases where you are not positive of the species, or where the locality is out of the known range of the species. Of the Horned Larks, you may come across two or more subspecies breeding. If these you had better send a pair of skins of each form encountered.

Since the principal object of this trip is to determine the geographical distribution of species, you had better make a list of all the mammals found at each locality you visit, and of

all the birds found breeding. On these lists mention only such species as there can be no doubt of. If you mention any others at all, do so with a query. Secure all you can of the range of the Murre, Elk, and Black-tailed Deer. Determine with as much precision as possible the boundary line between the eastern and Klein Heaven.

It would be a good idea to save skins of the easternmost Sciurus gramineus confinis, and of the various breeding species you encounter.

Wish you would try to get a few good skins of adult Beavers, on this trip. Get all the Woodchucks (Arctomys) you can in Dakota, and at least 15 or 20 prairie Dogs. Have you any No. 0 steel traps? If not, I'll send you half a dozen.

Have any Gray or Red Squirrels that you may find in Dakota, and a few from Round & Merom Lakes. At these latter localities, and in eastern Dakota, you will find a meadow

mouse different from the one you have at Elk River. It is Arvicola anustus, and has a slightly "peppery" appearance. I want a lot of them. Of course save all the Synaptomys caespitius you find.

In Dakota, get all the information you can in regard to the distribution of the Antelope.

Get all the bats you can everywhere and put them in alcohol. Preserve some of each kind of skewer in alcohol also.

Will send you a lot of tags for skulls. You will find them at Round Lake.

If you conduct this expedition in a manner satisfactory to both of us, it is not likely to be given last.

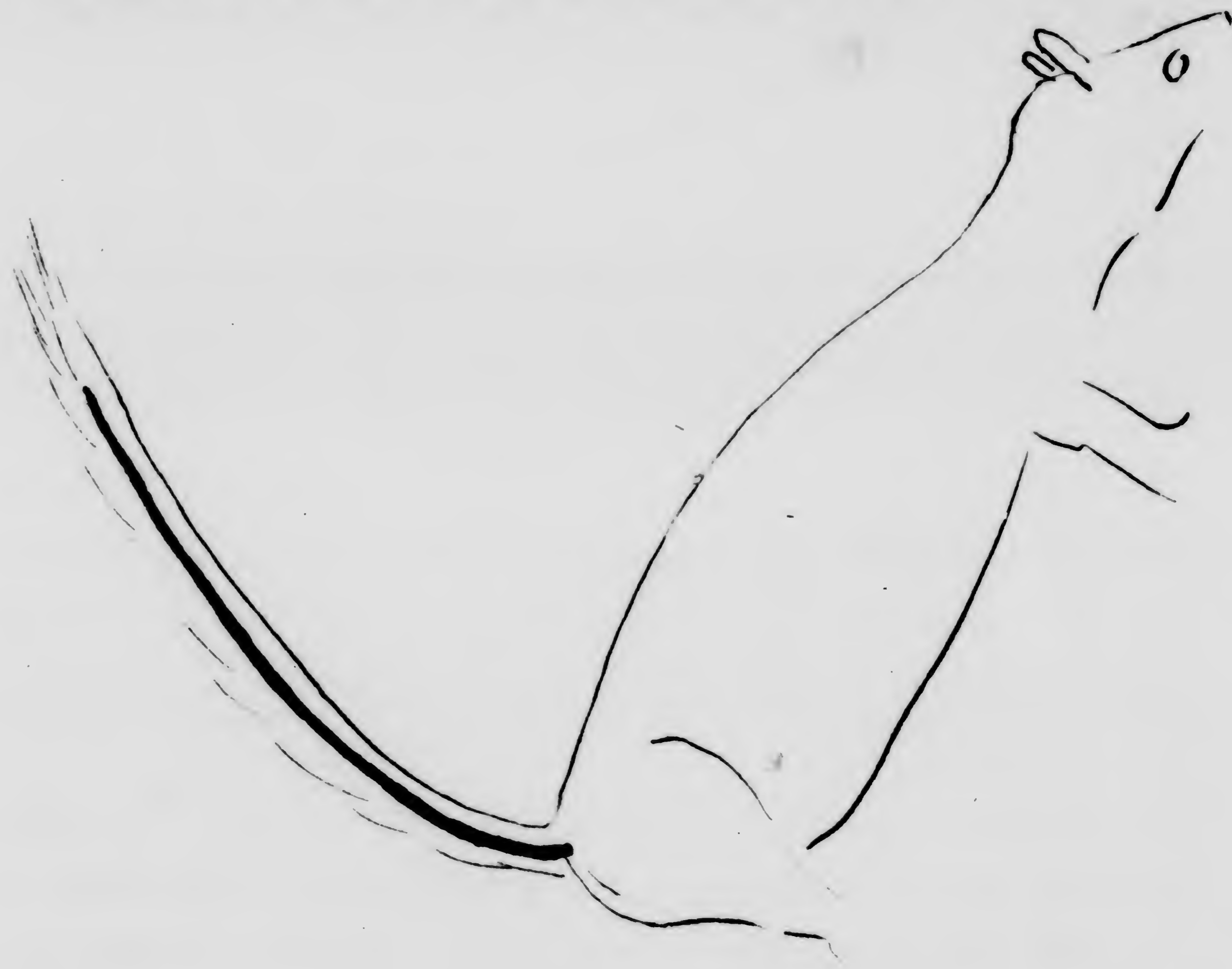
8. 4

will regard to funds: I imagine you may not have enough money in hand to give you a fair start. If true in this case, telegraph me and I will send you some to round take by Registered Mail.

You will draw your salary the first of each month, but must sign duplicate vouchers first. You had better sign the enclosed now & forward them to me so that I can ^{draw and} send you your salary promptly on each pay day.

You had better, also, send in vouchers for your expense account at the end of each month. With these vouchers (find sample enclosed) you must send the accompanying sub-voucher or bill which need not be in duplicate. The large vouchers must always be in duplicate, and must be receipted at the bottom before sent. With each must be sent an affidavit (blank sent to Round Lake) which you must ~~submit~~ ^{submit} ~~before a Notary~~ ^{submit in full about August} ~~submit in full about August~~ ^{submit in full about August}.

How to measure tails.



Always bend the tail back at right angle to the body.

Sent to Mrs. Bailey.
May 8, 1887. - cam.

May 10, 8

Dear Mrs. Allen:

Glad to hear from you again, but sorry you have not yet fully regained your former health and vigor.

While I think of it, please return the A.D.U. minutes I sent you. You can have them again later if you like.

What you say about giving up the chairship of the Ande pains me, because I fear the thing will not be kept up to its present standard in any other hands. In fact, I am unable to see clearly what will become of it. Naturally, if not inevitably, it would go to W. B. or R. R. and the question

at once prices, will either of
them assume the enormous
amount of additional hard work
with the citizenship of the Duke men?
I confess the outlook is not
promising.

Now in regard to getting material
from my collectors: you are
perfectly welcome to the results
of my time & labor in teaching
them how to trap and prepare
small mammals properly, and
may consider yourself at liberty
to correspond with them direct
without reference to me.

J. Stephens, C. A. Allen, and
Walter Masie have completed my
series from their respective
localities for the present; and
shortly I will turn over others
to you.

Give kindest regards to Mrs. Allen,
& best wishes for your speedy recovery.
W. A. Murrill

Dear Mother, I received your letter
of the 10th and was glad to hear
from you.

May 12th

Dear Mother,

Dear Mother:

Your letter of the 10th I received
yesterday and the specimens today.
Could I please find 150 in part for
the same?

If you happen to get any more
of the small shams or short back,
please send them for me.

Very truly yours,
C. West Hession

[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting in the lower half of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

May 14, 1877

Dear Doctor: mechanics:

Proof and map at hand.

Proof herewith returned.

By the way the cuts have not been corrected. That antelope's horn is fearful, and the tumor on the head of the Buffalo's tail ought to be excised.

Am sorry also that these cranes have not been allowed to fly from the backs of the Buffalo, where they have no business.

The compositor of this article must be afflicted with an uncontrollable diarrhea of commas.

The map fairly makes me sick for I see about two days work in correcting it — which means no dismal luncheon for me this month.

Now there are several things I want to know about this map, first of which is: am I at liberty to correct it on this copy? If not, please send me at least two clean copies at once.

Another thing: in a given region (say Liberia, for instance) the names of the various animals are scattered here & there as if each inhabited the place under which the name is written, while as a matter of fact the distribution of all is pretty much the same. In such cases my idea is to print a solid paragraph containing the names of all the mammals characteristic of the region. There are lots of mistakes on this map. ~~are not hurried~~

May 16/87.

Mrs. Wm Lloyd:

Dear Sir:

Your letter reached me several days ago, and the skins arrived this morning. They show great improvement over those previously sent, and I enclose \$1.00 for them.

The skulls, however, are badly injured, as a part of the occipital portion has been cut away in removing the brains. ^{skulls} are easily removed by washing them out with a syringe.

The mammals sent are:
 Mexican Ground Squirrel (Spermophilus mexicanus)
 Wood Rat (Neotoma - near mexicana but not typed)
 White-footed Mouse (Peromyscus Taylori).
 Would like more of all of these particularly the latter, with ~~perfect~~ skulls.

I would like in alcohol, half a dozen specimens of every species of bat you can secure in Texas.

I wish you would get into the habit of observing the food-habits of birds and mammals. It is not impossible that we may be able to ask you to make a special trip at our expense sometime, and in this case one of the principal things to be made would be to record the food-habits of species, particularly in their relation to agriculture, horticulture and forestry. We know almost nothing of the food-habits of Texas birds and mammals.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

May 17, 1887.

Mr. A. S. C. Hodge
Editor of Science.

Dear Sir:

I confess to considerable surprise in learning, from your note of the 14th instant, that Science refuses to publish honest criticisms of articles which appear in its pages, however trashy (as in the present instance) such articles may be. Perhaps Science prefers notice of undiluted praise, fattened after its own reviews of C. C. Abbott's books - books which seem to be largely the product of an uncurbed and superfertile imagination.

In return to the present instance: since Dr. S. has never tread upon my toes, nor I upon his, it is hard to see where the personal element comes

in with much force.

Is not the deliberate slur on Mr. Swasey, contained in this very article of Chas. Felt's, "essentially personal"? And how about the slur made controversy to which so much space was given awhile ago?

It seems to me that a certain class of articles cannot be criticized at all without bringing in some of the personal questions and when a man has a perfect diarrhoea of ink, with which he relentlessly bespatters our current literature, is no one to be permitted to raise a protest!

Very truly
A. Hart Merriam.

May 17, 1887.

Mr. Walter Kossie,
Fregmore, S.C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 12th inst. is before me, together with the skin of Arvicola finctorum, for which I place 35cts. to your credit.

I do not care much for the young otter, but will give you \$1.00 for it if you cannot do better elsewhere.

Should like 20 good specimens of the rice-field mouse (Cryzomys felutris).

Very truly yours,
A. Hart Merriam.

May 19th 7

Dear Doctor Cohen:

I am very sorry to know that you are not yet entirely well, but trust that the warmth of summer and genial climate of ester may prove the needed fence.

I refrained from expressing an opinion concerning the identity of "Lares canceller" with Ataphyes kendrii because I did not feel at all satisfied on that point myself. Unfortunately I have no alcoholic specimen of A. kendrii for comparison, but the skins are very much larger. Hope to secure an alcoholic during the summer.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

May 20, 1887.

Dear Doctor Suckewer:

your enclosed check for \$20.00
recd., for which thanks.

Am trying hard to get the map
corrections finished in time to send
to you by Saturday evg., when I
leave for Ottawa.

Have spent six solid hours a
day on this map ever since it
came, and am by no means done yet.
Really it is a terrible job, and several
times I have been on the point of
throwing the thing up. Many of
the names seem as if they had been
shaken up in a hat and thrown
at the map, & allowed to stick where
they struck. Quite a number are
fully a thousand miles from the
region where the animal occurs,
and a few are in the wrong continent!

I am not particularly surprised at this, for I have feared as much all along. Believe I wrote you more than a year ago that this map ought to be made here under my personal supervision.

The boundaries of several of the primary realms will have to be moved hundreds of miles, and others altered to a lesser degree.

The kind map as so bad that I shall not attempt to do anything with it in its present shape. It must either be omitted altogether, or the map must be corrected for the primary realms and the high names removed, in which case I will supply the names of trees which are characteristic of the several regions.

Very truly yours,
A. S. Peckham

May 21, 1887.

Dear Doctor Quackenbush:

I worked on your faunal map yesterday, and from 7 o'clock last evening to 1:30 this morning; and again from 8 to 11 this forenoon, and then packed and shipped it to you by express. Enclosed find receipt.

I have not had time to go over the ground as thoroughly and satisfactorily as I could wish, but have corrected the most glaring errors.

The directions for altering the boundaries of the faunal realms were enclosed with the map.

You can get the line of the limit of trees in Liberia from the last ed. of Rogers's Liberia Atlas. For

3

North America consult Beckwith's Zoogeographical Map in front of the 3^d report of the U.S. Entomological Commission, 1883. Follow the realm lines, paying no attention to the minor divisions.

The type-written corrections for the names of mammals I will try to send you this evening, before leaving the city for Ottawa.

I expect to return about June 2^d, and will then send you the names for North America, which I cannot possibly attend to today.

These have the corrections made and the map checked up so that I can have it again immediately on my return, as I do not expect to remain in Washington more than 3 or 4 days at that time.

These have the names of insects (bee, silk-worm, etc) removed - they are more than useless here.

3.

These remove the names of domesticated animals (dog, cat, horse, feny, sheep, goat, swan, cattle, swine, mules, etc) wherever they occur. It is impossible to show the distribution of both wild & domesticated mammals on the same map (or at least, on this map), and these names only tend to confuse and interfere with the others.

In most cases the corrections I have made are those of general occurrence only; but in a few cases I have removed an animal from a place where it does occur rarely, and have transferred it to a place where it is common - in other words, have put it in the central region of its habitat instead of the extreme edge.

4.

To goe without saying that the purpose for which a faunal map is intended is the graphic representation of the primary zoogeographical areas, together with the characteristic animals of each. The present map will be a partial success and a partial failure. No amount of labor on my part can make it what it ought to be unless I start with a clean sheet. Still, I have put an enormous amount of hard work upon it and have nearly ruined my eyes in trying to make it respectable.

With two or three exceptions I have not touched the aquatic animals, and must disclaim all responsibility for those part of the map.

The birds I have already written you about
Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

June 1, 7

Dear Doctor Bowditch:

After leaving your delightful home Saturday, Dr. Rice and I journeyed together as far as East Lyden, where my father was awaiting my arrival. I spent Sunday and Monday at home, and Tuesday in New York City. I have just reached Washington and find a copy of your essay on "Local Government in Canada" upon my table - for which please accept thanks. Mrs. Merriam and I will read it with much interest and profit.

This little trip has done me a world of good, and I am very grateful to Mrs. Bowditch and yourself for your kindness and hospitality. Hope you will give us a chance to retaliate when our new house is finished.

With kindest regards to you all,
Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

The Hon.
J. S. Bowditch, M.D.
Ottawa, Ontario.

June 3/77

Mr. Walter Hsieh
Fresno, S. C.

Dear Sir:

On returning to the city
after an absence of ten days I
find your letter of the 22^d ult.
and the young letter awaiting me.

Enclosed find postal note for
\$1.05 in payt. of money due you
for the letter and the line house.

Very truly yours

C. West Merriam.

June 6/77

Dear Doctor Aury:

Very many thanks for your kindness in sending the specimens just need. They are:

Common Mole (Scalops aquaticus)

House Mouse (Mus musculus)

Cotton Rat (Sigmodon hispidus)?

I am not absolutely certain about the cotton rat till I see its skull. It looks more yellow than usual.

Mouse much after true long distances from dwellings. In fact, there seem to be two or three incipient subspecies now in process of differentiation.

The mole unquestionably is a friend to the farmer, so far as its food is concerned, but it sometimes occasions harm indirectly, as you surmise.

Enclosed are the directions I 'saw by' for making mammals skins. Skulls should be taken out & not cut anywhere. Arsenic soap should never be used.

Have sent 30 letters to summer this morning, so these come back.

By the way
C. Hart Merriam

Dr. Wm. C. Avery
Greensboro, Ala.

June 7, 1888.

Rev. Leroy T. Weeks
Grangerville, Idaho.

Dear Sir:

I wonder if you would not like to collect small mammals for me for moderate compensation. I will give you 75cts. each for twenty specimens (skins and skulls) of the spermophile you call "go-down", if properly prepared according to the enclosed instructions. I would like to get also, prepared in the same way, specimens of all the Squirrels, Ground Squirrels, Rats, and mice of your region.

If you are willing to help me
in this way, will you not
kindly send me two or three
sample skins for criticism?
Please wrap the specimens carefully
in cotton and pack in wooden
boxes.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

Personal.

June 8/87.

Julius Kien & Co.

Dr. Sirs:

I have just made arrangements
with Mr. Henry Sarnett whereby he
will furnish you with the
hd. of the map of the Miss. valley
mentioned in the enclosed official
letter, for \$100. So please confer
with him for further details.

Resps.

C. Hart Merriam -

June 10, 7

Dear Doctor Zuercher:

At last, I believe that one of the most unsatisfactory jobs I ever undertook is finished so far as advance work is concerned.

Enclosed is the map of N. Am. with the names of mammals scattered about on the floor of the other map. The red lines indicate the limitations of the faunal Realm.

Please return this map to me with the final map upon which it is to be copied.

Whoever transfers the names to the other map must be very particular to get them in exactly the right places. For instance, the cougar, deer, and timber of the

must not be allowed to overlap the limits of this region, where they must be bunched. It also, in the Rocky and other Mts., and on the great plains, characteristic species must be put where they occur and not a hundred or two miles away, which may be in a kind of region wholly unfitted for the animal.

I have taken great pains with this map and it contains considerable information that has never been published. Still, it is very unsatisfactory to me, and I hope the object will not make it still worse.

Please send the map as soon as possible as I am anxious to get off.

Dear - yours
W. Hart - Morrison

Clementine B. Betchford, widow of
Henry B. Betchford

Have practiced medicine seven years. did not know deceased before about 1875, and then only slightly. Was first called to see him professionally January 11, 1882. Found him suffering from articular rheumatism and cardiac. Called again next day. Was there after it until the 24th, when I found him much worse. Saw him again Jan. 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, Feb. 2 & 3. On Feb. 4th was called three times. Then Feb. 5th & Feb. 22 I was with him day and night. He died at 9.30 A.M. Feb. 22, 1882.

During his illness he suffered from chills at irregular intervals, the chills being followed by enormous rise in the temperature, the thermometer several times reaching 106°F. in the axilla.

Dr. H. Gordon P. Spencer of Waterbury, N.Y., frequently met me at the bedside of deceased in consultation; and the late Dr. Abner Flint Dr. also met us in council once.

The nebular diagnosis more of such a nature as to leave no doubt that deceased had suffered from organic disease of the heart for many years previous to his final illness.

June 12, 1881

Dear Dr. Bean:

I am very much obliged for your kindness in replying at such length to the letter from Dr. Zuehlke, and shall take the liberty to forward your letter to him, as I know he will be greatly delighted to be in possession of the information it contains.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam.

June 10, 7

Dear Doctor Merrill:

I am very much obliged for your letter of May 29, and for the specimens which have reached me in excellent condition. The skins of Peromyscus subvittatus are very pretty.

If not asking too much, may I ask for a couple of skins and skulls of your common Peromyscus (Peromyscus richardsoni) which Capt. Bendire tells me is very abundant about the coast. I have never seen

a specimen from Oregon, and am very anxious to get specimens to compare with those from Dakota.

Very truly yours,
J. A. Hart Merriam.

P.S. The Mus musculus seems to be typical.

June 13, 7

Wimby Bros.
Raleigh, N.C.

Dear Sirs:

Thanks for your letter of the
11th inst. just recd.

In order to facilitate matters I herewith
enumerate the specimens I still want
from you:

10 Harvest mice.

10 Red mice

20 *Alarina cinerea*

10 " *eximius*

10 Line mice.

All others you are at liberty to
send to Dr. Allen -

Very truly yours

C. Hart Merriam -

Washington, D.C.

June 15, 1887.

Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, U.S.A.
 Ft. Wingate, New Mexico.

Sir:

You have now had time to recover from the fit of passion that led you to do so foolish a thing as you did in writing the letter you sent to the Commissioner of Agl. and myself May 9th, and I ask you as a gentleman to apologize for so forgetting yourself as to stigmatize me as a liar because I was bold enough to tell you frankly, and as a friend (for I was fool enough to include myself in that category), how your friends here looked upon many of your recent papers.

Regretting the necessity for asking an apology from you,

I am, &c.
 A. Hart Merriam -

SHUFELDT ON "SPECIFIC VARIATIONS".

A recent paper of Science (Vol. IX, No. 221, April 29, 1887, pp. 411-416) contains a paper by Dr. R.W. Shufeldt, entitled "Specific variations in the skeletons of vertebrates", accompanied by

a set showing two skulls of blackbirds.

The title "specific variations" is a misnomer, unless Dr. Shufeldt deliberately intended to displace the familiar, long used,

and descriptive term 'individual variation', which exactly ex-

presses the meaning intended, by a narrow and confusing term which is not descriptive of the condition, and consequently is objectionable.

Dr. Shufeldt speaks of the well-known variations in human skulls, and then says: "it will be my object in the present letter to show that these differences are quite as marked among the species that go to make up the classes below man, as they are among the skeletons of the same species of men".

Such a person would make himself familiar with the writings of such authors as Hensel, Peters, Flower, Jentink, and others, it is reasonable to hope that he would cease flooding current literature with such worthless effusions as the present, for he would become aware that no fact in osteology is better known or more clearly recognized than that of great individual variation in the bony framework of vertebrates. And if, instead of attempting to outdo the painstaking accuracy of his fellow-workers, he would supplement some of his own multitudinous papers by a few of the reliable measurements he so lustily decries, or would determine the limits of individual variation in a single species, his time might be less profitably employed than at present, and he might congratulate himself on having made a needed contribution to his favorite science.

I am, &c.
A. Hart Merriam

June 18, 7

Mr. R. O. Mitchell

Dear Sir:

I have received from you a common house rat, which is a very good skin except that the tail ought never to be bent up over the body in any mammal, and the udder in it should be much larger. The fore legs should be kept close to the sides of the body, so ~~instead of as~~ ~~if~~.

Otherwise this rat skin is very satisfactory. I do not want but one or two more skins of house rats and mice; but of the wood and cotton rats, and wood and field mice, I would like at least ten (10) skins of each species, and more than that number of some kinds. For these I will pay you 30-35 cts. each. For two squirrels I will pay 75 cts each; and for little striped shrew \$1.00 each. I would like to get specimens

of every kind of wild mammal found
in your region up to a wild cat in size.

Wives can be packed in egg-hoses and
sent by mail ~~free~~ by fastening one of the
enlosed envelopes on the hose. Larger
specimens must be shipped by express.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

June 22, 7

Dear Doctor Johnston:

I have just had a talk with
one of the best physicians here
(Dr. D.W. Brentis, Professor of Materia Medica
& Therapeutics in the Columbian Medical College)
in regard to the use of oxygen.

He tells me that the so-called
"Compound Oxygen" treatment (originating
in India) is pure quackery, and that
the so-called Comp. Oxygen is nitrous
oxide gas!

He says also that
genuine oxygen gas has been experimented
with a good deal in some of the New York
hospitals, in the treatment of
consumption, but has not found
a success.

After giving him the history & symptoms
of mother's case, he gave me the
enlosed prescriptions, which he
feels confident will do her good.

Boil a pint and a half of milk & let it cool. Dissolve 4 tablespoonfuls of Mellin's food in a little warm water and add to the milk. Then add half a pint of lime water. The mixture should be bottled & kept on ice. Of this a tumblerful should be taken every three hours, and no other food.

If this produces any signs of indigestion he suggests Lactoseptin and Bismuth (Bismuth subnit. 3ij; Lic. Lactoseptin ʒss) - a teaspoonful before each glass of milk.

At his suggestion, also, I will get & send you some of Myer's tablets of Aloin, Oxyels, Kellad. & Opae, one of which he thinks ought to be given every night unless the bowels are too loose.

All of the above, of course, is to be given subject to your approval as the symptoms may indicate.

Very truly yours,
E. Hart Merriam

June 23, 7

Mr. John B. Swans
Cynthiana, Ky.

Dear Sir:

Your parcel & package have arrived. In drying skins, please try to keep the fore legs nearer the body, so, I instructed M. In rough-chasing skulls it is not necessary to take off the jaws.

When you send alcoholic specimens, they should not be taken out of the alcohol till ready to ship, and should be packed in a baking-powder box (any kind of tin box will do) so that they will remain moist. These are altogether too dry.

I would like more of both of these mice, particularly the short-tailed. Can you not get me a few Red-squirrels and Chipmunks? Please send me a list of all the mammals found in your neighborhood.

Enclosed find \$2.00 for these.
Very truly yours,
E. Hart Merriam

June 24, 7

Dear Dr. Zuehlke:

Your letter from Seneca Lake did
just reach. I wrote you
yesterday asking why the map
had not been sent me before
this, as I have seen nothing
of it yet, and it is far too
serious a matter to let go.

It is impossible for me to comply
with your request to "figure out" the
balance due me for work on that map
for the simple reason that I do not
expect compensation for one tenth
part of the time & worry I put
upon it. The only reason
I touched it at all was that
I saw it would disgrace my
article and your geography - it
was so grossly inaccurate. And
I worked on it day & night in order
to get it into as good a shape as possible.

aside from the books in my own library, I had to consult others in the library of the Smithsonian Museum, Library of Congress, and Signal Office Library. Besides, the map cost me the loss of two trips (one to Signal camp, the other to a place in New Jersey) which I should otherwise have made.

I cannot visit here all summer for it, and hope to receive it, together with my correction sheets, at the earliest possible moment.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

P.S. By all means write direct to Dr. Bean. His address in U.S. Nat. Museum.

June 28, 7

Vernon Bailey Esq.

My dear Sir:

I was disappointed that you did not stay at dissection long enough to get a series of ~~Hefferump~~ (Oryzomyz) leucogaster + crinitifus ~~farmed~~ & ~~flame~~ true. McChesney says that Oryzomyz lives in the Indian 'checks', pits, and caches.

Your instructions call for particular notes on the food-habits of this species, which is said to feed extensively on grasshoppers.

However, you ought to get plenty of them where you are, as Herrick found it to be common along the shores of Lake Traverse, and about the headwaters of the Minnesota and Red de Sioux rivers. He says, also, that Hefferump michiganensis is the commonest mouse in that region.

2/

You ought to catch a lot of
black leeches in order to determine
the eastern limits of the range
of Thomomys. Mr. Chesney found
it at Leicester.

Look out for the western limit
of Blarina and Lamias atricatus,
and the eastern & southeastern
limit of Lamias quadrivittatus.

Get as good series as you can of
the young in different stages (i.e., at
different ages) of all the small
mammals you find.

One of your labels had the male sign (♂) on
one side, & on the other had statement "nursing!"
Try not to be absent minded.

That Atalapha is a beauty - & very large.
I have killed about 42 of them now.

I cannot send you any bird books.
Cone's key is out of print.

Ridgway has just written a grand
Manual of N. Am. Birds, but it
will not be out before Sept. or
Oct. Your best plan will be
to send us rough skins for

3/

identification whenever you find
birds you don't know. Also send
more bird's stomachs, particularly
those which may be interesting from
an agricultural standpoint.

Get a good lot of Mez. michiganensis
& Onychomys leucogaster if possible.
Also get Woodchucks (Arctomys)
whenever you find them.

If you learn anything about the
distribution of the Elk, by all means
make note of it.

In regard to stopping between Traverse
Lake & Keweenaw. By all means
stop once, & perhaps twice. Perhaps
Mearns or Fargo would be a good region
for the first stop, & Grand Forks
for the second. I do not
want to bind you to stop at any
particular spot, but prefer you to

be free to exercise your own judgment
as to locality. I would suggest that
you go down as much of Red River
as possible in a beat - but that
you will use your own discretion
about, also.

It is singular you do not find
Dynastonyx cooperi anywhere.

Always pick up all the odd skulls
you can, in addition to the skins.

Before reaching Lemhina I suppose
you will find Spermophilus richardsoni.
Try to determine the extreme eastern
limits of its range. It is a
"yellow lefth", fatter than Franklini
& with a much shorter tail.

It would be a good idea for you to
refresh your memory once in a
while by reading over my previous
letters.

Where shall I send your salary?
Wishing you much success, and
an agreeable time -
As, truly, yours
C. Hart Merriam -

June 30, 7

Dear Dr. DuRoi:

Your letter of the 27th inst. is
at hand.

In regard to the Reindeer in Iceland:
You must know that the animal
is not indigenous there, and consequently
it has no more right to a place
among the native animals than
the cat, dog, rat, mouse, goat, sheep,
horse, and cattle, all of which
are found in Iceland, having
been brought there by man.
The Reindeer was taken there
but little more than a century
ago (in 1770) when 13 individuals
were shipped from Norway. Of
these, all but 3 perished. These
three were set at liberty in the
mountains, & from them have
sprung all the Reindeer at present

inhabiting Iceland.

Of course I want to see the map before it is engraved. Otherwise I fail to see the use of seeing it at all. "After the horse is stolen look under" etc. A full size photograph would answer. Be sure to have my corrections and outline map of North America returned to me with the corrected map.

Please have this done as soon as possible.

Very truly yours
J. C. Hart Merriam

July 7th 7.

Dear Bro. H.

There must be something very
 pernicious in the atmosphere of
 the Connecticut valley in the
 latitude of Boston & Middletown.
 At any rate it seems to have
 had a very demoralizing influence
 upon my wife, who was a
 reasonably sensible and truthful
 woman when she went there.
 It lessens my humiliation some-
 what to know that this same
 baneful influence, whatever it
 may be, affects others as well as
 Mrs. M., for Barron tells
 me that no less distinguished
 a personage than the late President
 of Wesleyan was afflicted in a
 similar manner.

It is gratifying to learn, however,

that the permanent residents
became acclimated after a time;
for this gives me cause to
hope that Mrs. M., who, apparently
is fast approaching re-identification,
may eventually return to her former
mental condition - if not to
her husband.

You might say to her in this
connection that since I am
about to leave the city for a month
in the Mts. of East Tennessee
and North Carolina she may safely
return to Washington; and that
it might not be a bad idea to have
someone here to look after the
house.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Jos. H. Sage Esq.
Portland, Conn.

July 7, 7

Dear Doctor Bell:

I have this moment received
your letter enclosing a small
mammal for identification.

The specimen is the so-called
Sulwater jumping mouse (Zapus
hudsonius), which, in spite of
its name, inhabits the greater
part of the North American
continent.

My own cabinet
contains specimens from as
widely separated localities as
Sulwater and Washington Territory,
and Manitoba and Virginia.

The specimen is herewith returned.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

July 7, 7.

Dear Doctor Query:

I am very much obliged for your recent letter, and am delighted to know that you have a little striped blunke for me. Your description leaves no doubt of the species it is Spilargale interrupta. Please send the animal to me by express, charges collect. It will come all right if you paste the enclosed envelope on the box.

Of course I shall be only too glad to reimburse you for all expenditures, and should be very glad to remunerate you for your trouble if you will accept it. I am anxious to secure specimens from your region, and you seem to be the

only person through whom it
can be done.

I note what you say about
the anal opening of *Tritia* skunk.
Order me if I suggest that you
overlooked the small genital or
urogenital opening about an inch
anterior to the anus.

In future, if you get any mammals
or skunks "too far gone" to skin,
I wish you would save the
skulls, of which I want as many
as possible.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

Dr. Wm. L. Avery
Greenboro, Ala.

July 8, 7

Dear Thompson:

Am still so crowded that
I have not been able to attend
to the drawings.

But before I forget it, why
did you allow your publisher
to print May 1886 instead of May
1887 for date of your mammal
list? I corrected this with
special emphasis in the proof
sent me, and still the correction
was not made. Such blunders
are the curse of bibliographers.

No re-drawing:

For the present I will hold
the *Bantus* & *Chimpanzee* for
experiment in reproduction.

I send back the two bears and
the coyote as unsatisfactory.
In the present rush of work

I have been unable to lay my hand on the memorandum of our agreement. Hence if you have a list of the animals, get unpaid for, please send me a copy of it. Following I find:

muskrat	15
fox	12
Buffalo	15
Elk & p.	15
cat	10
Rabbit	8
Set of caribou	5
" " deer	5
" " porcupine	4.50
" " rabbit	4.
<hr/>	
	93.50

Are these prices satisfactory to you? If so, I will try to get you the money at once.

Besides these, I owe you X dollars for the skins. Please let me hear from you at once, as I hope to get off next week - heat here terrific. In great haste.

James
C. M.

July 14, 7

Rev. Dr. B. Henry
Mason, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 5th inst and the two boxes of skins of saphers and mice have reached me in excellent condition. The molar bones (i.e., chuck bones) of two of the mice were broken or cut off. Other mice the skulls were very fair.

I enclose money order for \$8.00 in part for the above.

I shall not need any more saphers, but would like more mice of all kinds except house mice.

Please do not send anything more to Sunderland Place, as I expect to move from there soon.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

I have been unable to lay my hand on the memorandum of our sale. Hence if you have a list of the animals, get unpaid for, please send me a copy of it. Following I find:

- muskrat 15
- fox 12
- Buffalo 15
- Elgin's pl 15
- cat 10
- Rabbit 8
- kit of caribou 5
- " " deer 5
- " " porcupine 4.50
- " " rabbit 4.
- 93.50

Are these prices satisfactory to you? If so, I will try to get you the money at once.

Besides these, I owe you X I believe for the robes. Please let me hear from you at once, as I hope to get off next week - heat here terrific.

Yours as ever
C. M. M.

July 14, 7

Rev. Dr. B. Henry
Mason, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 5th inst and the two boxes of skins of Saphers and mice have reached me in excellent condition. The molar bones (i.e., cheek bones) of two of the mice were broken or cut off. Other mice the skulls were very fair.

I enclose money order for \$8.00 in part for the above.

I shall not need any more Saphers, but would like more mice of all kinds except house mice.

Please do not send anything more to Sunderland Place, as I expect to move from there soon.

Very truly yours,
C. M. M.

July 14, 7

Dear Doctor Williston:

Many thanks for your
synopsis of the N. Am. Syrphidae
 just recd. in a substantial
 binding. Glad to see that
 you are doing such excellent
 work, and that you have been
 able to complete so large a group
 in so satisfactory a manner.

Very truly yours

C. Hart Merriam

S. W. Williston, M.D., Ph.D.
 Amherst, Mass.

July 15, 7

Brimley Bros.

Dear Sirs:

Thanks for the box of mice
which arrived in good order last night.
Enclosed find \$5.⁰⁰ for the same.

Is the ad. & sketch for mother of
the four young sent?

Very truly yours,

E. Hart Merriam -

July 23, 7

Dear Doctor Bell:

Your letter of the 18th inst. has just reached me.

Glad to know that you secured the appropriation necessary for printing the transactions of the Royal Soc.

In accordance with your request I will send Mr. Whitman by this mail a few papers, consisting of a brief report as delegate, and of my paper on the migration of birds.

The substance of my other papers will appear in my reports here.

This evening I start for a backhanded trip through the Mts. of East Tennessee & North Carolina, to be gone three or four weeks.

Very truly yours,
C. Davis

July 20, 7

Mr. J. F. Whittemore, F.R.S.C.
 Sec. Survey.
 Ottawa, Canada.

My dear Sir:

A letter just recd. from
 Dr. Bell requests me to send to
 you the MS. of the papers read
 by me at the late meeting of the
 Royal Soc. of Canada.

Since you must have already
 more papers than you know what
 to do with, I will not inflict
 you with more than a very few
 pages, which you will find enclosed.

If you send proofs, please address
 me at the Dept. of Agl. If I am
 out of town it will be forwarded
 without delay.

Very truly yours,
 C. Hart Merriam.

Aug. 26, 8

The Hon.

Joseph R. Hawley
U. S. Senate.

Dear Sir:

Excuse my liberty in addressing you on a subject of no interest to either of us save in its relation to the memory of Professor Baird, and to the future of zoological research in America - I refer to the U.S. Fish Commission.

Mr. Ferguson is here, 'straining heaven and earth' - as the saying goes - to bring about his own appointment. (It is stated that the vacancy will be filled on or before the 27th inst.)

I assume that you are sufficiently familiar with the Commission to know how utterly unfit for the position Mr. Ferguson is, even if there were no legal question as to his eligibility.

The members of the Commission, without a single exception so far as I have been able to ascertain, feel that his appointment would result in the downfall of the Commission. On the other hand, they feel that the appointment of S. Brown Loode, acting director U.S. Nat. Museum, would save the Commission and insure continuance of its usefulness. There is no legal obstacle in the way of the appointment of Mr. Loode, and his familiarity with the policy and work of the Commission from its very inception, together with his voluminous publications on the subject of our fisheries, and his recognized executive ability, preeminently point to him as the one man fit for the place.

Respectfully,
C. Hart Merriam.

Aug. 27, 8

Mr. John B. Lewis
Erlanger, Kentucky.

Dear Sir:

At last I have returned and have unpacked the box of specimens sent me Aug. 2^d. Enclosed find \$4.⁰⁰ in payt. for same. The skins show improvement over those previously sent, but still are not up to the mark.

I do not want any more males. Ground Sigs & Muskrats should be sent by Express, charges collect. Note the enclosed envelope on the box.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

General

Aug. 27, 7

Dear Nathans:

Do not give up the ship.
The Treasury man is better than
Argueson, and his appointment will
stand off the final action till Congress
meets, when I still hope to
see the place offered to Seade.

Doubtless Blackford's action had
something to do with Argueson's defeat
though I have every reason to believe
the President offered to & from his
own knowledge of the man.

I do not regard B. as so formidable
a candidate as do some persons here,
and believe Seade can easily have it
finally if he will take it. Seade does
not know how we have been pushing
him during the past few days.

With kind regards to you all,

Very truly yours
C. West Merriam.

Aug. 29, 7.

Dear doctor Avery:

When I tell you that I have been away for a month I think you will pardon my seeming negligence in writing so long before thanking you for the specimens you were kind enough to send early in the month.

The mouse is the common house mouse (Mus musculus); and the specimen marked 'weasel' is a Mink (Lutrine vison).

The little striped skunk is Lepus ~~interupta~~ as I had supposed. It seems to differ from the Texas form in some respects, and I wish I could get two or three more specimens in order to determine whether or not the characters are constant.

I have been on a buckboard drive through the Mt. of East Tenn. & western

Northern Carolina. Secured a few good things, the best of which is a red-backed wood mouse (Peromyscus) from Roan Mt. It is a northern species.

Would have accomplished much more but for the rain, which fell in torrents nearly every day.

I am very much indebted to you for your kindness and the trouble you have taken in my behalf, and if you will let me know my pecuniary indebtedness I will remit by return mail.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Dr. Wm. C. Avery
Savannah, Ga.

Aug. 29, 7.

Mr. Arthur D. Wayne
Charleston, S.C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 25th inst. and the two mice are before me. The mice are the common red mouse of the Southern State (Peromyscus aeneus).

The specimens are worthless to me as the skins are made up wrong, have the skulls and tail-bone left in. Hence, I return them by this mail.

I have no use for bird skins.

Respectfully
C. Hart Merriam

Aug. 29, 7

Dear Doctor Merrill:

Very many thanks for your kindness in sending the Thermophiles. They are just what I wanted and are excellent specimens.

I am obliged also for the address of Mr. Barber, to whom I have written by this mail.

Sorry you must give up so interesting a locality as Klamath for so undesirable a place as Gray, & hope you will be able to get back in the west again soon.

I suppose this change will enable you to be present at the A.O.U. meeting in Oct.

Again thanking you for your kindness, I remain,

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Aug. 29, 7

Norman Bailey Esq.
Ketchikan, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 23^d inst and the box from Denil's Lake came this morning, for which I am obliged.

The bird's stomachs are too much crowded. I have begun to sort. You must put more alcohol with them. Will unpack the other specimens tonight. Those from Lemhina were a very fine lot.

Was glad to get the rough cut skeleton of Thomomys from St. Vincent. Would be pleased if you would send me in like manner a similarly prepared skeleton of each species you meet with in sufficient numbers. For skeletons always select old adults.

Had you have at least struck Denice 4 vittatus.

The birds sent are Tringoides macularius young; Melospiza melodia, Passerculus gramineus confinis, and Otocoris arvicola. What shall we do with them?

A letter I wrote you at Round Lake, Minn., has been returned thro' the Swedish office.

I thought you were going to send us the young dit birds from Devil's Lake for positive identification.

The frog is Rana paloscina.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

August 29 7

Prof. Zechs Sullberg
Professor of Zoology
Uppsala, Sweden.

Dear Sir:

I hope you will pardon my long delay in acknowledging your kind letter. I have been away on a long collecting trip in the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina. On my return I find the box of specimens awaiting me, and all in excellent condition.

I now have on hand for you in spirit the following:

Arvicola ♂ & several	
Neotoma ♂ & ♀	"
Zapus ♂ & ♀	"
Scalops	2
Scaphiopus	2
Condylura	2
Blarina	several
Tamias	"

Spermophilus 13-lineatus ♂+♀
Neotoma 1.
Geomys ♂+♀
Thomomys ♂+♀
Atalapha cinerea (and other bats if you desire).

In a short time I shall have, also in spirit, *Cynomys* and *Dipodomys* and a few others. If you wish other genera, please let me know.

I should not object to seal's skulls with only a few teeth gone. Would like very much to get skulls of *Arvicola agrestis*, *rutulus*, and *rufocanus*, as well as more of the *Mustelidae*.

If Dr. Dykes is with you, please give him my kind regards.

Very truly yours,
 C. Hart Merriam.

Sept. 16, 1887.

Mr. J. S. Diller
 Red Bluff, Cal.
 Dear Sir:

Finding your house unoccupied and disliking above all things to see a house standing empty at this time of year, I managed to get the keys away from Barrame and forthwith began to fill my plunder upon your floor. Last evening at seven o'clock the last load was deposited on the sidewalk and my wife is now busy (or ought to be) in trying to clear a few paths among the innumerable boxes and bundles that blocked the way when I left the house this morning.

Trusting you will not turn us out before the middle of November, when our new house ought to be finished,

I remain, very truly yours,
 C. Hart Merriam

P.S. Let \$20. per month
 satisfactory to the Diller family!

Sept. 26/87.

Mr. John B. Lewis

Dear Sir:

Your postal card and bats recd.
I don't want any more Red Bats,
but would like more of the small
brown bat. Also if another
species with larger ears than any
you have sent.

I would like more skins of mice
and ground squirrels provided the
skins are good.

Will credit you 50cts. on a/c for these bats.

Very truly

C. Hart Merriam -

Sept. 26, 1887.

Dear Mr. Merriam:

Your kind letter reached me about two weeks ago, having been forwarded from my former home at Secaucus Brook, New York. I am now living in Washington, which is my permanent home. The box of skulls and skins has now arrived, and I assure you I am very thankful for its valuable contents.

I told Mr. Ridgway what you said about exchange. He says he will be very glad to exchange with you for the U.S. National Museum. He says he wants everything he can get from Central and South America, and also from Asia.

If you will kindly write him, stating what birds you want in exchange, he will reply promptly.

His address is Robert Ridgway,
 Curator of Birds,
 U.S. National Museum,
 Washington, D.C.

Are you never coming to America
to see us?

Please remember me kindly to both
Prof. Dr. Willh. Blesius & Dr. Rudolf Blesius when
you see them.

Very truly yours
C. Hart American.

*Adolph Reichenow
auf Kehlberg
bei Braunschweig*

Sept. 29, 1887.

Dear Mr. Blesius.

My dear Sir:

You do not like to come when I
am away from the city. In my opinion
it is better to write to you off to
the country and in the evening you
will read it and be glad to receive it
at night. It is a pleasure for me to
hear from you and I am sure you will
be glad to hear from me. I am very glad
to hear from you and I am sure you will
be glad to hear from me. I am very glad
to hear from you and I am sure you will
be glad to hear from me.

Your diary in regard to the history
of the birds seen from the city is
very interesting. I am sure you will
be glad to hear from me. I am very glad
to hear from you and I am sure you will
be glad to hear from me.

are you never coming to America
to see us?

Please remember me kindly to both
Prof. W. H. Allen & Dr. Rudolf Allen when
you see them.

Very truly yours
A. West American

With kindest
of remembrance
to your family.

Sept. 29, 1887

Mr. Wm. Lloyd.

My dear Sir:

Your last letter came when I
was away from the city. On my return
I had to move - collection, household effects,
and everything - and in the moving your
letter was misplaced and has just come to
light. Hence please pardon the delay.
The young "ground squirrel" you sent is Peromyscus
philippus philippus, and I should be very glad
of some adults, as well as of any other
mammals from Lucie's country. The three
mice, oddly enough, are the common house
mouse (mus musculus). Glad to know
that you have some hats for me.

Your discovery in regard to the distance
certain birds swim from water is most
interesting. With your permission I
shall send a note of it to the Auk.

During the past week I have been comparing
your article on the birds of the sea with
Couch's countries with the matter credited

Oct. 3, 77

Dear Mrs. Allen:

Your letter of the 30th ult.
is before me.

Mrs. Allen joins me in
regretful -
yourself
to visit you
is only tea ^{pg 2} except were it
not impracticable. Mrs. Allen and
very kind invitation
N.Y., which we would
Mrs. Allen remains
here during my absence, and it is not
likely that I shall be able to stop over
night in N.Y., though I shall certainly
call on Mrs. Allen & "stay to tea" - or
some other meal.

In regard to the editorship
of the Auld: I do not think
the plan you suggest would be the
best possible course for the
Union, everything considered.
To me it seems of the utmost

2/

importance that at least one of the editors should be a man of international reputation as an ornithologist.

I have given the matter a good deal of thought and have arrived at the opinion that no one man (of sufficient attainments) will be willing to assume so much extra labor as the editorship of the *Auk* entails. If two or more persons join in the undertaking, they must of course live in the same place. With these points in view I suggest the following plan: that the Council appoint a committee of five to edit the *Auk* for the coming year, this committee to consist of Cooper, Ridgway, Stejneger, Henshaw, and Merriam. This committee will elect an editor in chief, and a secretary. The members of the com. will be workers (not mere ornaments, as in the case of the present Associate Editor). The ed. in chief will allot matters to each of his associates, who will perform faithfully the tasks assigned. I have talked

3/

over this scheme with Ridgway and Stejneger, and they agree to take hold and work if the Council see fit to so name the committee. None yet can come or Henshaw in regard to it, but doubt not that they will join in all right.

Think it over & let me know your views.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam.

3) \$2.00 for square feet, and there is no reasonable doubt that it will readily sell for \$2.50 or more within a year. Therefore I don't want to be forced to sell it now for whatever it might bring, before the people of means have returned for the winter. It is a particularly good lot (22 1/2 x 70) on the best street in Washington and it would be a great pity to sacrifice it. Hence I write to ask you to return or cancel the deed of trust I sent you, and let me see it here to send the balance needed to make the final parts. or the house. As seen as I sell the lot

12) I will cancel the deed of trust here and then give you 100 City or deed of trust for the whole amt. The only feasible rule per se would be in the event of my death having the rest via insurance, and even then I honestly think there would be no rule at all for the house when finished would easily sell for \$15-16K. \$15K is the lowest estimate anyone has put on it, and would cover both debts and leave \$5K in hand, there is the lot adjoining, my equity in which amounts to between 2-3K. In addition all taxes, there is too lot enclosure & I own together! I then designate the lot, which

Enclosed you will find my personal note for \$10000 to temporarily take the place of the deed of trust.

There is another matter that will interest you, but concerning which I am not now at liberty to speak. During the coming year I am likely to be offered a position paying much more than I now receive - a position of great distinction which I think you will be proud to see me hold. Please do not mention this to anyone till I am at liberty to write you fully in regard to it. With love to all -
 Oscar S. Hunt.

Enclosed you will find my ^{6.}
personal note for \$10000 to
temporarily take the place
of the deed of trust.

There is another matter
that will interest you, but
concerning which I am
not now at liberty to
speak. During the coming
year I am likely to be
offered a position paying much
more than I now receive
— a position of great distinction
which I think you will
be proud to see me hold.

Please do not mention this
to anyone till I am at
liberty to write you fully
in regard to it.

With love to all -
Aunt Sarah

00. - another I am together
I am sympathetic to what which

find facts in the time
as seen as I call the rest

Washington, D.C.

Oct. 16, 1887.

Messrs. C. S. & H. W. Krimby
Raleigh, N.C.

Dear Sirs:

I have just returned from
the A.O.U. meeting in Boston
& find your reminder of the
9th inst. on my desk.

Your previous letter and the
specimens came just as I
was in the act of moving from
one part of the city to another.
I put them away without opening,
& forgot all about them until
today, when your second letter
stimulated me to find them.

Hence please pardon my delay in
writing. Enclosed find \$2.00 in pay
for them.

I shall be glad to get more specimens -

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

find parts in the house
as seen as I call the rest
I am dependent on list; which
I am dependent on list; which

October 18, 7

Mr. Vernon Bailey:

Two letters and a telegram from you have reached me all in a bunch. Glad to know that you are on your way to Ashmole, Dakota, where I trust this letter will find you in a few days.

Was much pleased to learn that you have secured a pair of porcupine and a series of Siphonura and Cricetidae. Suppose I shall receive a box in a few days, as no specimens have reached us from you since you arrived at Kuford. Am anxious to see the "yellow Arvicola", among other things.

Beaver eyes do not hibernates much - probably they remain inactive during severe cold & come out whenever the temperature moderates. This is the case with many mammals. I don't know anything about the habits of Siphonura.

I do not believe Prairie Dog dig down to water.

In the Black Hills look out for Dusky Squirrel and other Rocky Mts. birds. Send us a pair of skins of each of the resident species you find there.

In the mammal line there is much to find, but I fear it is so late that several species have "dormed up" for the winter. I particularly want

Ground Squirrel, and the little chipmunk or coney (*Tamias princeps*) found in single high up on the mts. Of course the snow will be

a great help to you in trapping species which do not hibernate.

These winter after, as I want to be in frequent communication with you from that time on. Always notify me in advance of change in your address.

Very truly yours,
A. S. Merriam

P.S. write us when & where to send money.

Oct. 20, 77

My dear Doctor Huxley:

Nothing but a constant pressure of overwork has kept me from replying to your very welcome letter of Sept. 7th, from New London.

I congratulate you on your good fortune in hitting in winter Dr. Brewer and in making Black Mt. your joint headquarters for the summer.

From your catalogue of the numerous and diverse kinds of occupation, both in the way of business & pleasure, that have received your attention during the season, it is evident that you have enjoyed and profited by every moment of the time. What

became of your typhoid patient? Did he recover or die?

How about opening an office in New York? Have you decided to do this?

It seems to me that such a course would be infinitely preferable to remaining in New Haven. But if you do go to N. Y. of course you will get something to do in connection with some hospital or laboratory so that you will have plenty of work on hand all the time.

We moved from Sunderland Place to a little bit of a house (only 4 ft. wide!) on 16th St. nearly the place where we are building, left 16th. Elizabeth has had a touch of malaria, but is better now. Within a month we expect to move into our new house, which I think will prove very comfortable. At any rate, I believe it to be well built and thoroughly 'plumbed' and heated. You must come to see us when we get settled.

I expect to go home for the balance of my books and specimens, but don't know just when.

As ever yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Boswell

Oct. 20, 7

My dear Grinnell:

I do not know who wrote the exceedingly inaccurate and unfair notice of my preliminary report which appeared in the Oct. no. of the Audubon Magazine, but I am very sorry it was printed, as a reply is imperative, and it is a pity that those of us who are working for the same end and should 'pull together', should seem to be quarreling.

Was sorry not to see you at the recent Boston meeting of the A.S.U. Are you not coming on here this winter?

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

Dr. Geo. Sill Grinnell
New York

ECONOMIC ORNITHOLOGY.

A REPLY.

Editor Audubon Magazine.

Sir:

The October number of the Audubon Magazine (page 211) contains a notice of the "preliminary report on economic ornithology" recently published in the annual report of the Department of Agriculture for 1886.

In reading this notice I was surprised to see several incorrect statements of fact, and was astonished to find myself accused of expressing opinions that I have never held.

In regard to the English Sparrow, the report in question contains the following: "In advance of the publication of the special bulletin on the English Sparrow question, which will contain in detail the evidence on which the following statements are based, it is thought desirable at the present time to set forth some of the results of the investigation for the information of the general public", etc. In view of the above, I beg to ask for the facts which led my critic to say: "it occurs to us that the investigation does not appear to have been conducted in the same scientifically impartial spirit that resulted in the acquisition of the hawks and

owls". Inasmuch as the report on the English Sparrow has not yet been published, I would like to ask what my critic knows about the facts upon which the conclusions have been based, or the spirit in which the investigation has been conducted; also, what led him to assert that the replies received to our circular on the Sparrow are "all condemnatory"

After disposing of the Sparrow, the reviewer states: "On the same grounds we are disposed to take exception to the sweeping conclusion that all birds subsisting on grain are inimical to man, those only being beneficial which prey on mice and insects". I respectfully challenge the editor of the Audubon Magazine to show that I have ever expressed, either in print or in conversation, any opinion which can be construed into the views here attributed to me. I beg to protest against this sort of wholesale misrepresentation, which is due, of course, to carelessness on the part of the reviewer, who could not have read the report he has seen fit to criticise.

In conclusion, may I ask if the editor of the Audubon Magazine considers it entirely fair to lead his readers to regard as an enemy to the good cause he upholds, the very man to whose efforts is largely due the formation of the BIRD PROTECTION COMMITTEE of

[The following text is heavily obscured by ink smudges and is largely illegible. It appears to be a signature or a reference to a specific document or organization.]

Oct. 22/87.

My dear Thompson:

Absence from the city and unusual pressure of work, even for me, are the reasons you have not heard from me before.

Enclosed you will find vouchers for \$38.50, which please receipt and return. This settles the items mentioned in my July letter I believe.

I have secured a requisition for 6 more mammals and two banks, all to be done in live work, cost not to exceed \$12 each. The banks

are for an 8th bulletin. An adult Red-tail and Sparrow bank would be about what I want now. Do you want the job?

Hastily yours
C. Hart Merriam

to enclose: Thompson copy
to Thompson
to Thompson

P.S. Did you never find
gen. ambrosius in Manitoba?

Oct. 22, 7

Dear Doctor Quackenbush:

On returning to Washington I find your letter of the 10th inst. awaiting attention.

The Geography I found here on my return from the St. Anselm Mts. sometime ago. Was disgusted to find that, in spite of all my protests, the map had been published without giving me a chance to see if the corrections had been made. As a matter of fact many were not made, particularly in So. America.

Then that disgraceful bird map was left in the corner after I wrote you that it was too faulty even to admit of correction. I told you I would fill it in properly if you would send it in blanks. But neither this nor the much promised photograph of the map were sent me.

no map published
to the honor of
St. Anselm Mts.

his
map

Grumbling now is useless, but in view of the number of hours I spent over the map nights, without compensation, and when over crowded and nearly worn out with other work, it does seem to me that I have been treated very ably.

Very truly yours,
J. W. Merriam

Oct. 24/88.

Mr. Wm. Bailey
Madison, Dakota.

My dear Sir:

This is merely a line to notify you of the receipt of your several communications and the boxes of specimens, all of which came in fairly good condition. But in future never put anything heavy in the same box with skins.

The mouse you described as a "yellow arvicola" is particularly interesting, though I fail to find anything yellow about it. At first I took it to be a lynx, but the teeth are more like those of arvicola proper. I saw it had time to examine it critically, but will do so in a few days and let you know the result.

In great haste
J. W. Merriam

Grumbling now is useless, but in view of the number of hours I spent over the map nights, without compensation, and when over crowded and nearly worn out with other work, it does seem to me that I have been treated very ably.

Very truly yours,
J. W. Merriam

Oct. 24/88.

Mr. Norman Bailey
Madison, Dakota.

My dear Sir:

This is merely a line to notify you of the receipt of your several communications and the boxes of specimens, all of which came in fairly good condition. But in future never put anything heavy in the same box with skins.

The mouse you described as a "yellow arvicola" is particularly interesting, though I fail to find anything yellow about it. At first I took it to be a dynastomy, but the teeth are more like those of arvicola proper. Some net, it had time to examine it critically, but will do so in a few days and let you know the result.

In great haste

J. W. Merriam

Oct. 26, 1877.

Mr. A. B. Baker
Banner, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 21st inst. is before me. Your skunk is spilogale intermedia. I have taken it in Idaho (personally), and have skins & skulls from California, Texas, and Georgia. Have not seen it from Kansas & hence would like to get your specimen. Will give you \$2.00 for it, though I usually pay but 1.25 for the species. It is abundant throughout the southwest, and in Florida.

Glad to know that you have two more S. nigripes for me.

Would like two more pairs of Cynomys. Can you not get me some Neotomas?

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Oct. 26, 1887.

Mr. James M. Macdonald
 Leed. Lunny, Ottawa, Canada.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the 18th inst., together
 with your Mr. notes on the breeding habits
 of certain mammals at Hudson's Bay,
 has arrived in good order.

These notes are of much value, and
 I am greatly indebted for your kindness
 copying them for me.

What is the species called "Weenirk"?
 Never mind about skins of the larger
 mammals. I knew nothing about the
 H. B. Co's. claim when I wrote, and could
 not think of paying their prices.

Please give my compliments to
 your father, and say that I shall be
 much pleased to hear from him when
 he has time to write.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Oct. 26, 7

Henry Holt & Co.

Dear Sir:

Your check for \$17.¹⁵ in payt. for
7 copies Adv. Mammals has just come
to hand, for which I am very
much obliged -

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam -

Washington, D.C.

Oct. 30, 1887.

Mr. Lucien M. Turner.

Dear Sir:

If you can conveniently return the \$10.00 borrowed from me some time ago it will be a great favor.

As you know, I am just finishing a house - which has cost me so much money that I am heavily in debt, and for me no escape together all the debtors I have out to avoid being swamped.

Hoping you find your new position agreeable I remain, with best wishes,
Very truly yours
C. West Harrison

Nov. 3, 1887.

Mr. A. W. Anthony
Ensenada, Mexico.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the 16th ultimo is before me, together with the skins, for all of which I am very much obliged. Glad to hear from you again. Had after wondered what had become of you. The field you have been in recently is even more interesting than former California — because less known.

The chipmunk appears to be nearer Tamias dorsalis than any known form. The squirrel approaches Sciurus fremonti but is not typical by any means. The species you describe I am unwilling to guess at, but will venture the opinion that one or more of them are new.

I hope you will be able to revisit the San Pedro Mt., as it promises to

be an unusually fruitful field.

The truth is that everything from Mexico is interesting, and we know very little about the species found there.

Mr. Eschscholtz, of London, is going to the Mt. of Northern Mexico about Dec. 15 to spend the winter collecting birds & mammals. Doubtless he will get ahead of us in publishing many new things.

Hoping to hear from you again,

I am, my truly yours,
C. West Merriam.

Nov. 5, 1887.

Mr. Ira B. Mery,
Mason, Texas.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 20th ult. I beg to say that I would like to have a few more mammals from your region, particularly Rock Squirrels, white-backed skunk, and several kinds of mice. The skunk I refer to has a solid white back (no stripes) and a comparatively short tail. Have recd. just one of them from you. I would like also find of the little striped skunk.

Very truly yours,

C. West Merriam -

P.S. Of course I always want mammals and birds fresh & fresh.

Nov. 9, 1887.

Dear Doctor Suckewald:

The letter forwarded from your draughtsman came duly. In regard to the corrections, most of them need make except those in South America, particularly in Brazil, as I wrote you Oct. 22nd.

In your letter of Oct. 26th ult. you say: "In regard to the bird map, I do not remember the objection you state - all I remember is, there were no corrections to be made on it?"

Perhaps it will refresh your memory to refer to my letter of May 20th last, in which I said:

"The bird map is so bad that I shall not attempt to do anything with it in its present shape. It must either be omitted altogether, or the map must be corrected for the primary realms and the bird names removed, in which case

I will supply the names of those which
are characteristic of the several regions.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Wilmington, D.C.
Nov. 10, 1887.

Dear Mrs. Harper:

Someone has sent me a paper
containing a notice of Mr. Harper's
death.

While unable to say a word
that will be of any comfort
to you in this terrible hour,
yet I cannot help writing
a few lines just for my own relief.

It has always seemed to me very
unjust that Mr. Harper must be
known to the world by his
minor writings only, instead
of his magnificent contributions
to natural history, in which
science he really stood preeminent
in this country, and it is so
unintentionally cruel that a man of
his wide and exact learning, his
unusual capacity, his philosophical
mind and brave heart should
be forgotten by a vital science
which he knew must drag him
to an untimely grave.

Personally, I feel his loss keenly,
although I have not seen him
for several years. He was
one of two men (along with
the other) whom I shall always
remember with deep affection
and gratitude for the wonderful
kind interest they took in me
when a mere boy, and whom
I shall always think of with
a respect not removable from
reverence for the very unusual
way in which the real qualities
of virtue, kindness, and generosity
were able to so securely attain
and diligent industry.

With heartfelt sympathy
I am, your friend,
C. Hart Merriam

November 12, 1887.

Montague Chamberlain, Esq.
St. John, New Brunswick.

Dear Sir:

I am glad to learn from your recent letter that you are trying to secure a position as Ornithologist on the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, and hope you will succeed.

The Survey has done a vast amount of splendid work in Botany under the efficient management of its indefatigable Botanist, Prof. John Macoun, whose writings are prized wherever the English language is understood. Why should it not do equally good work in Ornithology? Surely the economic importance of the subject would justify many times the necessary expenditure. Moreover, since the Survey has collected already many hundreds of birds, in addition to those mounted and on exhibition in its Museum, it is a pity that no person is employed whose special function is to properly care for and increase the collection. Through the courtesy of officers of the Survey, it has been my privilege to examine many of the rare birds now crowded together in drawers in the Museum, and I can testify from personal observation, not only that many of the specimens are

254
Chamberlain

of great value, but that numerous others are of importance from the geographical position of the places from which they came. In this direction the Museum contains a large amount of material which should be published for the benefit of ornithologists at large, as well as for the credit of the Survey,--for it cannot be long before many of its interesting discoveries will be made by others, who will lose no time in publishing the same.

So far as your own fitness for the position is concerned, I can only say that, should occasion require, I shall be most happy to testify both to your earnest enthusiasm as a worker, and to the recognized merit of your ornithological writings.

Trusting that the Canadian Government will see fit to make you its official ornithologist, I am,

Very truly yours,

E. M. S. Merriam

Chief of the Division of
Ornithology and Mammalogy.

Nov. 17, 1887.

My dear Mr. Dall:

Yes, I will give you something in regard to Prof. Baird's contributions to mammalogy in time for the memorial meeting, provided it is not to be held within a week.

Am delayed in work just now, but will put off some things and attend to the S.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Dr. Wm H. Dall
U. S. Geol. Survey

Nov. 16, 1887.

Dear Mr. Allen

In response to yours of the 13th inst., will have the minutes copied and sent you - as soon as possible. I should not think of writing an account of the meeting.

From your letter I draw the inference that the final outcome of incorporating in N. Y. is precisely the same as was the case in Washington, and open to the same objections.

Shortly, I shall send you a complete list of all the members for publication in connection with the By Laws & Rules which you now have.

We have not yet got into our new house - because the carpenters have not got out. We hope to move in about the middle of next week. Then I shall go home (to District Grove) for a week and shall see you en route. Our regards to Mrs. Allen & yourself.

Nov. 17, 1887.

Mr. Samuel Parker
Fort Klamath, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 1st inst. reached me several days ago, and the sample skin has now arrived. It is an excellent skin, and the only criticism I have to offer is that the fore feet might be brought a little closer to the neck, so A, instead of as P.

The skull is all right, and is much cleaner than I expected. In fact, it is all ready for the cabinet without requiring further treatment. There was no label on this specimen. Will you kindly tell me when it was killed? The animal is Say's chipmunk or Ground Squirrel (Tamias lateralis).

Now in regard to price: I have two methods of paying my collectors; first, to take but one or two skins of a kind and pay rather high prices; and second, to take ten or more skins of each kind (up to the size of ten

largest ground squirrel) and pay lower prices for skin
 as a rule the latter method is more satisfactory
 both to the collectors and to me.

If you will undertake to supply me with
 ten specimens of each of the smaller species
 I will be glad to take them at the following
 prices for skin with skull:

Mice and shrews	$\frac{25}{50}$
Chipmunks and ground squirrels	50 - 75
Meekles	75
Pocket Gophers	50
Rabbits	50

Of larger mammals, I would be glad to
 take two specimens each of the following:

Woodchuck (or Ground Hog)	1.50
Skunks	1.50
Wild cat or Lynx	1.50
Porcupine	2.00
Badger	2.00
Marten	2.00

Of bats in alcohol I would like 10 of each
 kind at from 10 to 25 cts each, according
 to the species.

Very truly yours,
 C. Hart Merriam -

P.S. If you will collect for me I will furnish printed labels for you to fill out.

Nov. 17, 1897.

My dear Mr. Thomas:

Today's mail has brought me three
 of your papers, forwarded from my
 old address, Liscomb House, N. Y. (Please
 note that my present and future
 address is Washington, D.C.)

Am particularly pleased to see your
 discussion of the evolution of
 mammalian teeth, and shall read
 that paper with intense interest.

I am just now on the point of
 moving into my new house, where, in
 the course of a couple of months, I hope
 to have my entire collection of skins
 and skulls properly arranged. When
 this work is finished, will you not
 come over here and make me a visit?
 I can make you comfortable, and it
 would give me great pleasure to place
 my large series of N. Am. mammals at
 your service in any investigation you

may have in hand. The genus Mesferomy
is much in need of revision, and I have
more than five hundred of its North American
representatives.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

Mr. Alfred Thomas
Smith of Mammals
British Museum.

Nov. 17/87.

Mr. Robert Bagg
Utica, N. Y.

My dear Sir:

I wish to insure my new brick
house, cor. 16th & Caroline Sts. in this city,
for \$8,000, beginning Nov. 27th inst.
I would like half the Ins. in the
Continental of N. Y.

Please inform me by return mail
what the cost of such insurance
will be for one year, two years, and three
years, respectively.

The house is a three-story and cellar
dwelling, standing alone, on the corner
- as you will see from the accompanying
sketch.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

Nov. 17, 1887.

Dear Mr. True:

Prof. Cope writes me that he is unable to find any trace of the type of Arvicola curtatus in his collection. He sent the remains (consisting of fragments of the skull, with a few teeth) to Coues when the latter was at work on his monograph of the Muridae.

In looking over this monograph I see that Coues, in his table of measurements of so-called "curtatus", refers to Cope's type as no. 10267. This leads me to suspect that Cope's specimen may not have been returned, but possibly still reposes in the National Museum, bearing the number 10267. If not too much trouble, will you kindly inform me on this point?

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

Nov. 21, 1897.

Mr. Vernon Bailey
Elk River, Minn.

My dear Sir:

Your letter from Rapid City, dated Nov. 16th, has just arrived, and I suppose the box will come in a day or two.

You are still under pay, as I thought you might put in time equivalent to the remainder of the month in doing some work for us at Elk River. Besides, you are entitled to two weeks vacation.


In looking over your letters and reports I find no report or list from either Tilyou's Ranch or Blendine.

Before leaving Elk River I wish you would send me a list of the mammals found there, with remarks on relative abundance etc. as you have done from other localities. Also, would like all the specimens you can get of Dynastomys, Peromyscus palustris, and Neotoma.

Can you not get me a Coronopus from

Minnesota? and can you not get one from LITTLE Mt. by writing to your friend at Battineau! We want Onychomys from Battineau.

Henceforth, please attach regular labels to all alcoholics, so that the date for them will not be lost if any accident should happen to you. ^{catalogue}

In making skins of small mammals you have lately taken to turning the hind feet down flat in a way I do not like. Some of your Elk River skins are all right in this respect. The hind feet should be placed like this:  (with the sole toward the tail). In all other particulars your good skins are almost perfect.

Hope to hear from you soon in regard to the Texas trip.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Nov. 22, 1887.

Mr. John Burroughs
Hydrus Ave.

In reply to your request for our bird bulletins I regret to say that as yet none have left the press, though we expect to have them ready for distribution - by the end of the year.

The only publication of the season thus far is my brief and very unsatisfactory annual report for 1886, a copy of which goes to your address by this mail.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Minnesota? and can you not get one from LITTLE but. by writing to your friend at BOTTINER! We want Onychomys also from BOTTINER.

Hereafter, please attach regular labels to all alcoholics, so that the date for them will not be lost if any accident should happen to you. colleagues.

In making skins of small mammals you have lately taken to turning the hind feet down flat in a way I do not like. Some of your Elk River skins are all right in this respect. The hind feet should be placed like this:



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Hope to hear from you soon in regard to the Essex trip.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

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Mr. John Burroughs
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The only publication of the season thus far is my brief and very unsatisfactory annual report for 1886, a copy of which goes to your address by this mail.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Nov. 22d, 1887.

Dictated.

Dear Professor Cope:

Since the receipt of your communication of the 15th inst., I have succeeded in finding, in the National Museum, the few remaining fragments of your type specimen of Arvicola curtata. Fortunately, the front lower molar remains, and it serves to prove that the animal belongs to the subgenus Chilotus, and is not Peromys as supposed by Coues.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

Professor E.D. Cope,
Philadelphia, Pa.

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to
them
should
nals
and feet
down
it in
other
almost
regard

Washington

Dec. 15, 1887.

H. H. & C. S. Brimley

Dear Sirs:

Your note of the 10th inst.
 ... together with the box
 of 19 Blarina, for which
 I enclose \$6.00

During the past two months
 I have received about 25 Blarina
cinnerea from Maryland.

Hereafter I cannot pay but
 25¢ each for any of the
eastern Blarina.

Very truly yours,
 C. Hart Merriam

December 20, 1887.

Mr. E. T. Adney,
Upper Woodstock,
New Brunswick, Canada.

Dear Sir:

I am told that you are spending the winter in a trappers' camp in the evergreen forests of New Brunswick. Hence I write to ask a favor. Will you ask the trappers to save me the skulls of all the animals they catch during the winter and spring? I will give them ten cents each for uncleaned skulls Marten, Fox, Porcupine, Coon, Skunk, Mink, Weasel, Flying-squirrel, Wildcat, and Lynx; twenty-five cents each for uncleaned skulls of Otter, Fisher, and Beaver; and fifty cents each for Bear skulls.

I will take fifty specimens of each of these animals, at the prices named. The only data of importance is the sex, which in all cases must be marked on the skull. The easiest way to do this is by attaching small tags, similar to those enclosed, one to each skull.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart

(Dictated.)

Dec. 24, 1887.

My dear Grinnell:

Your letter of yesterday relieves my mind considerably, for I did think it strange that you not only did not publish my reply to the *Aur.* Mag. criticism, but that you did not even notice its receipt.

Now, in order to save space in the *Aur. Mag.*, which is overcrowded all the time, I will not insist on the publication of my reply, but will be extremely satisfied with a brief paragraph explaining or acknowledging the unjustness of the criticism.

I had you are coming on here this winter. Do me the honor to make my new house your home while here, be your stay long or short.

Our number is 1919 - 16th. N.W.

Wm. H. Grinnell
N. Y. City.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Washington, D.C.

Dec. 21, 1887.

Messrs. H. H. & C. S. Brimley,

Dear Sirs:

In reply to your letter
of the 19th inst., I would say
that I shall be glad to
get 10 more specimens each
of Blarina exilis & B. carolinensis
at 25¢ each.

Very truly,
C. West Henshaw

Dec. 20, 1881

Mr. Charles A. Allen
 Merced, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 5th inst. is before me, together with the hat, which is a very handsome specimen of Urocyon macrotis. I enclose \$1.57 in postage for the same, with postage.

Will take the 2 shrews and the Sibley's hawk at 50cts. each. Also, a pair of Woodrats. Do not believe I shall want any of the Sierra specimens, as I already have tolerably full series of most of the mammals you are likely to get.

Am surprised to learn that you did not hear from me in reply to your letter with which you sent the cuttings and the jumping mouse. I wrote you and stated that the jumping mouse (Zapus hesperophilus) occurs from Colorado to the Pacific, & throughout the northern series of the

I will take two skins of each of the species of deer you are able to prepare. Wish you could make me a skin or two of Lili's mule. These alcoholics do not make good skins.

Hoping you are in better health than formerly, and wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas, I am
 Very truly yours
 A. Hart Merriam -

P.S. Judging from the specimens recd. from you I should say that the affidentis from St. Reyes is not more than $\frac{2}{3}$ the size of one from Blue Canyon. Am I not right?
 com.

Dec. 23, 1887.

My dear Cook:

Have just had a letter from a hunter in Maine stating that he has killed a bull moose which stands 7 ft at the shoulder, and measures 13 ft 6 in. from snout to hind toe. The blades of antlers are eleven inches across at broadest point, and each has eleven prongs. The head is prepared for mounting and is offered for sale at \$100. The hunter is on the way to Farmington with it, and writes that he will telegraph me from that place the latter part of this week.

Have just had a talk with Barnaby and he is as anxious as I am to see the moose in the Nat. Museum. For the fact ten years I have been collecting measurements of moose, but have not found anything above 6 ft 4 in. at shoulder until this fall when the

so called "Jumbo" moose was killed in
Maine, & much talked of in the papers.
"Jumbo" stood 6 ft. 7 in.

The present giant, standing 7 ft.,
reminds one of the wonderful tales
of John Josselyn, John Smith, and Thomas
Horton or William Wood — I forget
which.

I do not believe so
huge a moose will be killed again,
and hope you can see a way by which
it may be brought into the Museum.

Will communicate with Hornaday
on receipt of telegram.

Please remember me kindly to
Prof. Merrill, Smith, & Clarke.

Hoping you are having a very enjoyable holiday
I remain,

Yours as ever,

A. S. Peabody

Dr. Peabody's contributions to a knowledge of North American
Mammals, though less voluminous than those relating to Birds, are
not less important. Previous to his time, but not general work
on the subject had been published — that of Audubon and Bachman
concerning the Mammals of North America which was issued in three
volumes, from 1827 to 1844. Immediately after the completion of
this great work, collections began to pour into the Smithsonian
Institution from the various exploring parties of the Pacific Rail-
road Survey. This material surprised us by its variety of new
species, and cast so much light upon our old and doubtful
points concerning the relations of species already described, that
a revision of the whole subject became necessary. Hence Prof.
Bailey's one, set above the production of the book originally given
the title of Mammals of North America. This great work was rapidly
pushed to completion and appeared in 1857, just three years after
the publication of the last volume of Audubon and Bachman's Mammals.
It constitutes the eighth volume of the Pacific Railroad
Reports, and is a ponderous quarto of more than 700 pages, accom-
panied by numerous excellent plates.

Though published thirty years ago, this work still remains the
standard general treatise on North American Mammals. It contains
no biographical matter, but consists wholly of technical descrip-

* The Mammal volume of Richardson's Fauna-Borealis Americana does
not fall under this head, because it treats only of the northern
part of the continent.

so called "Junco" moose was killed in
Maine, & much talked of in the papers.
Junco stood 6 ft. 7 in.

The present giant, standing 7 ft.,
reminds one of the wonderful tales
of John Josselyn, John Smith, and Thomas
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it may be brought into the Museum

will communicate with Hornaday
on receipt of telegram.

These remember me kindly to
Prof. Merrill, Smith, & Clark.

Hoping you are having a very enjoyable holiday
I remain,

Yours as ever,

A. S. Merriam

Prof. Baird's contributions to a knowledge of North American
mammals, though less voluminous than those relating to Birds, are
not less important. Previous to his time, but one general work
on the subject had been published^x - that of Audubon and Bachman
(entitled the "Quadrupeds of North America") which was issued in three
volumes, from 1846 to 1854. Immediately after the completion of
this great work, collections began to pour into the Smithsonian
Institution from the various exploring parties of the Pacific Rail-
road Survey. This material comprised so large a number of new
species, and cast so much light upon many previously doubtful
points concerning the relations of species already described, that
a revision of the whole subject became necessary. Hence Prof.
Baird at once set about the preparation of the book commonly known

Mammals of North America. This great work was rapidly
pushed to completion and appeared in 1857, just three years after
the publication of the last volume of Audubon and Bachman's Quadrupeds.
It constitutes the eighth volume of the Pacific Railroad
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not fall under this head, because it treats only of the northern
portion of the continent.

tions. It treats of all the mammals then known from the Continent of North America north of Mexico, except the Bats and the truly pelagic forms--Whales, Sea Cows, and Seals. The total number of known species was increased nearly twenty-five per cent.

In matters of nomenclature, and in the correct assignment of species previously described, Prof. Baird was much aided by his knowledge of the German language.)

The descriptions, which are models of painstaking accuracy and exactness, are taken from the specimens themselves and are accompanied by long tables of measurements, the value of which more than justifies the enormous expenditure of time necessary in their preparation. Much more attention was paid to craniological characters than has been the custom with previous writers, which fact contributes largely to the permanent value of the work.

Prof. Baird's long training as a careful observer, his power of applying his whole mind to matters under investigation, his wide knowledge of the distribution of species and of natural phenomena in general, together with his excellent judgment--which was as marked in matters of minor detail as in those requiring great executive ability--enabled him to perceive distinctions and draw conclusions which subsequent accumulations of material have verified in a surprisingly large number of cases. In fact, his pre-eminent superiority as a systematic zoologist almost leads to regret that so large a part of his lifetime was consumed in the discharge of official duties.

Jan. 2, 1888.

My dear Mr. Dall:

Excuse my delay in handing you
the enclosed note in regard to Prof.
Kearl as a Mammalogist. I regret
that it is so unsatisfactory. Make
such use of it as will best serve
your purpose.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

Dr. W. H. Dall

U. S. Nat. Museum -

Lh. 277-278.

January 14, 1888.

Mr. William Hubbell Fisher,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Fisher:

In reply to your letter of the 12th instant, asking for information in regard to the best method of cleaning the bones of an elephant; I would respectfully state that there is but one method by which such bones may be properly cleaned, and that is by long maceration. An augur hole one inch in diameter should be bored in both ends of each of the long bones of the legs, and should reach in as far as possible, in order to furnish a free escape for the marrow and grease. Then the bones should be put to soak in large barrels or hogsheads, or in a large vat, where they may remain undisturbed for at least a year. If the elephant is a large one a year and a half, or even longer, may be necessary. The bones will then be ready for final preparation and mounting.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

(Dictated.)

*When done this may call
em.*

Jan. 17, 8

Mr. Morris J. Danner
Buffalo, New York.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 14th inst. I would say that I should be pleased to have you submit an offer for half or the whole of my property on Terry St. near Ave. A., a description of which is enclosed.

What do you consider the property worth and what is your commission in case of a sale?

Respectfully

C. Hart Merriam -

Jan. 27, 8

Warren Z. Miller Esq.
Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Rathbun kindly informs me that you are willing to try to sell for me a piece of property I happen to own on Perry St near Ave. A. A description of the same you will find enclosed.

Will you be good enough to tell me what you think this property worth, and what your commissions are in case of a sale?

I am not quite sure whether I would prefer to sell the whole lot, or half of it, at this time.

Hoping to hear from you shortly, I am,

Respectfully

C. Hart Merriam -

②
Mrs. Menckens! as you may be aware, is
now at the head of the Bureau of Ornithology
under Major Conwell, and has no time
for avithelped work. Hence she
is willing to sell his collection though
it is not openly offered for sale.
He says \$10,000 is the price, but I think
he would take \$10,000. if a reasonable
amount were paid each, the balance
in one or two years. His egg
collection (about 1200 specimens) will
be thrown in.

I thought the British Museum might
desire to possess so authoritative and
extensive a series of N. Am. Birds,
and hence have taken the liberty
to write you thus fully in
regard to it. An immediate
reply would be appreciated.

Mrs. Menckens refers by permission
to Sister Mrs. Ridgway & Dr. Stejneger in
regard to any funds which may
arise relating to the collection.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam.

Please consider this letter confidential

Washington, D.C.
May 29, 1888.

Mrs. R. B. Sharpe.

My dear Sir:

②
Soon after coming to
Washington to live I found that
I had no further use for my
collection of birds (about 2000 birds).
The Smithsonian collection being
available at all times. Hence an
arrangement was made with Mr.
H. W. Menckens by which my collection
was incorporated into his, which
now numbers about 11500 skins.

For the past ten years this collection
has been kept in the Smithsonian
in cases adjoining those containing the
National Museum birds. During the period
it has been in constant use by
Mrs. Ridgway, & particularly in the prepara-
tion of his Manual of N. Am. Birds,
which work contains the following
notice of it: "Special mention should be
made of Mr. Menckens's valuable collection

(Embarring more than 1000 specimens and numerous complete series of many species) which through the owner's courtesy has been constantly available to his action" (Patrick H. Huxley). It has since passed to 11500 skins, and has been handled ever and over again by Mr. Ridgway and Dr. Huxley, as well as by the owner Mr. Henshaw, and he has been consulted many times by Mr. Brewster and others. Among the preparation of the A.O.U. skull list it was in daily use by the committee. Hence the determination of its species + subspecies represent the present state of knowledge of the most advanced American ornithologists, and it may be fairly regarded as an authoritative standard collection - to all intents + purposes a type collection - of North American birds, collected only by the National Museum series which it in turn equals in many important particulars. It contains about 600 skins from Alaska, - a much greater number

than the sum of Alaskan material in all other American collections combined, outside of the Smithsonian. It comprises large series of beautifully prepared skins from Oregon, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon + Washington Territory, collected by Mr. Henshaw himself, and is particularly complete in its series from the eastern States. In fact, the special value of this collection, aside from its authority as a reference collection, lies in its numerous series of single species, showing individual, racial, aged, and geographical variation. Mr. Henshaw's aim has always been in this direction. The result is that in very many species and some genera it far exceeds the Smithsonian collection. As for a quality of material, the collection is phenomenally perfect, less than 1/4 of 1 percent being bad skins.

June 4, 1888.

(Private)

Dear Doctor Dawson:

On Saturday I returned to you by registered mail the red-tailed Hawk which you were kind enough to loan me for examination. I kept it longer than expected because it proved of unusual interest. It is not pygmaea rufica proper at all, but pertains to the pygmaea group. It is considerably different from any specimen of pygmaea that has yet come under my notice, and certainly is entitled to specific separation. I have taken the liberty, therefore, to describe it under the name of Myctonyx dawsoni. If you desire to have this description published in any Canadian journal, please let me know, and I shall be glad to comply with your wishes. Otherwise I will submit it in some of our biological publications.

Unfortunately the skull was so badly smashed that it was impossible to determine any peculiarities it might have possessed. The teeth, however, were perfect, and I have had an excellent drawing made of them, magnified ten times. The fragments of the skull, together with the portions of jaws containing the teeth, you will find in the little glass-covered box inside.

Thanking you for the privilege of examining this unusually interesting Myctonyx, I remain,

Very truly yours,
 Dr. George E. Dawson,
 Asst. Director Geological Survey of Canada,
 Ottawa, Canada.
G. Hart Merriam

June 10, 1878.

Dear Doctor Osborn:

The box of bones arrived in due time and, in compliance with your request, I handed the three belonging to the U.S. National Museum, and transmitted to Mr. Agassiz those belonging to the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge.

I should have written you sooner but have been trying to clear up a few doubtful points concerning the identity of some of my own specimens.

A small paper has containing four numbered skulls, 2 of *B. feracitars* and 2 of *B. feracitars*. One of the *feracitars* skulls has the word "Mammalia" written lengthwise of it in rather minute which I suppose means *Mammalia*.

Then there is a skull marked "M" which in your letter you say is *feracitars* from Mount Snow. But I never had a chance of skin, skull or dentition possessing the number. Can you explain?

The skull of *S. americanus* from Montevideo (no. 1001) you have numbered "1788". Its number should be 4861. I cannot find any skull numbered to correspond to four of the alcoholics from which the skulls have been extracted. These are 752 & 753 from Carbury, Manitoba; and 1161 and 1186 from Mount Desert.

The type of *S. nigricans* ^(alcoholic) should be 1192 instead of 152. The number was so faded that the first I could hardly be made out. Its skull number is 4889.

There are two skulls of "keys" in small tubes better labeled Mount Desert. One is numbered 890 (skull should be 4809); the other has no number. Have you any means of identifying it with any alcoholics, from one of which I offer it came?

I enclose a tabular statement which will show you exactly which skulls I can identify, and which I cannot identify, and which may enable you to help me out with some of the uncertainties.

I am very much obliged for the above sheets of the two plates containing figures

of the teeth of American *Thomomys*. It is much to be regretted that your better contents to fear a too delay longer the publication of this anxiously awaited manuscript, and I hope you will hasten to print at least preliminary descriptions of your new species for North America so that we can make use of them in our works. Trusting that you will find a pleasant home at Brighton, and that the freedom from military duties will hasten your return to your better
I remain,

Very truly yours,
C. West Merriam

P.S. Please be kind enough to correct the skull numbers of my specimens, so that your notes may correspond to the numbers in my collection.

in the Museum of C. Hart Merriam
 from which the skull hole has been extracted by Dr. Schuchert

Number	Shull	Year	Locality.	Figure	Species
747	4856	747	Carbury, Nevada	figured	<i>S. feretri</i>
752	not found	752	" "	"	" <i>perconatus</i>
753	"	"	" "	"	" "
890	4857	890	Locust Grove, N.H.		" <i>hoys</i>
1001	4861	1886	St. George, Montana	figured	" <i>merriami</i>
1161	not found		Locust Grove		" <i>perconatus</i>
1186	"		" "		" "
1152	4859	1882	Nicasio, Cal.		" <i>nicasiensis</i>
1197	4860		Minneapolis, Minn.		" <i>feretri</i>
1264	4863		"		" <i>perconatus</i>

revisiting the right hand with
the right animal, but has strong

and:
weak on road ret (Victoria) 3, big, middle, small

Virginia ret (Diphtheria) long tail - several

to left hand (Lingnathus) 1 cent.

with feet hand (Mephering) several

Marine's slipper (Janice Harris) 2

Respectfully
a most American.

a few sample shall top on each.

Washington, D.C.
June 21, 1887.

Dr. J. Bullman
Newman, Conn., Conn.

Dear Sir:

I have packages of skins
of small mammals sent
by you have been received.

I do not know why you
subscribed and not such a
number of specimens; all at
once instead of sending one
or two at a time for criticism,
until you learn how to make
of a mammal skin; so I
ask you to be some time
since. You have not followed the
directions sent you and
consequently are a long way

From the right to the left the first set is absolutely worthless; the second, I am glad to see, shows improvement, and demonstrate that you can prepare respectable skins if you will only take the necessary trouble.

Enclose a sketch of the proper method of making skins. By reading over the directions carefully you will notice several points that you have neglected. You should not remove the leg bones (i.e., tibia & fibula). Never bend the tail.

Always leave the tail well reach all the way to the end of the tail. In case of thick tails, the wire should be wrapped with cotton.

Skillets should be ~~used~~ to the sides of the neck instead of spread out sideways. The hind legs should be as represented in the enclosed sketch.

The belly should be sewed up all the way - in case of too skins you have here tails; in others not. The skulls should have a small tag attached by a string, leaving the same. The skins should be washed out and the eyes removed. Every care should be taken to avoid breaking the skulls. Several of these are badly broken.

With a little care I am sure you can make first class skins. You ask for the names of the specimens sent. I don't know how to tell you as you will be able to

ought to look when made up. Notice the skulls you did not have as good luck as with the skins. You have cut off the scapulae for fear of the skull and otherwise rendered them worthless. This is due, of course, to the fact that you did not appreciate the importance of having the skulls skinned perfectly, as stated in the instructions. Doubtless you met your end and will be all right.

Instead of marking the number on the skull, please mark a small tag & attach this to the skull. (Enclosed are a few samples) Perfectly yours, J. S. Merriam

Washington, D.C.
June 11, 1898.

Mrs. H. F. Merriam
Kearns Canon, Arizona.
Dear Sir:

The package containing five samples of chipmunk has arrived safely.

The skins show that you are able to good work and only need a little practice. The chief difficulty with these are is that the legs are spread out sideways instead of being close to the body as called for in the instructions. The enclosed outline sketch will show you exactly how the legs ought to be placed, and how the skin

June 24, 1888.

Dear Mr. Sharpe:

Your cablegram reached me promptly and your letter of the 9th inst has now arrived. I replied to the latter by cable, presenting the refusal of the collection until the end of the month, as desired.

Mr. Henshaw was reluctant to grant this time, because he now has a chance to sell the collection at once. However, he consented.

I called Mr. Henshaw's attention to that part of your letter relating to his types of Atacerys etc. He says that his descriptions were based on both the National Museum material and his own, augmented for the occasion by contributions from several private collections. The particular specimens selected for the types were usually chosen from the National Museum

series, because Mr. Mencham has always maintained that it is in the interest of science to be able to find as many types as possible in the National Museum. Practically, however, most of the types are duplicated in his own collection. As stated in my previous letter, Mr. Mencham's aim has always been in the direction of securing exhaustive series. When he had the option of a species new to his collection, or a phase of plumage unrepresented among his series of the species, the latter specimen was always the one taken.

Mr. H. is going to Cal. in a few weeks and wants to complete the sale before leaving Washington. He has undertaken to relabel his collection. About 6 or 7 thousand skins are ready for immediate shipment, together with the eggs. The remainder of the skins he will finish relabeling & packing on his return. They are now in the Smithsonian building where they will remain until shipped.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Washington D.C.
July 3, 1898.

My dear Mr. Sharpe:

In my letter of June 24th I told you that 6 or 7 thousand skins would be shipped at once if you took the collection, and the remainder would follow later (as Mr. Mencham's return from California). Now, however, Mencham has decided to ship the entire collection at once, and it will probably start the end of the present week.

When your collection arrived, Mr. Ridgway was just

much that I did not know it was going out of this country when I packed it, or I should have gone over the labels very carefully. However, I do not think you will find anything that will puzzle you if you do, but we know & all try to help you out.

Mr. Mencham will write you in a few days in regard to shipment, etc.

Hoping that the collection will please you, and that its presence in England will advance the science of ornithology!

I remain
Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam
British Museum

July 20, 8

Dear Mr. Brewster:

This morning I was delighted by the receipt of your very kind letter of the 17th inst. accompanying a copy of your long looked for book entitled "Names and Localities of Birds which interest Runners."

Your plain English descriptions are admirable so far as I have examined them, and the arrangement and typography of the text are well adapted to the purpose for which they were intended. The illustrations are the best I have seen from Sheppard's pencil and add immensely to the utility of the book.

I cannot help expressing my gratification to see that you have resisted the temptation to publish a "sumptuous" volume, but instead have given us a plain, handy book that anybody can afford to buy, & that is not too heavy to be carried about in one's traveling bag. The only general criticism I have to offer is that the popular intent of the book would have been still further carried out had the common English names preceded the scientific. Checking for your volume contribution to an album, under number 11, please see, as true, some "C. B. M. M."

going west, but Mr. Brewster made it an object for him to remain and go over the whole of the entire series, so that the labels will give you Ridgway's latest views on the status of the species & subspecies, if presented.

Both Ridgway & Merriam are now working together some a day on their collection & you will find a vast number of skins labels in Ridgway's handwriting. After the shipment of the collection, both Merriam and myself are liable to send you a few skins from time to time, when we happen to have excess birds that will enrich the collection more complete.

You will never know how near you came to leaving the collection. Another large Museum wanted it and when they thought it was going elsewhere they sent an agent here with 2 thousand dollars to pay down & write instructions to send the collection. But I had already obtained Merriam's consent to sell you the material for the 2000 dollars. Of course we feel grateful to you for arranging the terms so as to pay the entire amount as soon.

In regard to my own part of the collection, I regret very

July 24, 8

My dear Brewster:

On receipt of your letter this morning I immediately went to see Leach. He had not yet come to the Museum so I telephoned to his house & waited till he arrived. He advised me to see the Secretary of the Treasury. So I went up to the Treasury and made a statement of the case. Was told that if I would put this statement in writing and request the Secy. to telegraph orders to the Customs Officer at El Paso the order would go by wire this afternoon. Thus I have done, and I suppose the box of skins will start on its way to Cambridge before dark tonight.

Do you want a few eggs of Cherther flaviventris to accompany the skins returned for you at H. W.'s request?

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

July 24, 8

Weynton, Mifflin & Co.

Dear Sirs:

In reply to your letter of the 20th inst. concerning the publication of my sister's manuscript entitled 'Red's through an Opera Glass', I would say that you are at liberty to retain the ms. for three weeks or longer.

My sister is now in San Francisco, where I expect to join her shortly. Letters addressed to me here will be forwarded.

Respectfully

C. Hart Merriam

July 24, 8

My dear Doctor Sahson:

Thanks for your letter of the 18th inst which reached me yesterday.

By the aid of your memoranda I shall be able to straighten out the previously uncertain points in regard to the identity of these deres skulls.

Am very sorry to know that you are still feeling so miserably, and trust you will soon enjoy better health.

Can you not manage to publish even a brief preliminary paper on our American shrews, just to establish your facts?

Neither I nor I want to touch the group until we can refer to your work, but it is daily becoming more & more necessary to have something printed on our shrews.

With kind regards,

Very truly yours
W. Hart Merriam

Washington, D. C., July 25, 1888.

Miss A. S. Babcock,
1838, Thirteenth St., N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

In reply to your inquiry as to my opinion of the mental condition of Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, U. S. A., I beg to state that a little over a year ago I had some correspondence with Dr. Shufeldt which led me to believe him to be of unsound mind. Previous to this occasion I had been on terms of personal friendship with Dr. Shufeldt, and on the occasion in question wrote him a friendly letter, asking him to desist from a course which was greatly injuring his reputation as a scientific man. In reply I received a letter from him, abounding in such insolent and abusive language, and carrying with it the idea of such excessive egotism on his part as to be entirely inexplicable on any other supposition than that he was insane.

Respectfully,

C. West Merriam

Washington, D.C.

July 28, 1888.

Dear Mr. Gray:

Enclosed please find my check
for \$28.80 in part of balance due
you for services as architect
as per statement of the 20th inst.

In closing our account
I wish to thank you,
both for your kindness
in granting me so much
time, and for your constant
watchfulness of my interests
during and after the contract
of my house.

With kind regards.

Very truly yours,

C. West Merriam

20
Wm Bruce Gray Esq.
architect, Washington, D.C.

October 26, 1888.

Dr. Peter Collier,
Director State Agricultural Experiment Station,
Geneva, New York.

Dear Sir:

For a number of years I have been collecting information relating to the ornithology of New York, and have now in hand a very large quantity of material on the subject, which from pressure of official work I am unable to put in shape for publication. It has occurred to me that by cooperation with the New York State Experiment Station it might be possible to work up a part of this material at an early date. If you favor the idea, my plan would be to prepare an annotated catalogue of the birds of New York, which should contain, under the head of each species, the following information:

1. Distribution of the species in the State.
2. Character of residence, namely, whether resident, summer resident, migrant, or winter visitant.
3. Period of presence if non-resident, with dates of arrival and departure in different parts of the State.

4. Food-habits, and resulting economic status of the species.

Such a catalogue would be of much practical value to farmers, and would be useful to a very large number of people. It would contain no technical matter except the scientific names of the species, which would follow their common English names. Of course such a work could be easily enlarged to any desired extent by the insertion of matter relating to the time of nesting, kind and position of nest, number of eggs, period of song, and general habits; but from the standpoint of the agriculturist I think the data contained in the four headings above suggested would be most important.

We are now cooperating with the West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station in the preparation of a similar catalogue, the main difference being that in the case of West Virginia most of the money furnished by the Board had to be expended in field work, as next to nothing was known of the birds of the State. In the case of New York, on the contrary, most of the field work has been done, and what is needed is funds to work up and prepare for publication the material now in hand. If the necessary money could be obtained, the work could be done here under my immediate supervision, and turned over to you when ready for publication.

If you favor this scheme I shall be pleased to hear from you
at your early convenience.

Respectfully,

e. Hart Merriam

(Dictated.)

November 3, 1888.

(Dictated.)

Dr. Peter Collier,
Director New York State
Agricultural Exp't Station,
Geneva, N. Y.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the 31st ultimo is at hand, and I am much pleased to know that you regard with favor my proposition to cooperate with you in the preparation of an Annotated Catalogue of the Birds of New York State. In regard to your question as to how much money it would be necessary for you to contribute I would say that this will depend largely upon the time when you wish the report to be ready for publication. If we could receive say \$1200 between now and July 1st next, I would agree to deliver to you on that date the Catalogue ready for the printer, said Catalogue to contain the information described under the four headings mentioned in my previous letter. Should your Station be unable to contribute this amount during the present fiscal year, and still be able to contribute something, I would begin the work and would do as much as possible with the available funds, expecting to complete it the following year.

Very truly yours,

C. West Maynard

November 17, 1888.

Mr. William Brewster,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Council of the American Ornithologists' Union, held in Washington, D. C., November 12, 1888, it was

Resolved, That the Council recommend to the Union the appointment of a Committee to revise the status of the species and subspecies described since the publication of the Code and Check List, and the proposed eliminations and emendations of nomenclature, with a view to the publication of a Supplement to the A. O. U. Check List, and a new and abridged edition of the Check List as so revised."

At the first meeting of the Sixth Congress of the Union, held in Washington, D. C., November 13, 1888, on motion of Mr. Cory, it was

Resolved, That the matter of revising the status of the species and subspecies, genera and subgenera described since the publication of the A. O. U. Code and Check List, and the proposed eliminations of species and subspecies, and emendations of nomenclature, be referred to the Committee on Publication, with power to publish the results in the form of a Supplement to the Check List, in the same style and form as regards matter and typography as the Check List itself; and to incorporate the substance of the same in the abridged edition of the Check List already ordered by the Council."

The Committee on Publication consists of the President and Secretary ex officio, and of Messrs. Brewster, Coues, and Ridgway, elected from the Council. The President, Mr. Allen, has decided

to remain here to meet with the Committee, in order that the work of revision may be completed at an early date, so that the abridged edition of the Check List may be published at once. Your attendance at the meetings of the Committee is essential to the successful completion of the work in hand, and it is earnestly hoped that you will meet the other members of the Committee in this city as early in the week as possible.

Respectfully,

C. A. M. M. M.

Secretary A. O. U.

(Dictated.)

Mr. W. J. M.
Dear Sir
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December 5, 1888.

Messrs. Tuttle, Morehouse, & Taylor,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Sirs:

The American Ornithologists' Union is about to publish a new edition of its Check List of North American Birds, similar in style of type and size of page to the enclosed sample. It is to be printed on one side of the page only, and will cover about 100 pages. The edition will be 2000 copies. It is to be printed on 70 lb. ss. & c. A. I. book paper which will take ink well, with 40 lb. cover. If you would like to print this Check List, we shall be pleased to receive an estimate.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Sec. A. O. U.

(Dictated.)

December 8, 1888.

Mr. L. O. Howard,
Assistant Entomologist,
U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your inquiry concerning the occurrence of Cuterebræ in Squirrels, I would state that during many years collecting in the Adirondack region of northern New York, particularly along its western border, in the Black River Valley, I frequently found Cuterebræ in or near the scrotum in the Gray Squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis leucotis), Red Squirrel (Sciurus hudsonius), and Chipmunk (Tamias striatus lysteri). I have observed the same thing at Easthampton, Mass., and in other localities. The most extraordinary instance of the prevalence of this disgusting parasite that has fallen under my observation was at the south end of Lake Champlain, New York, in October, 1885. On the 7th and 9th of that month I killed more than fifty Chipmunks (Tamias striatus lysteri) within a few miles of old Fort Ticonderoga, and on the rocky side hill behind the town of Whitehall. Of these a very large percentage -- I think fully one-half -- were infested with "wabbles" (Cuterebræ). More females than males were thus afflicted. The "wabbles" were usually situated near the median line, and anywhere

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from the umbilical region to the genitals; in a few cases they were in the axilla, and in one or two instances in the upper part of the foreleg. In a number of individuals two Cuterebræ were found, and in a few cases as many as three.

Dr. A. K. Fisher tells me that he collected a number of Chipmunks about the south end of Lake George, Warren County, N. Y., during the latter part of August and first of September, in 1882, a considerable proportion of which were infested with Cuterebræ. As many as three were found, in different stages of development, in one animal. A Gray Squirrel killed at Sing Sing, Westchester County, N. Y., contained a Cuterebra in the left pectoral region.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam
Ornithologist.

(Dictated.)

December 11, 1888.

My dear Mr. Roosevelt:

I am very much obliged for your kindness in sending me your manuscript notes on the habits of the Short-tailed Shrew (Blarina brevicauda). I have had a type-written copy of these notes made, and return the original herewith.

I am sorry you lost that Shrew near Kootenay Lake. You are undoubtedly right in considering it a species of Neosorex. I never saw one alive.

I came very near seeing you last summer at Medora. I was there about August 10, and was told that you were expected at that time. I went west by the Northern Pacific, and spent some time in the Puget Sound region. Have you ever visited Pend Oreille Lake? It seems to me that this region promises much, both from the standpoint of the hunter and from that of the naturalist.

Incidentally, in your interesting popular writings, you have made many records of very great value to naturalists, particularly concerning the presence of species at points remote from the previously known limits of their distribution; and it would be very surprising if you have not encountered some undescribed species of

mammals during your wanderings. I would give a good deal to see the Hoary Marmot you found on the Coeur d' Alene Mountains. The Kootenay region is one I have long wanted to visit, and hope that I may be so fortunate within a few years.

Are you never coming to Washington? Would like much to see you here.

Again thanking you for your kindness in placing these notes at my disposal, I remain,

Very truly yours,

E. Hart Merriam

Hon. Theodore Roosevelt,
Oyster Bay, N. Y.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Prof. S. P. Langley,
Secy. Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Dr. Washington Matthews,
Army Medical Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

E. West Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Mr. John Murdoch,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Dr. James C. Welling,
President, Columbian University,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. West Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Mr. Richard Rathbun,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographical, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Mr. Henry W. Henshaw,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

E. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

December 15, 1888.

Prof. S. P. Langley.
Secretary Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The Joint Committee charged with the arrangements for the course of Saturday Lectures beginning March 9, 1889, respectfully request the use of the Lecture Hall of the National Museum, together with the customary cooperation in the publication and distribution of programmes.

Very respectfully,

C. East

Secretary Lecture Committee.

(Dictated.)

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Prof. Daniel C. Gilman,
President, Johns Hopkins University,
Baltimore, Md.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. West Merriam
Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Dr. J. H. Kidder,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. West Harrison

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Prof. Henry Newell Martin,
Johns Hopkins University,
Baltimore, Md.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. West Chubb

Secy. Lecture Committee.

P.S. I am told that you have on hand an admirable lecture on "The Egg".

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Mr. G. K. Gilbert,
U. S. Geological Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver, on some Geological subject, one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. West Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

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Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Prof. W. G. Atwater,
Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1889

Prof. W. O. Atwater,
Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Geographical, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was authorized to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

E. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Col. William L. Trenholm,
Comptroller of the Currency,
U. S. Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

I have the honor to remain,

very respectfully,

C. West Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 24, 1888.

The Law Reporter Company of Washington City, by W. F. Roberts,
Supt., hereby agrees to furnish two thousand (2,000) copies of the
Revised Check List of North American Birds, consisting of 64 pages
printed on one side of the leaf, on paper as per sample submitted
(60 lb s.s. & c No. 1 Book), with paper cover, for the sum of two
hundred and seventy-two ^{dollars} and fifty cents (\$272.50). Workmanship to
be first class in all respects.

Extra pages at the rate of \$4.08 per page.

Witness
A. J. Fisher

W. F. Roberts
Supt. Law Reporter Co.
C. Hart Merriam
Sec. A. O. U. & Com. on Pub.
of Revised Check List.

January 2, 1889.

Prof. E. D. Cope,
Editor American Naturalist,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

The most terrible calamity that has ever befallen me in the publication line is the result of a very curious blunder on the part of some one connected with the printing of the American Naturalist. The July number of the Naturalist contains a paper of mine on a New Meadow Mouse of the subgenus Pedomys, accompanied by a figure of the skull and teeth, pp. 598-601. The August number of the Naturalist contains another paper, in which I describe a New Species of Arvicola, of the subgenus Chilotus, accompanied by a figure of the skull and teeth, pp. 702-705. By reference to pp. 599 and 704 you will see that the same cut has been made to serve the purpose of illustrating the peculiarities of craniology and dentition of both of these subgenera. There is no use in wasting time now in speaking of this unfortunate matter further than in the way of asking what may be done to remedy it. I would suggest that a brief correction, containing the proper cut of Chilotus, be pub-

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lished in the next number of the Naturalist. Can you suggest any better way?

Was the cut of Chilotus ever reproduced at all? On the back of the original drawings, which you returned to me the other day, are numbers stamped in red ink. That of Arvicola minor is 3235-2, and that of Arvicola pallidus is 3242-? (this part has been trimmed off). In returning these figures you have cut off the explanatory matter under each one, so that as they reached me they bore neither name nor number. Curiously enough the legend under the printed figure of each skull is correct (with slight exceptions) for the species, but not for the drawing in the case of Chilotus.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam.

(Dictated.)

Washington, D. C.

January 3, 1889.

Prof. Asaph Hall,
U. S. Naval Observatory,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. West Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

January 3, 1889.

Prof. J. R. Eastman,
Pres., Philosophical Society,
U. S. Naval Observatory,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Eastman

Secy. Lecture Committee.

January 3, 1889.

Prof. Edward S. Morse,
Director Peabody Acad. Science,
Salem, Massachusetts.

My dear sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

Knowing that the National Academy meets in Washington April 16th next, and assuming that you will be here at that time, I take the liberty to suggest that Saturday, April 20, 1889, would be a good date for a lecture.

If you are willing to favor your Washington friends in this way, and will kindly inform me of the subject of your lecture, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

January 5, 1889.

(Dictated.)

Dear Mr. Scudder:

Since the receipt of your letter of December 27, ultimo, I have looked over my Adirondack journals for records of Papilio turnus, but have found only the following, which is a verbatim copy:

Big Moose Lake, Adirondack Mountains, New York, June 16, 1883.

"The yellow form of Papilio turnus has been excessively abundant since we came into the woods [the second time], June 12, but there were none out June 4 [when I left the woods for a week]. Close by the Big Moose Camp Lodge I counted over seventy in one spot, and more than two hundred in another, on the ground where some one had urinated. Never saw so many before . . . Vanessa antiopia is now scarce." (Adirondack Notes, Vol. 3, p. 68.)

I have other notes relating to this matter, but was unable to find them. Was surprised not to find mention of what I supposed to be the black form of Papilio turnus in the above record, for my recollection is that there was a small percentage of black butterflies with the others. In the Black River Valley, on the western border of the Adirondacks, I have many times seen a black butterfly which I always supposed to be Papilio turnus. Since the receipt of your letter, however, I have seen Mr. John B. Smith, and he has shown me Papilio troilus, which I now believe to be the species I

mistook for the black form of P. turnus. To make sure, I have written to a friend in Lewis County, N. Y., who has some butterflies in a case, and have asked for a specimen of the one in question. Will let you know the result.

In poking over my notes in search of this Papilio record I came across a number of notes relating to butterflies, particularly their time of appearance and greatest abundance in spring, in connection with the condition of leafing and flowering of plants. If you care for these, I should be glad to send them to you as soon as I can find time to copy them. Here is an example:

"June 18, 1879. Caught two Gecropia moths, and saw the first Papilio turnus. Viburnum lentago is in perfection now. Cornus alternifolia is still flowering profusely, though a little past its prime."

The great bulk of early spring records relate to Vanessa antiopa.

I wonder if you can tell me what has become of De Saussure's types of mammals. He published a paper on his Mexican mammals, in which a number of new species of Mice were described. I do not know where his types are, and am unable to identify his species. This is particularly unfortunate in connection with work along our southern border in Texas.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Samuel H. Scudder,
Cambridge, Mass.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam
C. Hart Merriam

January 7, 1889.

(Dictated)

Dear Professor Cope:

Thanks for your letter of the 3d instant. Enclosed is the correction, together with the correct drawing of Chilotus.

Hoping that the Naturalist for 1889 will prove an improvement over that for 1888, I remain

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Prof. E. D. Cope,

Editor American Naturalist,

Philadelphia, Pa.

A CORRECTION: ARVICOLA (CHILOTUS) PALLIDUS.--The August number of the AMERICAN NATURALIST contains a description of the above-named species (vol. xxii, 1888, pp. 702-705). Through a most unfortunate blunder on the part of the late printers of the magazine, the illustration accompanying this description (p. 704), instead of being the drawing sent with the manuscript, is a figure of Arvicola (Pedomys) minor, which was published with a description of that species in the preceding number of the NATURALIST (July, 1888, p. 599), the same cut being made to illustrate two very distinct subgenera ! The accompanying figure is that of Arvicola (Chilotus) pallidus, and should be substituted for that on p. 704 of the August number. In the lettering under the skull of Arvicola (Pedomys) minor, p. 599, the skull number is given as 2245. It should be 2224.

C. Hart Merriam -

January 9, 1889.

Mr. J. B. Ferree,
501 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 8th instant I would say that the statement referred to in my correction, and to which you object, was made by Prof. Cope. If the case is as you state it, you may strike out the words "on the part of the late printers of the magazine", leaving the sentence, "Through a most unfortunate blunder the illustration accompanying this description"-- &c.

I certainly have no desire to put the responsibility for this blunder where it does not belong, and would rather omit locating the blame altogether than run the risk of so doing.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

(Dictated.)

P.S. Please send me 200 copies of this correction to go with the separates I have of the original article.
C.H.M.

Jan. 9, 1889.

Wrighton, Mifflin & Co.
Boston, Mass

Dear Sirs:

The enclosed ms. has been sent me by my sister, Miss. Elvira A. Merriam, now in San Francisco, with the request that I forward it to you as an 'offshoot' to her little book.

She desires me, also, to correspond with you in regard to the matter of illustrations, and anything else that may come up in connection with the book if you accept it for publication.

Can you not obtain, from Lillie, Brewer & Co., electrotypes of a number of the pretty vignettes used by them in Baird, Brewer & Kilgus' History of North American Birds? If so, I will send you a list of those desired.

Respectfully,
E. West Merriam -

January 12, 1889.

Dr. James M. Flint,
Care of Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you are willing to favor the Committee by complying with this request, and will kindly signify the title of your lecture and the Saturday afternoon in April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

e. west Merriam -

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Jan. 14/09.

Naughton, Mifflin & Co.

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of the 11th inst
is before me. In response to
your request for a list of eight
cuts from Baird, Brewer & Ridgway's
History of North American Birds I
take pleasure in making the same.
I take the liberty also to name eight
more, in a supplemental list. Should
the cost of these electrotype not greatly
exceed the usual cost of such illustrations,
I shall be glad to bear the additional
expense incurred in the purchase
of the eight last named. Kindly inform
me as to the cost. I should much
like to see galley proof of these birds, & will
return the same promptly. *Respectfully,
W. B. Baird*

OUTS FROM BAIRD, BREWER AND RIDGWAY.

Vol. I.

Robin	page .25
Nuthatch115
Barn Swallow339

Vol. II.

Bobolink149
Crow Blackbird.	215
Kingfisher.	393
Nighthawk.401
Hairy Woodpecker.	502

SUPPLEMENTAL LIST.

Vol. I.

Ovenbird280
Redstart.	323
Yellowbird.	472

Vol. II.

Chewink.104
Meadowlark.	171
Blue Jay274
Cuckoo.	477
Flicker.579

January 17, 1889.

Dr. George M. Dawson,
Assistant Director,
Geological Survey of Canada,
Ottawa, Canada.

My dear Doctor Dawson:

Since writing you last I have made a somewhat critical study of the Mouse you sent me from Kamloops, with the result of establishing a new subgenus for its reception, as you will see from the enclosed account, which I will be obliged to you if you will return promptly.

I assume that you wish me to return the remains of this specimen. If so, will you kindly give me the number which it will bear in your Museum Catalogue? Does your Museum give skulls and skins of the same specimen the same number, or have you a separate Osteological Catalogue? If the latter, please give me both numbers. You will see what I mean by referring to a number of the type specimen in any of my separates previously sent you.

In the case of your new Red-backed Mouse from the Liard River country I was unable to mention the number, owing to Mr. Whiteaves' absence from Ottawa. In the present advanced state of science in

-2-

these matters it is somewhat of a reflection of incompetence upon the describer of a species who does not mention the museum or collection to which it belongs, along with its catalogue number.

Very truly yours,

E. West Merriam

(Dictated.)

Jan. 28/89.

D. Appleton & Co.
New York

Dear Sirs:

I am making up a couple of scrap books of my published papers and am anxious to procure copies of my articles in your Physical Geography, pp. 100-106, and 134-137. As the matter here is printed on both sides of the page I shall have to get 4 copies in order to make two. Can you send me separately the sheets containing the above pages? If not, at what price can you supply me with 4 copies of the Geography?

Respectfully

C. Hart Merriam

Feb. 8, 1889.-

Mr. J. R. Scapham
Secy. Cal. Acad. Sci.

Dear Sir:

Your communication of the
25th ultimo, informing me of my election
as a correspondent of the California
Academy of Sciences, has just reached
me. It is hardly necessary to
say that I accept with pleasure, and
shall be glad to contribute from time
to time to your publication, should
such contributions prove acceptable.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam -

February 9, 1889.

Hon. Charles B. Farwell,
U. S. Senate.

Sir:

A little more than three years ago I came here to organize and take charge of a Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy in the Department of Agriculture. I did not expect to stay more than a year, as my salary was one-third less than I was receiving at the time. However, owing mainly to the difficulty of securing a competent person to carry on the work, I have remained, and have become much interested in the investigations in hand, particularly those relating to the Geographical Distribution of Species. The annual appropriation for the Division has been so small, and has been so largely consumed in collecting evidence relating to the English Sparrow and rice bird problems, that very little was left for the work on Geographic Distribution. This latter work, as you know, can only be completed by the employment of trained field agents. It being impossible to make satisfactory progress with the very limited funds available, I have personally helped the work along by expending more than one thousand dollars each year in payment for local collections which serve to illustrate points in the distribution of the species concerned. I cannot afford to continue this expenditure. Moreover, during the past year I have been offered three positions, any one of which is better than the one I now hold in the Department. Before deciding as to future movements I am anxious to know whether or not Congress will grant the means of continuing the investigations upon which the Division is engaged. This work is of the utmost consequence from the standpoint of ex-

perimental agriculture, and I shall be glad to remain in charge .
provided sufficient money is appropriated to carry it on creditably.

The Commissioner of Agriculture has this day written a letter
to Senator Plumb, Chairman of the Sub-Committee charged with the
consideration of House Bill No. 12,485, making an appropriation for
the Department of Agriculture &c., urging that line 23, page 9, of
said Bill be amended by striking out the words "four thousand dol-
lars" and substituting therefor the words "ten thousand dollars,
one thousand of which shall be made immediately available".

Trusting that you will be willing to aid in the passage of
this amendment, I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

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Feb. 14, 1888.

Mr. W. C. Cope
Curator, Dept. of Mammals,
U. S. National Museum.

Dear Mr. Cope:

Your communication of the 15th inst. has just reached me and is a great surprise in view of the fact that soon after coming here, a little more than three years ago, I made formal written application to the Director of the Museum, and received permission to borrow from time to time such specimens of mammals as I wished to study.

If this permission, granted by Prof. Baird, has been withdrawn, or has expired by limitation, it seems strange that I have not been notified of the fact, particularly since there has hardly been a month during the past three years when I have not had more or less Museum material in my possession.

The skulls I am now at work upon are those of the Arvicoline. I believe I have not taken more than four skulls at any

one kind, and that I have not kept any
skull larger than 36 hours. I am
having camera lucida drawings made of the
teeth, enlarged about 15 diameters. All of
this is in accord with a conversation
I had with you on the subject before
taking the first skull.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

Feb. 14/89.

Mr. Geo. H. Rappole

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of
 the 7th inst. offering to send me
 certain mammal skins "on approval"
 I would say that you may so send the
 following: 2 Wild Cat; 1 Diamond Rabbit;
 1 Gray Squirrel; 1 Wood Rat; 1 Cotton Rat; 1 Squirrel;
 & 1 *Spermophilus 13-lineatus*.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Washington, D.C.
Feb. 26, 1889.

My dear Dr. Ingham:

Enclosed is your copy of my
of ~~my~~ ~~papers~~ ~~papers~~. There
are still a few references
I was not able to verify; but
if true I can find later as the
books are in Washington.
Hope you will be able to make
out my corrections.

Have had considerable difficulty
in hunting up some of the
necessary books. Have visited
the Congressional Library in person
three times, but still fail to
get hold of all of them.
Some were hard to get a catch
name from, as you will see in

Richardson's Zool. of the World.

I very much regret the delay
in sending you this copy.
The trouble is that I have
been sick three weeks with
laryngitis and head troubles,
and have been overwhelmed
with official work all the time.

Henry Wright is a prof. in
the Dante University. He was
brought over from England
and is said to be a strong man
He writes the part on vegetables
in Standard Nat. Hist.

Am not surprised that you
have a big batch of material in
hand for the Nat. Hist. Dept. of Ags.
Shufeldt's voluminous collections
of ~~plants~~ ~~plants~~ & ~~miscellaneous~~ ~~miscellaneous~~ ~~wh~~ ~~00~~
you publish in such style nearly ~~00~~ ~~00~~

March 8, 1889.

My dear Prof. Brewer:

My object in writing you at this time is to urge you to accept the Assistant Secretaryship of this department if it is offered you, as I believe it will be within twenty four hours, or a few days at latest.

I do not know how much you know about the great possibilities in the way of enlarging and developing the Dept. of Agriculture, but I assure you that if you are here it is likely to become the Cent. Bureau of Scientific Research in the near future. Next year the Ecological Survey, Fish Commission, and Weather Bureau are likely to drop into it provided the right man is at the helm - and I need hardly tell you that the Scientific men here are a unit in your support for this position.

Shortly - perhaps before this letter reaches

every well - meant heart would
 wish a vast amount of material
 of some value.

Have not heard from you since
 "good" yet.

What has become of the visit
 you made to make no time with?
 Hope you will come in the early
 spring.

I am short of specimens
 a big number for biologic animals
 a want to tell it over with you.

Very truly yours
 a most American

you - it may be in your power not only to shape the future of this department, but also, I believe, to exert a tremendous influence upon the direction and character of the various scientific investigations carried on by our Government.

This is a critical time. The opportunity is at hand, and you are the man to guide the ship.

You know from others that Atwater, Alford, and all the Agricultural men want you; so I shall only tell you that Lowell, Bennett, Cooke, Dall, Stearns, & a host of others believe that you are the only man for the place, and that the opportunity to do good is so great that you could refuse.

Those of us who have worked day and night to secure your appointment think we have a right to ask and urge you to accept. Do not disappoint us.

Very truly yours
A. Hart Merriam.

Washington
March 7, 1882.

My dear Major Alford:

Your kind letter in regard to the lecture came several days ago and I will answer it in a few days.

Just now I want to tell you about a matter of much greater importance, namely, the Assistant Secretaryship of the Dept. of Ag.

It is my delight to learn that Prof Brewer of Yale has been urged for this position, and that President Brewster is favorably inclined toward him.

March 13, 1889.

Dear Mr. Palmer:

The outlook brightens for our work on the Geographical Distribution of Species, and I hope to be able to make it the means of training up a small school of systematic naturalists. To do this, it is necessary to head off and divert into other channels a small part of the current that for the past few years has been steadily pouring into the modern biological schools where microscopy, histology, embryology, and physiology have been forced into the foreground, driving out the kind of work which made such men as Cuvier, Lamarck, Humboldt, Agassiz, Darwin, Huxley, Dana and a host of others. At the present time there are too many highly specialized specialists and altogether too few "all round" naturalists.

I want to get hold of a few sturdy, honest, intelligent young men who are

I am informed also that Bremer has the strongest kind of hereditary backing, and that the scientific men of Washington are practically a unit in favor of his appointment. Now if he just came to my own trust Secretary Rusk so aware of most of the above facts, and that he wants you to tell him you mean the Agl. Experiment Station wants. If these so far seem it seems to me that your opportunity is golden - such an occasion once in a lifetime - to mould the future policy and details of the Department.

of opportunity in matters of scientific investigation and research. The present is a critical period in the life of the Department, and it seems to me that the most you can do must be to put forward such possibilities as are in the hands of the men which like most of the many men come into power something you will further the liberty & have taken in writing so freely, believe me my truly
a most American

not afraid of anything and who are willing to begin at the bottom of the ladder with the intention of climbing higher year by year, and of devoting their lives to biological work. I believe you and Keeler are of this stamp. You are the first to whom I have spoken of both of you cannot start soon, perhaps one will be able to set out on the coast trip the last of this month.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

S. S. Palmer
Berkeley, Cal.

March 19, 1889.

Dr. Robert Collett,
Christiania, Norway.

My dear Sir:

For some time past I have been engaged in preparing a monograph on the Arvicolinæ. Of this group I have in my private collection between three and four hundred specimens, among which are several new species and one new genus. In order to complete my studies of this group I am anxious to examine as many as possible of its European representatives, particularly those of the genus Arvicola. I take the liberty to ask, therefore, if you would like to exchange specimens of the European species for American. While particularly anxious to complete my series of the genus Arvicola, I am anxious to obtain all the Lemmings also. Should you desire to make an exchange, I can supply you with skins and skulls of most of the American species. I desire skins and skulls -- not alcoholics.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

Chief of Division of
Economic Ornithology & Mammalogy.

(Dictated)

March 19, 1889.

Dr. Robert Collett,
Christiania, Norway.

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Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Chief of Division of
Economic Ornithology & Mammalogy.

(Dictated.)

March 18, 1889.

(Dictated.)

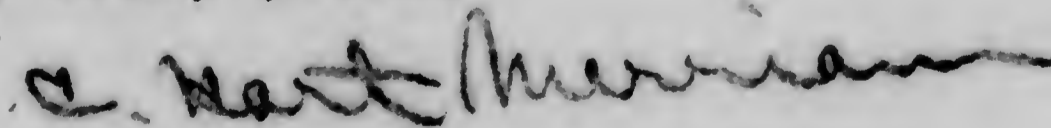
Dr. Henri de Saussure,
Genthod, pres Geneve,
Switzerland.

My dear Sir:

For some time past I have been engaged upon a monograph of the North American species of the genus Hesperomys. In studying specimens from the southern border of the United States and from Mexico I am much perplexed because of the difficulty of positively identifying the species described by you from Mexico. In a group in which the various forms approach one another so closely as in the genus Hesperomys it is almost impossible to positively determine the status of the species without actual comparison. I write, therefore, to ask if the types of the species described by you are still in existence, and if so, in what museum they are preserved. Would it be possible for me to obtain the loan of them for comparison? If so, I would return them promptly.

Awaiting a reply, I have the honor to remain,

Very truly yours,



Chief of Division of
Economic Ornithology & Mammalogy.

April 2, 1889.

Dear Mr. Goode:

I beg to call your attention to the dangerous manner in which skulls of small mammals are kept in the National Museum. They are arranged in small paper trays in drawers, and as a natural result of this arrangement many jaws are transposed and many have been lost. It is an every-day occurrence to find in a single tray parts of two or three skulls, sometimes belonging to different genera, while it is of equally frequent occurrence to find a skull unaccompanied by its jaws, or with one jaw only.

For instance, the small tray containing the skull of an Arvicola, no. 1969, is before me as I write. This tray contains, in addition to the skull and one jaw of no. 1969, two other jaws (nos. 1680 and 12170--the latter belonging to a different sub-family of the Muridae). The most unfortunate circumstance of all is that skulls of TYPES are mixed in with the rest, sometimes without any discriminating mark, and in more than one instance portions of these types have been lost.

It seems hardly necessary to urge that small skulls should be kept in glass tubes.

In this connection I take the liberty also to state that Prof. Baird's system of putting both skull and skin number, in the form of a fraction, on every label is not now adhered to, so that it is impossible in many cases to connect a skull with the skin to which it belongs. Full data are rarely to be found on recent labels either of skins or skulls, and reference to the catalogue seldom supplements the information contained on the labels.

Very truly,

E. A. Mearns

Washington
April 5, 1889.

My dear Major Alvord:

Your letter of yesterday in regard to the lectures emphasizes my remissness in not replying before to your former very kind letter.

The trouble is I am completely overwhelmed with work, day and night, and do not see how I can possibly take the time to prepare a single lecture. In fact, I have recently declined several invitations to lecture.

At the same time I do not want to disappoint you. Whether do I want to live an

April 24, 1889.

Dr. James C. Welling,
President Columbian University,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In compliance with your request I take pleasure in transmitting herewith a brief statement of the work of the Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy, from the standpoint suggested.

Very truly yours,

E. Hart Merriam

(Dictated.)

opportunity to show the students of an Oriental college the nature and importance of work in ornithology and mammalogy. Therefore, after talking them over with my assistant Prof. Barrows, I will make the following suggestion as a conference.

We will agree to give you ~~four~~ lectures in all, for the amount mentioned in your last letter (\$700). Of these, I will deliver two, and Barrows ~~three~~. I will talk about geographical distribution and

Memorable, leaving the Birds for him.

If such arrangements suits you, please find me the latest lists possible.

Regarding my inability to comply fully with your kind demand

*Very truly yours
E. Hart Merriam
Prof. Welling
Columbian Univ. College.*

P.S. Should like to see one of your college catalogues.

April 24, 1889.

Dr. James G. Welling,
President, Columbian University,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In compliance with your request I take pleasure in transmitting herewith a brief statement of the work of the Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy, from the standpoint suggested.

Very truly yours,

E. Hart Merriam

(Dictated.)

opportunity to show the extent of an organized college course in ornithology and mammalogy. Therefore, after talking them over with my assistant Prof. Brewster, I will make the following suggestion as a compromise.

We will agree to give four hours lecture in all for the amount mentioned in your last letter (1889). If I have a will, I will give some special. I will talk about geographical distribution and

Memorable, leaving the Birds for him.

If such arrangement suits you, please find me the latest date feasible.

Regarding my inability to comply fully with your kind demand,

Very truly yours
E. Hart Merriam
Prof. W. Brewster
Brooklyn College

P.S. Should I write you one of your college catalogues.

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC ORNITHOLOGY AND MAMMALOLOGY, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

The Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy of the Department of Agriculture is an excellent example of a branch of Government in which investigations in pure science are carried on hand in hand with economic work.

The Division was established by Congress for the purpose of studying the geographical distribution, migrations, and food-habits of North American birds and mammals. It has been divided into two principal subdivisions, namely: (1) SECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION; and (2) SECTION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

The section of Geographical Distribution is now engaged in mapping the exact range of every known species of North American bird and mammal. In the case of birds, the breeding range, winter range, and range during migration are indicated by different colors. The large base maps of the Geological Survey are used, and a separate map is devoted to each species. Faunal maps are made by combining a large number of species maps. In making such combinations it is found that a considerable percentage of the species maps fall into certain well defined categories whose color patches are essentially coincident. The composite resulting from the coordination of these maps may be held to represent the natural faunal areas of

a country. Several such areas may be characterized by the common possession of species not found elsewhere, and may be combined to constitute a faunal province; several provinces a region; and several regions a realm, or primary zoo-geographical division of the earth's surface.

The information exhibited on these maps is obtained by collation of published records, by examination of museum specimens, and by work in the field, the latter being by far the most important. After charting the information derived from the two first mentioned sources, the gaps in the knowledge of the range of the various species at once become apparent, and field agents are sent out to complete the record. The collections made by these field agents consist mainly of mammals and birds, but include reptiles and some other groups. They are of the utmost value, not alone on account of the information they afford on the geographical range of the species, but because of their importance in a systematic study of the species themselves. After they have been worked up by the Division the specimens are turned over to the National Museum, where they become a part of the permanent collections of that institution.

The Section of Economic Relations has to do primarily with the food-habits of birds and mammals; but since the habits of nearly related species differ in different parts of the country, it becomes necessary to identify with exactness the species and subspecies concerned. As the task of discriminating and defining the multitude

a country. Several such areas may be characterized by the common possession of species not found elsewhere, and may be combined to constitute a faunal province; several provinces a region; and several regions a realm, or primary zoo-geographical division of the earth's surface.

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of species and subspecies of North American mammals and birds has not been completed, particularly in the former group, a large amount of purely technical work is necessary in order to tie down the economic results to the species and subspecies to which they actually belong. In the treatment of special groups--such for instance as the Gophers, Ground Squirrels, and Mice--the technical work amounts to a critical monographic revision of these groups, based on the study of a very large quantity of material, partly brought together by the investigations of the Division, and partly contained in the National Museum and other large collections. The Division is now engaged in the preparation of several important illustrated bulletins, treating of special groups, in which a purely scientific revision of the genera and species is accompanied by a statement of their economic relations.

As the geologist in his search for mineral wealth must be preceded by the topographer, who furnishes him maps on which to indicate the position of his discoveries, so should the economic zoologist base his work upon a knowledge of the geographic distribution of species. Agriculture and biology must be studied from the geographic standpoint before man can hope to avail himself of the means within his grasp for the rapid advancement of these sciences. But geography is only a part of the broader science of physiography. Physiography deals with the earth's exterior in relation to the atmosphere; it attempts to correlate the forms of the land-- the mountain ranges, table lands, plains, valleys, and water courses-- its geologic structure, soil, elevation above sea level, and slope exposure in relation to sunlight, with the phenomena of climate, including temperature and moisture in their various aspects.

The aim of the Division is to explain the distribution of animals and plants by means of a knowledge of the conditions which govern this distribution, and to formulate the laws which are operative in bringing about the results we see. In other words, cause and effect are studied in the relations of physiography to biology.

May 3, 1889.

Mr. R. Ross Perry,
Fendall Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your communications of April 24 and May 3, relating to Gibson Bros.' bill against the Biological Society, have been referred to Mr. F. A. Lucas, Secretary of the Society.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

(Dictated.)

Washington

April 15, 1889.

Wm. Bailey Esq.

My dear Sir:

Now that you are no longer working for me personally, I feel at liberty to express my satisfaction with your work.

You have been in the field collecting mammals for me more or less of the time for the past four years, and I think it is not too much to say that you are the best mammal collector in the whole world.

You not only understand thoroughly the art of trapping small mammals, but you also make most excellent skins, with the accompanying skulls prepared in the best manner.

Moreover, you are a very good bird collector, though there are many who can enter you in this line.

Your general knowledge of mammals, birds, and plants fits you for general field work where a knowledge of the distribution of species is desired. In this latter direction you are without a superior ^{person} ~~to~~ ^{in this country} ~~the present time~~. 372

May 17, 1889.

My dear Mr. Thomas:

The alcoholics you were kind enough to send me some time ago must have been delayed a long time on the journey, as they reached me only two days before your letter. I have sent you a package in return, and enclose herewith the shipping receipt for the same. The package is addressed to the Mammal Department, in your care.

I was very glad to get the specimens you sent, particularly Hesperomys taylori and Scorex crawfordi; also the American Bats. The specimens I send you in return are likewise all alcoholics, and I trust you will find them of interest. No. 3896, male, Onychomys leucogaster, is from Fort Buford^{if}, Dakota, and may be considered a duplicate type, as Buford is only a few miles from the locality where Maximilian obtained his type, and is the identical locality ^{from which} ~~from~~ Audubon and Bachman's "Mus missouriensis" came. Nos. 5592 and 5593, Hesperomys eremicus, male and female, are from the lower Colorado River, a short distance only from the original type locality. I was very much rejoiced to secure a series of specimens from this region, in order to have a point of departure in working up the Hesperomes of the eremicus group. No. 5591, male, is from practically the same locality, and is what Coues calls H. sonoriensis. The Sigmodon, No. 5221, belongs to a subspecies

-2-

which will be described shortly by Frank M. Chapman, of New York, and is from his type locality. The specimens of Tamias will probably interest you from their localities.

Should you care to make another exchange I should be glad to do so provided you can send me skins with skulls. I hate alcoholics, and as a rule keep only one or two of a species in spirits in my collection. I have skins with accompanying skulls of all the species mentioned in your letter, and can send you duplicate types of nearly everything I have described, together with fully fifty per cent. of the known species of North American mammals. I am now about to publish descriptions of ten or a dozen new species, one of them an Arctomys.

Unfortunately I have no Californian Otters.

I have recently sent you separates of my mammal papers, and should be much pleased to receive separates of your own publications which have appeared during the past year or so.

Why do you not include Arctomys and Caster in the genus Crice-
tes? Certainly our notions of what constitutes a genus differ as widely as possible.

Are you not coming over here this summer?

Very truly yours,

E. Hart Merriam

Mr. Oldfield Thomas,
Curator of Mammals,
British Museum, South Kensington,
London, S.W., England.

May 14, 1889.

Mr. H. Nehrling,
815 North Avenue,
Milwaukee, Wis.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the 6th instant reached me yesterday, and the first part of your great work on North American Birds is now before me, for which I am very much obliged. For several years I have looked forward to the appearance of this work with unusual interest, and I am very glad to see that it is published in such good style, and that it contains so much information of value, presented in a pleasant and readable manner. ^{life} Since you ask for my honest opinion of this book I will give it to you freely. First as to the plates I deem it unfortunate that the plates which accompany the first part do not illustrate the species treated in this part. For obvious reasons it would be better if the plates could accompany the text which they illustrate. The chromo-lithographs are not up to the standard which the modern excellence of the art exacts. For instance, in plate XIV the red color on the Redstart, and particularly on top of the head of the Ovenbird, is a color never seen in nature. At the same time the figures of birds on these plates are excellent so far as serving purposes of identification. The

-2-

drawings on plate XII are inferior, and the chromo-lithograph reproduction is poor. Moreover I cannot see the propriety of grouping six birds characteristic of a northern fauna against a background of tropical verdure. On plate XXXIV I regret to see that your publisher has followed the antiquated and barbarous custom of employing the female sign for both male and female, simply turning it bottom side up in the case of the male. This is an atrocity which you ought not to permit.

The red border about the pages gives the book a cheap look. Without this border the same pages would have a very elegant appearance, as the type is large and distinct and the margin well proportioned.

Now as to the text. The plan of arrangement I like very much, putting the English name ^{or} first in heavy type, and appending a brief description in small type at the end of each article. This is exactly what ought to be done in all cases where books are written for the public and at the same time are intended to be of scientific accuracy. Your own portion of the text is admirable. I like both your scheme of treatment and the way you express yourself. In fact, what you say about what you yourself have observed is above criticism. At the same time I think you quote too much from the writings of others. This is a common mistake, and one I

-3-

have myself made more than once in my earlier writings.

In your remarks on the Wood Thrush, on pages 3 and 4, you speak of this species as a characteristic inhabitant of the coniferous forests of northern Wisconsin, Michigan, New England, and the Alleghany Mountains. You draw a picture of a characteristic forest of the Canadian fauna, with its coniferous trees, its carpet of dense green moss, interspersed with Lycopodium, Gaultheria, and Chiegenes, Andromeda, and then make the statement that the Wood Thrush is "the most frequent denizen of these regions", in which you include also the Chewink. Now the greater part of my life has been spent in the Canadian fauna, and the result of my experience is that you have pictured the very region which the Wood Thrush and the Chewink rarely, if ever, enter. The coniferous forests of the Canadian fauna are the true home of the Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Red-bellied Nuthatch, Winter Wren, and the White-throated Sparrow. You will find a tolerably complete account of the Canadian fauna in the introductory chapter of my work on the Mammals of the Adirondacks. In the matter of song I do not think you give full justice to the Hermit, probably because you are yourself more familiar with the song of the Wood Thrush. I held the Hermit to be the finest of American songsters.

Such a work as you are now publishing has long been needed in this country -- a work which combines accuracy and reliability of

~~4~~

biography with a minimum of technical description, and illustrated in such a way that all the figures are recognizable. I trust its sale will warrant the very large amount of money expended in its publication.

er

4

you were the only person
 given enough to undertake
 the job. I do not
 see first instance, I regret to
 say, when you have failed
 to appreciate my efforts to
 be you a kindness and to
 give you opportunities which
 most young men similarly
 situated would regard as a
 great privilege.

Now Green, I do not intend
 as a 'welling letter' but merely
 to ask your attention to a
 point or two that will bear
 thinking of.

Directing that the references
 of the 20 trip will be of lasting service
 to you, and that the change of office
 will be a great improvement.

Washington
 May 22/89.

My dear Green:

Kindly you were
 a little slow when you
 wrote the letter which
 has just reached me.
 I do not think I might
 have written it, as a letter
 of such importance to have
 a very important effect on
 your affairs.

Your references with the
 man who wrote you the
 note and which shows every

Washington D.C.
May 22/89.

Mr. A. B. Balch.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 14th inst. and box of skins are before me. I am pleased to know why you sent these skins to me unless it was because you didn't know what else to do with them. Most of them are so poor I would not have them in my collection. Each of the skunklike weighs as much as half a dozen eight toes. Some appear to have sticks in the tails instead of wires, and all have hard heads. Not a skin in the lot is made up according to my instructions. They are a dirty, greasy batch, and the hair is loose on most of the skunklike.

What shall I do with them? I am willing to keep a few, and will hold the others subject to your orders, or return them to Dress Co.

They were miserably packed too. Small skins should always be wrapped in cotton as I have written you over & over again for years.

Skins should be stuffed tightly with cotton, & should be made up the look like fig. 1. in our circular on the preparation of skins, etc. Hard heads in skins are an abomination, except when such skins are mounted.

It is a singular fact that our forest skins are those made by professional taxidermists. They are all right for mounting, but all wrong for cabinet specimens.

All skins should be dried flat on a board never in paper cylinders.

Awaiting reply as to the disposition of these skins

Yours very truly
C. Hart Merriam

See p. 388.

May 23, 1889.

Dr. Robert Collett,
Christiania, Norway.

Dear Sir:

Your esteemed letter reached me some time ago, and was followed after a considerable interval by the specimens, for which I am very much obliged. In a few days I shall send you a package in return. I am sending you now a few separates of my mammal papers, and should be much pleased to receive any extras of your own publications on mammals that you may happen to have to spare.

I should be glad to make a further exchange with you for any of the Arvicolinae and Mustelidae, and representatives of the genera Spermophilus, Tamias, and Arctomys. Of these I very much want skulls as well as skins. In the skins sent the skulls are inside instead of accompanying the skins, so that I cannot get at them without spoiling the skins. In most cases I would like several skulls of a species. In all cases I am particularly anxious to have your identification of the specimens sent.

Unfortunately I am unable to supply you with South American mammals. I am very much in need of these myself. It has become

-2-

difficult to secure museum specimens of the Beaver, but I think I can get you one if you will give me a little time. In what shape do you wish it? I can furnish you good specimens, either in alcohol or in the skin form, of most species of North American mammals, including the Spermophiles and Mice.

Very truly yours,

A. S. Huxian -

Ornithologist.

(Dictated.)

P. S. I have a two year old Beaver which I can send you now if you wish it.

May 27, 1889.

Mr. Theodore D. A. Cockerell,
Secretary Colorado Biological Association,
Westcliffe, Colorado.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of May 3, informing me of my election as a member of the Council of the Colorado Biological Association, reached me a week or so ago, and has just been followed by your communication of the 17th instant, asking for my ballot on certain propositions submitted in writing.

In regard to recorders and referees, I vote in the affirmative for a, c, d, and e; in the negative for b, because I do not consider the person named as competent to identify birds' eggs, and I would suggest as a substitute the name of Captain Charles K. Bendire, Curator of Oölogy, U. S. National Museum. Upon the other questions submitted I do not care to vote either way.

In looking over your reports, of which I have Nos. 2 to 13, inclusive (I should be glad to receive No. 1), I am impelled to make certain suggestions.

1. That these reports, if worth anything at all, are worth preserving for permanent file or binding; consequently that they ought to be in uniform size as to type-bed and margin. The 13th

-2-

report is a miserable little leaflet, which is almost certain to become lost.

2. That they should bear the date of publication, which at present exists on but five of the thirteen. The others have not so much as the year to give a clue as to the dates of their publication.

3. That the notes containing information on the occurrence or migrations of species should be accompanied by the date and locality. Most statements of this kind are worthless for lack of this information. In one place I notice a record of the appearance of the Chipmunk March 10; the year is left out, and no mention is made of the locality, altitude, or name of species. It is hardly necessary to state that records of this kind are utterly worthless.

I am very glad to see that your membership has increased so largely, and that your Association is so energetic.

Wishing you success, I remain,

Respectfully,

C. Eastman

(Dictat ed.)

May 29, 1889.

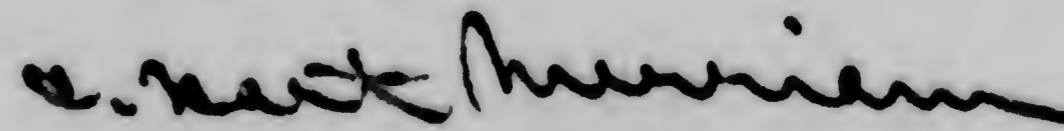
Dr. C. J. Forsyth Major,
Porto Santo Stefano,
Toscana, Italy.

Dear Sir:

In my work upon a monographic revision of the Arvicolinae I have had occasion to consult your very valuable paper entitled VERTEBRATI ITALIANI NUOVI O POCO NOTI, published in Volume III of the Atti della Societa Toscana, in 1877. In it I find the best illustration of the teeth of members of the genus Arvicola that I have ever seen. I should be very much pleased if you could spare me a separate copy of this paper in order that I may have it for convenient reference. I take pleasure in sending you by this post a few of my own publications relating to mammals.

I am particularly interested in the Arvicola glareolus from Italy, and am exceedingly anxious to examine a specimen of it. Would you be willing to exchange a specimen for some of our North American mammals?

Very truly yours,



Ornithologist.

(Dictated.)

Washington
May 31/79.

Mr. A. B. Baldu-

Nyden Liu:

have been holding
the enclosed letter
waiting to hear from
you in order to know
where to address you.

On looking over the
skins again carefully I have
decided to keep the following;
for as they are:

3 Spilogale
2 Neofelis
2 Felis rufus
2 Felis nigripes
1 Canis

1 Canis
1 Dipodomys
1 Neotoma
1 Ochotona

will send money to A. W. Swinton as direct
to A. West Mission

Washington, D.C.
June 3, 1889.

My dear Mother:

Without knowing anything about it I received that you spent Sunday (yesterday) in Salt Lake City, and that you will be leaving shortly for Denver by way of the narrow gauge road which passes through Panguitch and the Royal Gorge of the Arkansas - a trip of surprising interest. The expense of sending a dog and a night on a narrow gauge sleeper is in itself a novelty. It is a sort of bill horse affair, after which a full-sized biller seems like a feast. You are fortunate in having friends with

of strangers for knee-fucking convenience.

Your letter of Jan 27th of May has just reached me and I am delighted to know that Denver is so much better. Her bird paper for the Audubon all right & so excellent. Will write about details as soon as she gets home.

Of course you know all about the Johnston flock which I heard thousands of. We have had a flock here since yesterday the water was so deep on Leming Avenue Avenue that I saw people leaving hotels and houses by boats loaded up with their front doors! The water was so deep that the

I was very glad to get yours, and also to see that you regard our American seamen as distinct from the Europeans.

The money you have sent me has arrived all right and is correct in full. But I did not expect you to pay it. In future, please send the annual subscription to the Duke to the publisher.

It is evident from your last letter that you have written me one letter which I have never received. Perhaps it was sent to incorrect address and lost. Please keep the envelope addressed to Leobach. It must have been a mistake.

I hope we shall see you over here before long, and that you will be able to bring Mrs. Blake and your son etc. with you.

Washington, D.C.
June 7, 1881.

My dear Prof. Blake:

Your very welcome letter reached me sometime ago, and I should have replied sooner but have been overwhelmed with work, as usual.

In the first place I must thank you for your very kind and interesting letter, telling me about yourself and family. I am glad to learn of your success as a father.

I am married now also, but have no children yet. I have built a fence here in Washington and have brought

had one on 9th, 10th, 11th, & 14th were not able to cross with of the fence. The only feasible way of reaching the Smithsonian is by the Dept. of Ag. via my boat.

On the evening of May 20 I gave a reception to the following gentlemen:

- John W. Foster; Major Powell, Col. Marshall (Madison); (U.S. Fish Commission); Hon. Edwin Willott (U.S. Secy. of Ag.); (Col. Sewell); Anselmy, Prof. Cleveland Blake, Capt. G. C. Satter, 5. Brewer, Genl. Orville Nagel, & K. Elliott; Henry Comstock, Prof. Shaw, Sill, Mr. H. Ball, Prof. Lester N. Wash, Dr. K. S. Cole, Prof. Frank Baker, Andrew Baker, Henry W. Henshaw, Willott, 5. Oglethorpe (Genl. Sargent), Richard Patterson, Chas. D. Walcott, Dr. R. E. C. Strome, and 21 above mentioned.
- It is hardly necessary to add that we passed a delightful evening. Wish you were dining with us this way. With love to you all.

4) Jim and me 2 or 3 sample skins made up the ten letters of my instruction (and you by those mails a few extra skins of size 11 on preparing skins). It is perfectly evident from these skins that there may even be first class mammals if he only tries. I have been hunting up my collection with 2's + 3's with skins, but if he will take the trouble to make good skins, and perfect skulls with teeth, I shall be glad to give him an order. I don't want Lewis bags. The skins, sent out Richardson - not travelling. I'm pushing them so fast; a few weeks into Western business. submit preparations so not especially near any one of the Museum.

Washington
June 15/71.

My dear Smithsonian:
I've written you the 15th enclosing up of our former mammals since a few days ago, & will follow by the box of skins. Our unpacking this has by "first infolder" was the skull it is in the first part - in second thought I concluded to write you about 25 firsts. I'm now - has done exactly what I found it & exactly what I asked him not to do, i.e. has sent a collection instead of a few sample skins.

have from my former time in Western New York, my mammal collection and library. My wife helps me in my work and we are getting on slowly. She travels, I have a much official work to do that I have almost no time left. The work in the Division of Fishes I have charge of increasing so rapidly that it takes all my time. I work nights and Sundays, and in this way, with the help of my wife, accomplish something in a few weeks I shall publish a paper containing descriptions of nearly 20 new mammals, and one or two new genera.

My collection of American mammals has reached about 6000 specimens.

It is best the Government has given me power to study and make the distribution of our mammals and birds, and has increased my appropriation for this coming year to \$15,000. I have now five naturalists travelling in different parts of the West, and hope to accomplish a great deal before winter. The specimens collected in this way go into the National Museum and remain under my charge. I shall begin a publication on the Geographical fauna, which will be sent you regularly. Hope you received the pamphlets I sent you a short time ago.

3 for criticism.

Now I have no use for
too best of material in
my collection, & will sell the
best subject to you - others
all the skulls are vertebrae,
the occipital portion has been
chipped off, & the makers
are useless in the small
skulls. Many of the tails
are not wired to the very top
& consequently the tops will
break off. Many of the
legs are sprawling instead of
close under & parallel to the body.
The stern marks, the lot has
been prepared by following
parts of my instructions
and ignoring parts.

as previously stated, I have no
use for this kind of material
- will not loan the standard
of my collection by putting such
specimens into it. After
some time the skulls (or
many of them) would sell
up - very well if anyone
wanted to mount them.
Could you not sell them to
some technician?
If not, & worst comes to worst
I might manage to reimburse
you for money expended in
express chgs. by having the
division purchase them as material
illustration of egg distribution in
the case of some mammals
into the Museum. Possibly
we might pay \$3.00 for the lot.
If however you wish to try giving them

Washington
June 18/89.

My dear Major Wood:

Many thanks for
part letters and check
for \$50. in part. for lecture
delivered by Barrows and
myself. Barrows full
name letter so [left out].
Walter B. Barrows, S.P.

Was glad to see your
headquarters and sorry to
miss you. You certainly
have some bright & interesting
things in store ahead.
With kindest regards
Very truly yours
A. Hart Merriam.

as previously stated, I have no
 use for this kind of material
 - will not have the usual
 of my collection by putting each
 specimens into it. After
 some time the skulls (or
 many of them) will be
 up very well if anyone
 wanted to mount them.
 could you not sell them to
 some technician?
 If not, I want you to write
 I might manage to reimburse
 you for money expended in
 Xpress chgs. by having the
 division purchase them as material
 illustration of eug. distribution in
 with ever having small skeleton
 into the museum. Possibly
 we might pay \$2.00 for the lot.
 If however you wish to try giving head

for criticism.
 Now I have no use for
 this sort of material in
 my collection, I will sell the
 lot subject to your orders.
All the skulls are vertebrae,
 the occipital portion has been
 chipped off, & the molars
 are broken in the small
 skulls. Many of the teeth
 are not wired to the very top
 & consequently the tops will
 break off. Many of the
 legs are examined instead of
 close under & parallel to the body.
 In other words, the lot has
 been prepared by following
 part of my instructions
 and ignoring part.

Washington
 June 18/89.

My dear Major Blood:

Many thanks for
 your letters and check
 for \$50. in part. for lecture
 delivered J. Barrows and
 myself. Barrows full
 name letter is [unclear]
 Walter B. Barrows, S.P.

We plan to see you
 headquarters and away to
 mine you. You certainly
 have some bright interesting
 things in the school.
 With kindest regards
 Wm. Brewster
 a. West Museum.

July 6, 1889.

My dear Col. Sess:

Your letter of the 3^d inst. actually enclosing passes for Mrs. Merriam from Kansas City to Flagstaff & return fairly takes my breath away. I scarcely dared hope there was any chance at all - and there was none except through you.

Mrs. Merriam is overjoyed, and joins me in the hope that we may be able at sometime, in some feasible way, to express our gratitude to you.

Of course we shall stop at Topeka to see you and the Sess collection - of which we have heard so much.

I will let you know when to expect us - probably about the 20th.

I shall not attempt to thank you, for that would be impossible, but you know we appreciate your kindness.

Very truly yours,

E. Hart Merriam.

Col. H. S. Sess
Topeka, Kansas.

July 18, 9

Mr. W. H. White
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Col. N. S. Lees of Zephera writes me that I am indebted to you for the pass received for Mrs. Morrison between Kansas City and Flagstaff - to which latter point I am taking a small party of Naturalists. It is hardly necessary to say that I am greatly indebted for your kindness, and I trust that our trip may be the means of leading others to visit the very interesting region about San Francisco Mt. & the Grand Cañon.

I take the liberty to send you a few publications which may contain something of interest to you. Very truly
Wm. H. White

Oct. 12, 9

Dr. Audley Buller
 Apartado 89,
 Guadalupe, Mexico.

Dear Sir:

I have just returned from Arizona and find your letter of Sept. 2^d, and also the box of skins sent. The skins of chipmunks (*Tamias*) are not up to our standard of excellence, but they show that with a little practice you will be able to make good skins. Please do not forget that all skins should be put away to dry belly down on a flat surface, & that great care should be taken with the feet & head.

In preparing the skulls, it is not necessary to save the cervical vertebrae, & it is easier to remove the brains when they are out of the way. As a rule it is better to preserve bats in spirits than to skin them. A slit should be made in the belly to admit the alcohol, & care should be taken not to crowd too many in one bottle.

after soaking in alcohol for 10 days or 2 weeks the hats may be removed safely, wrapped in cotton or cloth, packed in a tin box with a tight cover, & sent by mail. We find old baking powder boxes very convenient for mailing alcoholics.

Enclosed \$2.00 in pay. for the skins sent (4 hats & 4 chipmunks).

In future I will give you 25 cts each for good skins with skulls of mice & chipmunks & will take 6 of each species at that price. Your hats in spirit I will pay the same price for 4 of each species provided they are good in good condition, but if the hair is loose, only 10 cts.

Your larger squirrels & gophers I will pay more in proportion. But please have the quality of the specimens as high as possible, & have the skins thoroughly dry before sending.

Very respectfully
C. Hart Merriam -

Oct. 12, 9

Editor of Nature.

Dear Sir:

The enclosed note is self explanatory.

If you will kindly send me two copies of Nature containing it I shall be very much obliged -

Respectfully

C. Hart Merriam -

WHO DISCOVERED THE TEETH IN ORNITHORHYNCHUS ?

On returning from central Arizona, where I have been engaged in biological explorations, I find upon my desk an important paper entitled "On the Dentition of Ornithorhynchus", by my friend Oldfield Thomas Esq., Curator of Mammals in the British Museum.--(see Proc. Royal Soc. Vol. 46, 1889, 126-131, pl. 2.)

The opening sentence of this paper is as follows: "At the meeting of the 9th of February, 1888, Mr. F. B. Poulton communicated to this Society the first discovery of the presence of teeth in Ornithorhynchus, a discovery which naturally awakened extreme interest throughout the scientific world." A few lines further on Mr. Thomas continues: "The grand fact of the presence of teeth in Monotremes, and their mammalian nature, are discoveries on which Mr. Poulton may well be congratulated".

From the above I infer that considerable stir has been made by the assumed new 'discovery' that the young Ornithorhynchus has teeth.

If my British colleagues will turn to the masterly work of their illustrious countryman, Sir Everard Home, they will find in the second volume of his "Lectures on Comparative Anatomy" (published in 1814) no less than three beautifully engraved plates, containing eight figures, of the skull and mouth parts of Ornithorhynchus.

Four of these figures show the teeth--two on each side of each jaw. The explanation accompanying Fig. I, Tab. LIX is as follows: "A view of the upper jaw and palate, to show that there are two grinding teeth on each side". Fig. 2 is "a similar view of the under jaw".

Washington, D. C., October 12, 1890.

G. Hart Lerriss, M.D.

WHO DISCOVERED THE TEETH IN ORNITHORHYNCHUS ?

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Washington, D. C. October 12, 1888. G. Hart Merriam, M.D.

In Nature for November 14, Profs. Flower and Lister criticise my note which appeared the week previous (Nature, Nov. 7, p.11) concerning the discovery of teeth in the young Ornithorhynchus.

They promptly dismiss my claim that Sir Everard Home discovered the teeth of the young Ornithorhynchus by stating that the structures described and figured by Sir Everard are the well known cornules of the adult animal.

If they will take the trouble to turn to the plate cited by me, namely, plate LIX of the second volume of Home's Lectures, 1814, and will read the accompanying explanation, they will see that Home was familiar with the teeth of both the young and the old animal.

For the benefit of those who may not have access to Home's Lectures I here reproduce outline tracings of two of his figures. Plate LIX, fig. 2 shows the teeth of the young Ornithorhynchus-- the "first set", as Home says, "to show that there are two grinding teeth on each side". The next figure is a similar tracing from the succeeding plate in Home's Lectures (pl. LX) which represents, to again use Home's own words, "the under jaw of the full grown Ornithorhynchus paradoxus, to shew that there is only one grinder on each side".

Both of these figures are natural size.

In the face of these facts, further comment seems unnecessary.

I admit, of course, that Home did not discover the chemical composition of the teeth of the young animal--this was Poulton's discovery.

C. Hart Merriam.

Merriam
0011879

Jan. 21, 1890.

Dear Doctor Salzen:

Am very glad to hear from you again and to know that you are going on with your work on the *Loricata*. For some time I've been intending to write & beg you to publish your notes on North American *Chrens*, however brief or fragmentary, so that we can recognize your species.

Now that the figures are made, a very small amount of text would be sufficient.

You must know that we have been holding back for several years in order to find you the opportunity to publish your species first. The time has now come when, in connection with

our faunal works, it is absolutely necessary
to say something about the Shrews.
So I trust you will be able to publish
at once brief digresses of your new
species from North America.

I will go over my collection as soon as
possible & search for young Blarina & Lepus
and let you know the result. I have
some embryos of both genera but fear
they are too young.

About the end of October I sent you
copies of some of my recent publications
but fear they did not reach you as
they were sent to your old address.
I shall duplicate them now.

With kindest regards
Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Jan. 21, 1890.

Dear Mr. Allen:

This morning I sent you by
express a package containing 113 specimens
of Tamias of the quadrimaculatus group - all
skins. By this mail I send four
more which would not go into the
other package without crowding. This
makes 117 skins in all and exhausts my
personal collection excepting a few alcoholics
wh. you can have if you wish.

I have not sent Tamias macrohabdatus
or T. dorsalis, but will if you want them.
The same is true of your new form from
Mexico.

In addition to my own collection, and
the National Museum collection, there
are a number of specimens belonging

in treatment, due to insufficiency of material or other causes.

Generally, I try to make my descriptions of new forms absolutely descriptive, and describe the considerable changes in seeing them - checked with those of specimens which as a rule are not sufficiently good to admit of determining the subspecies - but alone subspecies to which they belong.

We are glad to know that you are settled in your new home and hope it will prove as pleasant and convenient as the one you left.

Mrs. Brewster joins me in kind regards to your letter, and in the hope that you will soon receive from the effects of moving and be all the better for the change. Mrs. M. is as well as could be expected.

Very truly yours
E. Brewster

Washington
Apr. 29/90.

Dear Mr. Allen:
When I wrote you a few days ago I was suffering from a severe pain in the left side of my abdomen. I went home & went to bed & have been there ever since until this morning. The evening before I feared my case was up, but fortunately it turned out to be nothing more serious than a rupture of some of the fibres of the deep abdominal muscle, with attendant inflammation - involving a small portion of peritoneum. Hope to be all right again in a few days. This will explain the delay in

sending measurements and skulls. The former go to you by the mail. The Michigan measurements you already have. I have no measurements of the Spache's specimens, from Kalamazoo.

You will have to supply the 8,9, nos. from the skins. We furnish the original nos. but you will find on the back of each label, at the tail end. We have not yet been able to spare the time to copy the 8,9, nos. in our original volumes, nor to write labels for the skulls, hence the present trouble. Will try to send skulls tomorrow.

Kaibab is new in central Wyoming & will probably reach Bridger next week. We have not sent in any *Sciurus* yet, nor have we such any from our denise. Will send you all that wind in time. Please give me your name for the denisea not denise.

In regard to binomials, I am tired for the chipmunks, I consider of course that there are several good species, and several subspecies whose affinities must be doubtful. At the same time there are a number where intergradation must be clearly subspecific, and I do not see the logic in treating these as species because you are uncertain of the relationships of some of the others. I shall not venture to the ruling of the above & another to the extent of all who need binomials?

I want to be able to stand up for every one of your new forms and to believe in your conclusions, particularly in view of the desirability of preventing a 'cold front' to our friends across the water who cannot be expected to discriminate matters of principle from slight errors

Oct. 28, 1890.

Mr. Lohrey Lenzel,
 Directeur du Musée d'Histoire Naturelle,
 Geneva, Switzerland.

Dear Sir:

On returning from the mountains of Idaho, where I have been conducting biological explorations during the past season, my assistant, Mr. S. S. Palmer, calls my attention to a communication received from you during my absence, requesting the immediate return of some specimens of Mexican mammals, collected by Mr. de la Sagra, which your museum had the courtesy to loan me some time ago.

I owe you an apology for keeping these specimens so long, and my only excuse is prolonged absence from Washington. As you may be aware, I have charge of a Biological Survey of our western states and territories, and during the past two years much of my time has been spent in exploring remote parts of the far west, in California, Oregon, Washington,

I have been thinking of you for some time and I hope you are well. I have been very busy with my work but I have not forgotten you. I have been thinking of you for some time and I hope you are well. I have been very busy with my work but I have not forgotten you.

Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and Idaho. In the intervals between these several explorations I have been overwhelmed with work, preparing my reports for publication, and attending to the urgent duties connected with my official position. For these reasons I have been prevented from making the critical comparisons necessary for the determination of Mr. De la Sagra's types. I trust therefore that you and the other officers of your Museum will pardon me for retaining so long the specimens in question.

I shall pack these specimens at once and return them by an early steamer.

Very respectfully,
C. Hart Merriam -

December 11, 1890.

Dr. George H. Horn,
Corresponding Secretary,
Academy of Natural Sciences,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Sir:

Your communication of the 9th instant, informing me of my election to corresponding membership in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, has just reached me.

I accept this membership with a due sense of the honor conferred and shall esteem it a privilege to promote the interests of the Academy in every way within my power.

In a few days I shall take the liberty to send to the Library of the Academy as many of my scientific papers as remain undistributed. I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam -

January 24, 1891

Prof. G. Brown Goode,
Director U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Goode:

At the request of my father I transmit herewith the data relating to the interlocked Elk antlers deposited by him in the Museum sometime since.

Respectfully,

A. S. Rehn

(Dictated.)

INTERLOCKED ANTLERS OF THE ELK OR WAPITI (CERVUS CANADENSIS)

From Carroll, Montana.

Deposited by Hon. Clinton L. Merriam, of Locust Grove, New York.

These interlocked Elk antlers were found by a half breed named Red Eagle while hunting Buffalo near the Little Rocky Mountains north of Carroll, Montana, in February, 1882. Red Eagle immediately returned to Carroll and told Mr. J. W. Shultz of his discovery. Mr. Shultz made a 'bob sled', hitched a cayuse to it, and drove to the place. He says: "The antlers were lying in a broad ravine which runs from the Missouri to the mountains. The backbones of the animals were still attached to the skulls, but the wolves had torn the hides, and torn off the leg bones and some of the ribs. The ground about the place was tramped and trodden down, as if the animals had become interlocked and finally had died of starvation and exhaustion."

The following letters relating to these antlers were received by Mr. Merriam.

[From Hon. Judge John Dean Caton, Chicago, Illinois (Owner of the Ottawa, Illinois, Elk Park, and of one of the largest collections of antlers in America).]

Chicago, Illinois, October 22, 1883.

Dear Sir:

You have laid me under great obligations by your favor of the 9th instant telling me of the interlocked Elk antlers. I have never seen interlocked Elk antlers though I have heard it stated that they have been found, but I cannot recall by whom, and I am not sure that it was from one

who had seen them or but a rumor. It is certain that they are very rare.....

Yours very truly,
J. D. Caton.

[From the late Professor Spencer F. Baird, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.]

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
August 20, 1883.

Dear Mr. Merriam.

I do not think that I ever saw interlocked Elk antlers, and congratulate you upon getting them. Do you not think it would be better for you to send them to the Smithsonian Institution?

Yours truly,
S. F. Baird.

[From the late General Delos B. Sacket, Inspector General, U. S. Army.]

Cape Vincent, New York,
August 21, 1883.

My dear Merriam.

Yours of the 17th instant is at hand. I have not seen nor have I heard of interlocked Elk antlers. You should be a happy man to have such antlers in your possession. They should be handsomely mounted and will be worth going a long distance to see. I have seen a number of interlocked Deer antlers but those of the Elk I have not seen. I have seen, and they are now in the Museum at Ann Arbor, Michigan, a pair of huge antlers, one side Elk and the other side Moose. They are a great wonder and I would have given a great deal for them.

Yours very truly,

D. S. Sacket.

Feb. 14, 1911.

Mr. C. D. Davis
 Hi. Sec. Gen. Cong. Council
 National Union.

Dear Sir:

I hand you herewith my check for
 \$19.95 in payt. of the following:

assessment #92 (Dec. 1910)	1.75	
" " 93+94 (Jan. & Feb. 1911)	2.60	
Quarterly dues to March 31, 1911	1.00	
	<hr/>	6.35

Also: (March to October, inclusive)
 assessments nos. 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, & 101 @ 1.20 = 12.60
 Quarterly dues to June 30, 1911 1.00

\$19.95

Please send receipt. I shall be out of town
 during the summer -
 Resp.

C. Hart Morrison -

general affairs as in the
various groups stated.

I hope you will publish
without regard to my sentiments,
though I should be sorry to
see you take a retrograde step
in support of a 'lost cause'.

The northern and southern
ends of the divided arms of
the division gave me much
trouble, as did the whole of
the Californian arm, and I
never understood them really
until this year.

With kindest regards,

Very truly yours,
E. West Harrison.

Washington, D.C.

Feb. 25, 1911.

Dear Mr. Allen:

Your letter of the 19th inst
came several days ago and I am
very much obliged for the infor-
mation you give me about your
paper on the Ery. inst. of hemids
in North America. I have
delayed replying in order to see
Kendall, but am no longer
off town before I saw him for
he hasn't remembered the first
thing about your argument
in favor of reinstating the
'Central Branch' - so I am still
at a loss to comprehend your
position. In fact, I am not

2) was that I know what your
position is, though I infer
from your letter that you
accept the Lawrence Premier
as defined by me, but divide the
North State part of it into three
instead of four arms; thus
combining the Great Basin and
Great Plain divisions into a
single horse-shoe-shaped division.
This would imply that you
regard these divisions as much
more closely related to each other
than either to the two arms or
to other like (outcroppings) of
them - California - as they
ever may be. I cannot get
the mind facts on which such
a position can be sustained.
I am overwhelmed with
4) words, preparing to edit out

for better value, to permit
making an editorial improvement,
as will imply that that the
evolution means of both would
be me best winter (covering
plants, reptiles, birds & mammals)
shows that the Basin arm
is as distinct from the
Plain arm as from the Calif.
arm, and that the Plain arm
is about as closely related to
the outcroppings as the
the Basin.
My Cambridge Mass. paper contains
mostly the briefest general results
of a certain stage in the course of
a forested study, being which
several hundred pages of the
matter that will appear in my
final paper, together with tables of

November 20

Mr. Outram Bangs,
240 Beacon Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Bangs:

Your letter of the 18th inst. has just come to hand.

In view of the fact that I have been hard at work in this field for more than fifteen years, it seems hardly worth while to waste time in discussing priority in the field, or priority of claim. Neither did it ever occur to me that you had intended to restrict yourself to eastern North America, inasmuch as you have been purchasing specimens from various points in the west, from southern California to British Columbia. However, all this has no bearing on the case. I should not on any account discourage you from going ahead with your contemplated book; on the contrary, I hope you will bring it out exactly as you had planned, and wish you every success. The book on the mammals of eastern North America on which I am engaged will be a small and inexpensive volume, complete in itself. It is intended chiefly for popular use and amateurs, and will be in no sense a technical treatise. I do not contemplate using colored plates, except possibly a single one for a frontispiece. This book, which I hope to publish in the spring, will not only in no way in-

O. B. 2

interfere with your more elaborate volume, but by furnishing some ready means of identifying our common mammals will make this field available for a larger number of persons, and thereby pave the way for, and increase the sale of your more elaborate book.

I shall be glad to examine the Nectoma from Indian Territory when it arrives, and let you know the result. Thanks for your offer of the loan of material.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

November 23

Professor Henry F. Osborn,

Columbia College,

New York.

My dear Osborn:

In reply to your letter of the 25th inst., just received, I am sending you a complete set of the base maps used by us in plotting geographic distribution. The small maps reduced nicely by photo process to octavo page or even half page.

For purposes of reference we constantly use the Land Office maps (published by the Department of the Interior), the Post Route maps (published by the Post Office Department), the maps published by the Engineer Department of the Army, and those of the Geological Survey. We have a special case for the contour sheets of the Geological Survey, which we find the most important of all for detailed work, so far as the surveyed areas are concerned.

Perhaps I can sufficiently answer your question about the use of material by stating that when Allen was at work on the Chipmunks I sent him all the specimens of Tamias in my personal collection and in the Department collection. When he was at work on his revision of the Harvest Mice I sent him all of the specimens under my

H. F. O. S.

control belonging to this group, although he did not ask for them. When Dwyer asked for Weasel material I sent him all of my own specimens of eastern weasels, and all those in the Department collection, and also persuaded the authorities of the National Museum to let him have their specimens. You may better appreciate what this means when I tell you that I had been collecting weasels for the past twelve years with the special object of monographing this group, and that I had a great quantity of manuscript already typewritten before Bangs began his work. I have also given Gerrit Miller free access to the collections of American bats under my charge, which I have made a specialty of collecting for many years, and concerning which I have a multitude of manuscript notes and measurements. I have allowed him to describe new species, and have enabled him to prepare a revision of the family Vespertilionidae. I have also given him every facility and assistance in the preparation of his recent admirable paper entitled 'Genera and Subgenera of Voles and Lemmings.' A large percentage of the illustrations used in this paper were made several years ago for my personal use, but all were freely turned over to him. More recently I have placed two other large groups at his disposal, and believe that he will prepare monographic revisions of them which will be a credit to himself, and a great convenience to all working mammalogists. I do not remember to have ever declined to loan specimens to any reputable naturalist who is conceded to do good work, for as a general proposition I thoroughly believe in giving

H. F. O. 3

material where it will do the most good.

On the other hand I recognize that Museums are public trusts, and that they are in duty bound to impose certain restrictions for the safe keeping and permanent preservation of their treasures. I recognize also certain personal rights in the way of first claims on material. For instance, if one of my men is at work on a report on the birds collected by him in Mexico I should not consider it just to give others access to his specimens until his report was published. Still, as a matter of fact, I have granted Ridgway unrestricted use of all our thousands of Mexican bird skins for his Synopsis of the Birds of North America, notwithstanding the fact that his work is sure to appear before Nelson's Birds of Mexico.

Again, I should not consider it fair to myself, or that it would best serve the interests of science to send to some other worker material on which I am personally at work. This might apply to a particular group (as Shrews or Kangaroo Rats), or to a particular area (as Mexico or Oregon).

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

December 5, 1896.

Hon. Gardiner G. Hubbard,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In reply to your inquiry as to the actual authorship of the publications of the Biological Survey (formerly Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy), of which I have charge, I beg to submit the following statement:

The publications of the Division consist of Annual Reports, articles in the 'Yearbook', and two regular series of documents entitled respectively Bulletins and North American Fauna.

The Annual Reports, in addition to the perfunctory account of the work of the year, comprise special articles by Vernon Bailey, Walter B. Barrows, F. E. L. Beal, A. K. Fisher, and C. Hart Merriam all of which are printed under the names of their authors.

The Yearbook was first published in 1895. The articles thus far contributed to it by this Division are seven in number and bear the following titles:

1. The Geographic Distribution of Animals and Plants in North America. By C. H. Merriam
2. Hawks and Owls as Related to the Farmer. By A. K. Fisher.
3. The Crowblackbirds and their Food. By F. E. L. Beal.
4. Four Common Birds of the Farm and Garden. By S. D. Judd.
5. The Meadowlark and Baltimore Oriole. By F. E. L. Beal.
6. Bounties and Bounty Laws of the United States. By T. S. Palmer.
7. Food of the Blue Jay. By F. E. L. Beal.

The Bulletins of the Division consist, with a single exception, of special reports on the economic relations of Birds and Mammals

G. G. H.--2.

prepared by, and published under the names of, my assistants. The exception is Bulletin 2 on the Bird Migration, by Prof. W. W. Cooke.

Following are the titles of the 8 Bulletins thus far published:

1. The English Sparrow in America. By Walter B. Barrows.
2. Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley. By W. W. Cooke.
3. The Hawks and Owls of the United States in their relation to Agriculture. By A. K. Fisher.
4. The Ground Squirrels or Spermophiles of the Mississippi Valley. By Vernon Bailey.
5. The Pocket Gophers of the United States. By Vernon Bailey.
6. The Common Crow of the United States. By Walter B. Barrows and E. A. Schwarz.
7. The Food of Woodpeckers. By F. E. L. Beal.
The Tongues of Woodpeckers. By F. A. Lucas.
8. The Jack Rabbits of the United States. By T. S. Palmer.

The publication entitled North American Fauna comprises technical papers on the Natural History of our country. Ten numbers, containing 45 articles, have been published. Of these 45 articles, 3 were written by Dr. Leonhard Stjneger; 2 by Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.; 1 each by Prof. C. V. Riley, Prof. S. W. Williston, Mr. P. H. Uhler, Prof. Lawrence Bruner, Prof. C. H. Gilbert, Dr. R. E. C. Stearns, Dr. T. S. Palmer, and Dr. A. K. Fisher, and 32 by myself. Each is published under the name of its author.

A complete set of the publications of the Division is sent you herewith.

I am not aware that I have ever published, either in the scientific publications of the Division or in papers published outside of the Division, a single line written by anyone else, for which full credit is not given.

So far as my relations with my assistants go, I have not only never published under my name anything written by them, but have always encouraged them to publish independently and have furnished them hundreds of pages of my own notes and manuscripts, and numerous

G. G. H.--3.

illustrations, which have been published by them under their own names--they giving me credit for the data so used. As a matter of fact during the past twelve years I have spent vastly more time over the manuscripts of my assistants than in the preparation of my own papers.

Respectfully,

e. west Harrison

Washington
Dec. 8/96

Dear Graham:

Thanks for your letter of
the 1st inst. I think the
American matter had better not
be mentioned in Britain just yet.
The object just now is to secure
time on these new subjects. If this
is done then whole matter will
be settled. I will have your
kind offer in mind and will let
you know it over so soon as
I know who from the matter in charge
thinks best to have the plan published.
Before long you will find me out
we have not only discovered that
I am English and imperfect, but the

has told the Regents that I am
a tyrant, that my adherents do it
me, that I do not allow my assistants
to publish our true names if
I am present it, and that I shelter
publishers under my name rather than
by my assistants! This is inter-
esting in view of the facts.

Of the 45 articles thus far published
in North American Review, 13 were con-
tributed by persons other than myself
and bear their names; 32 were written
by me and as often as you
probably know, I have no assistant
confident to write on the subjects
covered by my articles.

Of the 8 Publications thus far published
by the Division, all were written by
assistants and without exception
appear under their names.

433
of the 7 articles thus far contributed
to the Left: Yearly, one was written
by me and so is stated; the 6 others
were written by my assistants
and appear under their names.

Very truly yours
E. West Livingston

By the way, I trust you will consent to
deliver the principal address at the next
Annual Meeting on February 15.

Best regards to your wife and
of course as a historian & citizen.

SECOND MEETING OF THE A. O. U. COMMITTEE

ON CLASSIFICATION AND NOMENCLATURE OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

Held in the Bird Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution,

Washington, D. C., December 10, 1896.

The meeting was called at 10 A. M. Present: Dr. Elliott Coues, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Mr. Robert Ridgway.

On motion of Dr. Merriam, Dr. Coues was made Chairman of the Committee (the President, Mr. Brewster, being absent). Mr. Ridgway was appointed Secretary. The minutes of the Cambridge meeting were read.

Dr. Merriam moved that the action taken at the Cambridge meeting on the name Dryobates montanus be reconsidered. Carried.

Dr. Merriam read Canon 33 of the A. O. U. Code, which provides that: "A specific or subspecific name is to be changed when it has been applied to some other species of the same genus, or used previously in combination with the same generic name", and stated that this Canon had been violated by the action of the Committee in the case of Dryobates montanus Anthony. Canon 33 distinctly provides for two classes of cases: (1) in which a name must be changed when it has been applied to some other species of the same genus; (2) when it has been used previously in combination with the same generic name. The case in point falls under the first heading, the name Dryobates montanus Anthony being preoccupied by Picus montanus Brehm, which is

conceded to belong to the same genus.

In view of these facts Dr. Merriam moved that the name Dryobates montanus, being preoccupied, cannot be used for an American bird

Unanimously carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the case of Dryobates pubescens nelsoni be reconsidered. Carried.

Dr. Merriam stated that Picus pubescens (Linnaeus) was based on Galesby and Brisson, and called attention to the fact that Brisson's bird came from Virginia or Carolina, and Galesby's from Carolina or Florida; and consequently that the name pubescens must be fixed on the southern bird and cannot be transferred to the boreal form of the species, as was done by Swainson.

In view of these facts Dr. Merriam moved that the eastern forms of Dryobates pubescens stand as follows:

Dryobates pubescens (Linn.). Type from South Carolina or Florida.
 (Dryobates pubescens medianus (Sw.) Type from New Jersey.
Dryobates pubescens nelsoni Oberholser. Type from Alaska.)

Unanimously carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the generic name Oreospiza be adopted as a full genus ^{Ridgway} ~~for the bird commonly known as Chondestes maculosa ridg. 173~~ Unanimously carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the genus Arremonops be admitted for the American birds previously referred to the genus Embernagra, the type being Embernagra rufivirgata Lawrence (see Ridgway, Man. N. Am. Birds, second Ed., p. 605, 1896). Unanimously carried.

The question of Fulmarus glacialis columba was deferred.

The question of Procyto cucularia floridana was deferred.

On motion of Dr. Merriam the case of ~~Cardinalis~~ Cardinalis floridanus was reconsidered.

Dr. Merriam moved that Cardinalis cardinalis floridanus Ridgway be accepted as a valid subspecies. Unanimously carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that Agelaius phoeniceus floridanus Maynard be admitted. Unanimously carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that Ammodramus maritimus macgillivrayi be admitted as the breeding bird of Louisiana. Carried.

.....

The Committee adjourned at noon for lunch, and reconvened at 1 P. M.

The case of Melanerpes formicivorus aculeatus was taken up, and specimens were examined from various points in the southwestern United States, Mexico, and Guatemala. Swainson's type of Melanerpes formicivorus came from Temascaltepec, on the south slope of the volcano of Toluca, in the state of Mexico. Specimens collected by Nelson at several points near the type locality proved to be the black-breasted form, recently recognized by Ridgway as M. f. aculeatus Mearns [Ridgway, Man. Birds, 2nd Ed. p 597. 1896], which form ranges over the whole tableland region of Mexico, and thence northward to western Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

In view of these facts Dr. Merriam moved that the bird recognized by Ridgway as Melanerpes f. aculeatus stand as M. formicivorus, and

that the bird from Chiapas and Guatemala southward to Costa Rica, be recognized as M. formicivorus striatipectus Ridgway.

Unanimously carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Zamelodia be substituted for Habia, on the ground that Habia ~~Rehb.~~ is ~~proposed~~ ^{proposed} by Blyth in Cuvier's Animal Kingdom p---, 1849. Carried.

Dr. Coues stated that the bird standing in the Check List under the name Junco hyemalis shufeldti was described by him in the 2nd Ed. of his Key (1864) under the name Junco hyemalis connectens.

Dr. Merriam moved that the name Junco hyemalis shufeldti Coues be replaced by Junco h. connectens Coues, by which it is antedated. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Ammodramus sanctorum Coues, from San Benito Island, ~~Lower~~ California, be admitted as a full species. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that Dendroica aestiva rubiginosa (Pallas), from Kadiak Island, Alaska, be recognized as a valid subspecies [See Oberholser, Auk, Jan. 1897]. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Casarca casarea (Linn.) and Anser fabalis (Lath.) Salved. be admitted as extralimital species of accidental occurrence in Greenland [Auk, 13, 243-244, July, 1896]. Carried.

Dr. Coues moved that the case of Bubo virginianus occidentalis

Stons be submitted to a Subcommittee consisting of Dr. Merriam and Mr. Ridgway. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that the name Tringa alpina pacifica of the Check List be not changed, the name Tringa americana being preoccupied by Pelidna americana Brehm. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the name Helminthophila ruficapilla (Wilson) be changed to Helminthophila rubricapilla (Wilson) [See Faxon, Auk, vol. 13, 263-264, July, 1896]. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that the name Puffinus major (Pabor, 1822) be changed to Puffinus gravis (O'Reilly, 1818). [See Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., XXV, 373, 1896]. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the case of Puffinus borealis versus P. kuhli be deferred.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Puffinus opisthomelas Coues stand instead of Puffinus gavia [See Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. XXV, 380, 1896]. ~~Ridgway, Proc. U. S. Geol. Surv., vol. 1, p. 44.~~ Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Puffinus auduboni be not changed. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the case of Puffinus stricklandi be deferred. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Aythya Bois be not changed to Nyroca. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the case of Aythya marila versus Aythya

marila neoretica be deferred. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the generic names Clangula and Glaucio-
natta be allowed to remain as they now stand in our Check List. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that the case of Somateria mollissima versus Somateria mollissima borealis be deferred. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Eriamatura jamaicensis be adopted instead of Eriamatura rubida [Salvadori, Nat. Birds Brit. Mus. XXVII, 445, 1896]. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Mareca albellus be included in the Check List of North American Birds as an accidental straggler [See Cat. Birds British Mus. XXVII, 468, 1896]. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the case of Oidemia carbo be deferred. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that Agelaius be not changed back to Tringoides. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that the case of Agelaius meloda circumlocuta be deferred. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Tringa pilocrenis and Tringa cohesi be not changed. Carried.

Dr. Coues moved that the subgenus Squatarola be raised to full generic rank, and that the species stand as Squatarola squatarola (Linnæus). Carried.

Dr. Coues moved that Steganopus be raised to full generic rank, thus admitting three full genera (Crymophilus, Phalaropus and Steganopus) for the Phalaropus. Carried.

Dr. Coues moved that Sula gossii Ridgway of the Check List be replaced by Sula nebouxii Milne-Edwards [Ridgway, Manual N. Am. Birds, Ed. 2, p. 584, 1896]. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Geotrygon martinica of the Check List be changed to Geotrygon chrysis Bonaparte [Salvadori, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. XXI, 571]. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that Agelaius phoeniceus sonoriensis Ridgway be changed to Agelaius phoeniceus longirostris Salvadori, the prior name [Ridgway, Manual N. Am. Birds, 2nd Ed. p. 370, 1896]. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Junco ridgwayi of the Check List be changed to J. annectens, which proves to have been based on a specimen of the red-backed form subsequently named J. ridgwayi by Mearns; and that the bird generally known under the name Junco annectens be inserted into the Check List ^{as} J. mearnsi Ridgway. [See Auk, 14, p. , Jan. 1897.]

As amended, the two forms will stand thus:

568. Junco mearnsi Ridgway. Pink-sided Junco
568.1. Junco annectens Baird. Ridgway's Junco

Mr. Ridgway moved that the generic name Lucar Bartram be not substituted for Galeoscoptes Cabanis.

of definite decisions or lectures each week, and have certain social hours which I cannot waive. The result of all this is so that if I get two evenings a week for work I am lucky. At official I get 10 minutes today, half on Thursdays and then at all next day, and 20 minutes the day after - and as you see. There absolutely no compensation for unpaid work, and the only way I accomplish anything at all is by having a piece of work at my elbow and picking it up whenever I get a moment between interruptions. This is only a matter of habits at first it was very difficult but now it is second nature - but it is of little work all the same. My job is a severe strain and, like chessmen, will do my thinking during evening, which is mostly I am speaking my talk and leaving the less of time.

You have the advantage of me in that you have many half days and some whole ones, and still better that you can withdraw to Concord + two weeks any interruption.

Washington
 Dec. 12/16

Dear Brewster:

The much of work of the Nomenclature Committee has left me from examining your letter of the 10th inst. (spectacled to 88%). And it seems to me that this one matter ought to look upon the work more seriously. I think we (and I include myself) are inclined to make the work along the fact without giving some pertinent the time being done. Recent writes seem to have troubled Charles. Also the fact that particular attend one way by means more notes at Cambridge, more attend exactly the other way by measures notes here. Some of these days

As I look at your case, as the difficulty
 (1) immovable who is in the way
 immovable matter and consideration which
 take up practically all your time and
 (2) view of the world (for it is not a
 of finding right into a fire of red and
 whenever you can stand to write in a
 half hour between times. Now I am
 perfectly certain that you are a
 better of some difficulties. You are
 to live before criticism and desire the
 trouble of me out of your mind. The
 satisfaction of a confidence in all
 of these and things will not be for
 all the attention which they will bring
 this a complete young man disappointed
 to you for 2 or 3 hours and a week to
 dictation, and just time all your work
 finished at one hour. It is not as if
 at a single shot the day of your work
 behind name (not to say that in the
 you will be surprised to find that you
 get through with about 10 words
 in an hour. Do you wish to be
 by at the end of the winter with
 by hand.

we are going to make a bad
 - if we have not already made
 not necessarily saying to you
 we will later look. Even now
 I should like to see in print
 such a notice of the things of the
 Committee as a record of its
 work if we could! One thing
 to that we have things still
 but we must not get off the
 work as some think.

To change the subject. I
 glad you write me so fully on
 the subject of the various matters that
 are before the House and various
 your time. I had a pretty fair
 general notion of these things before
 the appearance of your article. Now
 I think I understand the lay of the
 land a little better and appreciate
 fully the difficulties which you
 have to overcome.

I am called upon to visit similar
 difficulties. You can differ from
 mine probably in style but not
 the variety of some things in the
 for you in letters and struggle to
 quiet unpopable relations and
 objects of learning time for signed
 in relation to my official notice
 including correspondence, identification of
 demands of specimens for other
 connecting names and papers of
 connected to ministry in the year of
 work, I have on several occasions
 publication Committee with take a
 lot of time. See under, I have
 told of published 1914. in the
 Paris. Looking these years, in
 later a great paper, I have 4
 article with illustrations were
 hands. I have 9 letters to
 remaining books and the first
 one of all various time. And I
 attention of the Bank Annual
 Committee has been to go to
 Berlin, I have to go to 2 meetings

your, to see the work that I put in
 your hole or to your other things
 a piece of work made, and you yourself
 to go to the unknown you have a
 your number. It will not be long
 before you can see the very best
 made as you can see the very best
 it is a very strong & big so necessary
 and with only few papers.
 by all means come see how the best
 these matters and finish your business
 made. We will lift a English off your
 mind and about you see the right
 made. Then when you go back,
 that night in on your first then
 English made and that is done
 on your hole. You will be happy
 in the matter to find them made
 you have been finished.

Then so just see that thing I want
 to say before I stop, and that is that
 you finished in the second and with
 the shells out of and then my hole
 when you really told no more was
 you can be telling someone else

you in the first instance of your
 from English side. You see
 business to be done and I want
 to promise that you name will
 be so your help, and shall be
 finish. It will be that last year
 you name to be it. If you
 perfectly sure you can be so
 would not with no other
 as ever yours
 a most American

Washington,
Dec. 12, 1896.

Dear Brewster:

The rush of work of the Nomenclature Committee has kept me from answering your letter of the 8th inst. This Committee, it seems to me, should look upon its work more seriously. I think we (I include myself) are inclined to rush the work along too fast without giving some questions the time they deserve. Recent events seem to prove this; also the fact that questions settled one way by unanimous vote at Cambridge were settled the opposite way by unanimous vote here. There must be a screw loose somewhere or such things would not be possible. Some of these days we are going to make a bad break and somebody is going to jump on us with both feet. Even now I should hate to see in print such a notice of the doings of the Committee as several of us might write if we would! One source of trouble is that we leave things till the last minute and then rush them through in such haste that we sometimes go off at half cock. Would it not be a good plan to parcel out the work a month or so before the meeting so that some one person would be responsible in each case for the bottom references and the like?

To change the subject: I am glad you wrote me as fully as you did about the various matters that have combined to detain you and consume your time. I had a pretty fair general notion of these things before, but of course without details. Now I think I understand the lay of the land and appreciate the difficulties against

-2-

which you have to contend. I, too, am called upon to meet similar difficulties. Our cases differ absolutely in details but amount to exactly the same thing in the end, for with both of us the struggle is against unfavorable conditions in our efforts to secure more time for original work.

My routine official work consists in a large and exacting correspondence, the identification of specimens (of which thousands are sent me each year for the purpose), the reading and editing of manuscripts (often amounting to rewriting), proof reading, the preparation of official reports, the planning and supervision of the work of my assistants, both in office and in the field, planning and supervising the preparation of special bulletins and articles on the economic side of ornithology and mammalogy, continuing the study of geographic distribution from the economic or agricultural side, the general care of large and rapidly increasing collections of mammals, birds, reptiles, bird stomachs, seeds, trees and shrubs and other zone plants, and so on, and in attempting to be polite to the thousand and one people who call at my office on all conceivable errands from morning till night every day in the year when I am home.

Aside from official duties I am a member of several governing boards and of the Joint Commission, and am on the Publication Committees of several Scientific Societies, and Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Goode Memorial Meeting. As editor of the Biolo-

-3-

gical Society's Proceedings I am frequently called upon to edit and rearrange manuscripts and to prepare illustrations for reproduction both as plates and text figures, and so on. As Zoological Editor of Science I am expected to contribute various brief notices and to review current literature in certain departments. My reviews alone for the past two years make a fair volume. Then I am obliged to prepare and deliver two or three new lectures every winter, each of which consumes a good deal of time; and it is--or seems to be--necessary for me to attend at least two meetings of scientific societies each week.

Besides all these things there are certain social duties which I cannot escape and which make still further inroads on my time and strength. As a result, I am fortunate if I get one evening a week, free from calls, for work. During office hours I may get 10 minutes today, a half hour next day, no time at all the day after--and so it goes. I have absolutely no time for continuous original work and the only way I accomplish anything is by keeping a piece of work constantly at my elbow and picking it up whenever I can snatch a moment between interruptions. This way of working is only a matter of habit. At first it was difficult, but now it is second nature--still I have to admit it is uphill work and does not give a man a fair show. I try to put on a serene exterior and, like Chapman, smile at my time-devouring enemies, while inwardly I am gnashing my teeth and bemoaning the loss of time.

-4-

You have the advantage of me in that you have many half days at home and when too hard pressed can run away to Concord and thus escape a host of interruptions.

As I look at your case I see two obstacles to progress. The first consists of the innumerable odds and ends in the way of specimens, notes, letters and so on which now take up practically all of your spare time; the second is the absence of the habit (for it is nothing but a habit) of jumping right into a piece of real work whenever you can steal a half hour between times. I am perfectly certain that you can overcome both of these difficulties.

Your collection is now in superb condition and shows the results of years of painstaking labor. The expenditure of a comparatively small amount of energy will keep it from deteriorating and put additions where they will take no harm. Hire a competent stenographer to come to you once a week for two or three hours and dictate to him all your week's correspondence at one dose. As soon as he gets used to your style and to the technical terms (he can look up the bird's names himself in the Check List) you will be surprised to find that you can get through with about as much work in an hour as you could by yourself in a whole day.

I use a stenographer for almost everything except personal work at home, and would have one here evenings if I could afford it. When comparing specimens a stenographer saves even more time than in ordinary letter writing because you are not obliged to be

-5-

everlastingly taking up and putting down your pen and taking up and putting down your specimens.

To cure your second trouble, keep at your elbow all the time a piece of real work, and force yourself to go at it whenever you have a moments time. It will not be long before you get to carry this work unconsciously so that you can pick it up and drop it as many times a day as necessary and still make fair progress.

By all means come on here not later than the first of January and finish your Lower California book. This will ease your mind of a real bugbear and at the same time will set you on the right path. Then when you go back, start right in on your New England book and keep it always on your desk. In six months you will be amazed to find how much you have accomplished.

There is just one other thing I want to say before cutting off this long string of gratuitous advice, and that is this: When in your cabin at Concord you frightened me and made the cold chills creep up and down my back by deliberately telling how near you came to associating someone with you in joint authorship of your New England book. You have no right to shift or divide your responsibility in this way and I want you to promise that you never will. It is your duty, and should be your pride, to write that book yourself. If I were not perfectly certain that you can do it I would not write as I have written.

As ever your friend

C. Hart Merriam

William Brewster

Washington, D. C.

January 3, 1897.

Hon. Cardiner G. Hubbard,

President Joint Commission.

My dear Sir:

For many years it has been the hope of a number of prominent scientific men and educators, including the presidents of several of our leading universities, that sooner or later the scattered scientific bureaus of the Government might be brought together within a single department.

You doubtless remember the unsuccessful effort that was made during the Harrison administration to bring about such a union under the Department of Agriculture. During the past four years this movement, for obvious reasons, has remained dormant.

In discussing the matter, ^{recently} the hope has been expressed that the advent of the incoming republican administration might prove a propitious time for the revival of the project.

The center about which other scientific bureaus would naturally gather is the Department of Agriculture, which already contains the Weather Bureau, Bureau of Animal Industry, Biological Survey, Forestry department, Divisions of Botany, Entomology, Vegetable Physiology, Chemistry, Soil investigations, Fiber investigations and so on. Bills providing for the transfer of the Fish Commission and Geological Survey to the Department of Agriculture were introduced at the last session of Congress and are sure to be revived.

-2-

The loss to science of the Coast Survey and Fish Commission under the Cleveland administration is a terrible warning of the dangers that threaten other scientific departments under the present political system. With a view to averting these dangers and paving the way to a union of the scientific bureaus under a common head, leading scientific and educational men from all parts of the country have united in urging the creation in the Department of Agriculture of a permanent Director-in-Chief of scientific bureaus and investigations. It is earnestly hoped that this position will be established by the present Congress.

Equally important--perhaps even more important at this critical stage--is the appointment as Secretary of Agriculture of a liberal, broad minded, educated man who will take an intelligent interest in the development and coordination of the scientific bureaus of the Government. It would be a great triumph for the cause of good government, as well as for that of science and education, if the President would concede a Cabinet position to these interests. An almost ideal person for this position would seem to be Dr. Charles W. Dabney Jr. Dr. Dabney is not only in full sympathy with the movement above outlined but is himself a scientific man, a man of culture and presence, and an administrative officer of rare ability and power.

After studying abroad for several years and receiving the degree of Ph.D. at the University of Goettingen, he was called to the

chair of Chemistry in the University of North Carolina, and was afterward made State Chemist, and director of the Experiment Station at Raleigh. In 1887 he was elected to the Presidency of the University of Tennessee, which position he still holds. In 1898 he was appointed Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and the following year was made Chairman of the Government Board of the Cotton States and International Exposition at Atlanta, Georgia. His success in the discharge of the manifold duties incident to these offices is too well known to need comment.

Dr. Dabney is cool and conservative, and at the same time progressive, wide awake and active. He is an excellent judge of men and possesses in an unusual degree the power of so shaping the work of others as to accomplish the best results. As Assistant Secretary of Agriculture under the Cleveland administration he has familiarized himself with the present work and future possibilities of the various scientific bureaus and divisions, all of which have been under his immediate control, and has improved the service in various directions. He is ambitious for the growth and development of the Department and has a clear insight into its needs.

The future of agriculture in America depends so largely on the intelligent application of the truths developed by scientific investigations that it would seem wise to place at the head of the National Department of Agriculture a man who is not only in sympathy with these investigations, but who from previous training is

competent to understand their nature and aims.

My object in writing is to ask if in your judgement there is any possibility of accomplishing so desirable an end, and if so, if you, as President of the Joint Commission of the Scientific Societies of Washington will undertake to bring the matter to the attention of the President-elect.

Very truly yours,

E. Hart Merriam

WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Report of Committee on Publication.

To the Board of Managers:

Your Committee on Publication has the honor to report:—

1. That the preparation and publication of the Joint Directory was referred with power to a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Margus Baker, who long ago sent circulars and return postal cards to the mailing lists furnished by the secretaries of the nine Affiliated Societies. The laborious task of completing and correcting about 200 addresses from the imperfect returns received, and of preparing copy for printer was promptly attended to by Mr. Baker. Two signatures, comprising 34 pages, have been struck off and it is expected that the Directory will be issued on or about
2. That specifications for printing the Proceedings have been in the hands of bidders a week and it is expected that before the close of the present week the contract will be signed.
3. That a set of Rules relating to Publication has been prepared by the Committee and is herewith submitted for the consideration and approval of the Board.
4. Your Committee recommend that in the matter of censorship and acceptance of papers offered for publication, one of the following alternative plans of procedure be adopted and entered upon the minutes; or, if neither meets the approval of the Board, that a substitute plan be adopted and recorded.

Alternative propositions:

- a. The Committee on Publication shall examine papers offered for publication and may refer them to special committees for advice; it shall then submit them to the Board, with recommendation and estimate of cost; the Board shall accept or reject.
- b. The Committee on Publication shall examine papers offered for Publication and may refer them to special committees for advice; it is authorized to accept or reject papers, or to refer them to the Board for decision.
- c. Your Committee recommend that in the matter of cost of illustrations the Committee be authorized to exercise its discretion, dividing the cost with authors whenever practicable.
- d. Your Committee further recommend that 100 copies of the Proceedings, covered, be sent as issued to a library and exchange list.

In perfecting plans and rules for publication, your Committee has examined a large number of medical and scientific serials, and, through the courtesy of Mr. W. J. McGee, has had the benefit of the very full and elaborate report, only in part published, of a committee of the Geological Society of America which several years ago made a comprehensive study of scientific serials. The procedure of the Geological Society has afforded many valuable suggestions and precedents.

Your Committee aim to make the Proceedings of the Wash-

ington Academy of Sciences a model of its kind. With this end in view it has made a study of the composition and durability of papers, size of page, size of type bed, size and character of type case, reproduction of illustrations, and so on, which, with the necessary correspondence, has required time. The result, it is hoped, will justify the delay.

RULES RELATING TO PUBLICATION

1. The Proceedings of the Washington Academy of Sciences shall be issued in dated brochures, pagéd consecutively for the volumes.
2. A brochure may comprise one or more papers, according to length, at the option of the Committee on Publication.
3. The date on each brochure shall be that of actual publication, which shall be one day later than the date of delivery by the printer to the Committee.
4. Each brochure shall be distributed on the date of its publication. Copies shall be sent to all members of the Academy, to subscribers, and to a library and exchange list approved by the Board of Managers.
5. At the close of each volume, which shall coincide as nearly as possible with the calendar year, a brochure comprising volume-title page, contents, and index shall be issued.

6. The regular edition shall consist of one thousand copies.
 7. Contributors to the PROCEEDINGS must be members of the Academy, or of one of the Affiliated Societies; provided however that in exceptional cases the Board, by a three-fourths vote of the members voting at a stated meeting, may accept for publication papers contributed by non-members of the Affiliated organization.
 8. Each paper offered for publication must be accompanied by a written recommendation from the Affiliated Society representing the branch of Science to which the paper relates, except in special cases where publication is ordered by the Board of Managers of the Academy.
 9. In case of papers tendered by an Affiliated Society, the cost of publication shall be shared equally by the Academy and said Society.
 10. In case of special papers ordered published by the Board of Managers, the whole cost of publication shall be borne by the Academy.
 11. Papers offered for publication shall be delivered to the Chairman of the Committee on Publication, who shall be Editor of the Proceedings. The Editor shall submit to the Committee an estimate of cost, and shall see that papers are promptly examined in such manner as the Board of Managers may direct.
- Manuscript submitted for publication must be in form as well as substance ready for the printer. It must be complete as to text and illustrations, must be perfectly legible (preferably type-

written), and must be preceded by a brief table of contents. The cost of any necessary revision of copy or reconstruction of illustrations shall be charged to the author.

13. The cost of proof corrections due to alterations made by the author will be charged to the author.

14. Proofs shall be submitted to authors or persons designated by authors whenever practicable; but printing shall not be delayed by reason of absence or inattention of authors.

15. Papers accepted for publication in the Academy's Proceedings must not be previously published elsewhere except by consent of the Academy.

16. Authors' separates shall not differ in any particular from the regular edition. Any desired number may be ordered in advance through the Committee on Publication, at the expense of the author, and at a rate of cost agreed upon by the Committee and printer.

February 14, 1911

Respectfully submitted,

C. M. Merriam, Chairman

Committee
on
Publication

Answer

Washington

March 2, 1892.

Dear Roosevelt:

Thanks for your letter. Bean will write you what he wants, which, as I understand it, is an opportunity to do field work in completing his studies of the fishes of the State.

As to Dabney and the California University: Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst of San Francisco is a Regent of the University and a very influential one, since it is her money that has provided for the wonderful set of buildings they expect to erect. Mrs. Hearst used to spend her winters here and you may have met her.

As to the forestry matter: does it not strike you that aggressive interference from outside the State is, to put it mildly, a trifle out of place? You of course appreciate the delicacy of my position, but one would think the State, having already established, in connection with Cornell, a school of forestry at Ithaca and a farm of experimental forestry in the Adirondacks, could hardly afford to divide its responsibility by permitting the introduction of another and antagonistic policy before the first has had a fair trial. At the present time Fernow seems to be the official head of forestry matters in the State. Why not give him full swing and watch the result? If he succeeds, give him the benefit of that success; if he fails, fire him and try someone else. But don't waste the vitality and sacrifice the dignity of the State by having two heads at the same time.

About that Olympic Elk: Lydekker has dug up an old name (occidentalis) which was given provisionally in a vague sort of way to a 'Western' animal, but which unfortunately seems to have been based on an antler sent to England from Vancouver Island. On this assumption, occidentalis would have to stand for the west coast species unless it can be shown that the animal south of the Strait of Fuca is different from the Vancouver animal. I hope to obtain specimens from Vancouver Id. for direct comparison, so as to settle the case one way or the other.

As ever yours,

E. S. Mearns

The Hon.
Governor Theodore Roosevelt

Albany, New York.

Washington, D.C.

April 4, 1911

Dear Dr. Allen:

There seems to be very little returning from New York these days (getting fairly off for Texas or so) that I have not had time to write.

I drafted a few lines to Chapman telling him of the volume I had in my mind when in New York - in fact, that called me to New York - but which I was not then at liberty to mention. He has doubtless told you about it.

Mr. Maximilian has just - so on some hand writes him - and the plan is that the main collection of Mammals and Birds shall be divided between the American and National Museums. The plant

Nov. 22, 1899

G. L. Britton, Esq.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 10th inst. inquiring as to the progress made on my book on 'Life Area of North America', I would state that about half the work has been written, and that 7/10 of the field work has been done.

The most difficult problems I deal with are those that relate to the distribution of animals and plants along the Pacific coast. I have now spent parts of six years in studying the coast region, and during the season just ended have spent 5 months day or more on the coast from northern Alaska to middle California.

Unlike most works on the Pacific distribution, mine is based entirely on a knowledge of the facts of distribution in the area treated. And since North America is a fairly large area it has required some years to ascertain the facts, and they are not all known yet.

Respectfully

C. Hart Merriam

January 13 1900

Dr. Alexander Graham Bell,
1331 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:

In compliance with your request, I enclose herewith some memoranda prepared by me at the request of the late Gardiner C. Hubbard in November, 1897. These memoranda relate to the establishment in Washington of a School of Science, in which matter Mr. Hubbard was greatly interested.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

(Rough outline for first years work)

Zoology	105 lectures and 70 evenings in laboratory	\$1,330
Botany	50 " 70 " "	750
Geography	50 "	500
Ecology	50 "	500
Anthropology	30 "	300
History	30 "	300
Chemistry	10 "	100
Astronomy	10 "	100
Physics	10 "	100
	345 lectures and 140 evenings laboratory	4,010
Equipment of Biological laboratory	Reagents etc 50 15 microscopes 562 Tables & fittings 250	862
Incidentals.....		125

MATERIAL FOR A SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AT WASHINGTON.

So far as America is concerned it is safe to say that at Washington the facilities for higher education in the sciences are unequalled. No other city in the Union has so large a corps of eminent men engaged in original research in the fields of geology, geography, anthropology, zoology, botany, chemistry, and astronomy.

Most of these men are employed and paid by the Government so that their services in lecturing and superintending laboratory work could be had at a trifling expense. All that is needed is organization, a home and a small fund. Incredible as it seems, an excellent course in science, comprising 350 lectures and 140 evenings of laboratory work by 40 different specialists, can be given in this city for the insignificant sum of \$5000--the salary of a single professor in our leading Universities.

The Biological part of the course would be particularly strong the plans having progressed so far that a course of 150 lectures and 140 evenings of laboratory work has been arranged for in Zoology and Botany. In these branches special emphasis could be given the systematic and economic sides, neglected in most of our universities. The instruction would be given by at least 20 specialists, each proficient in some line of biological research.

Courses of equal merit can be arranged in Geology, Geography, Anthropology, Astronomy and Chemistry.

As a recent writer has said, the genius and training are already here, most of the facilities are already provided, and little remains to be done save the utilization of existing instrumentalities. It is of utmost importance that the early steps be guided by wisdom and experience.

557A

January 13 1900

MEMORIAL FOR A SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AT WASHINGTON

Mr. Alexander Graham Bell,
 1515 Pennsylvania Avenue,
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the proposed school of science at Washington. It is a pleasure to me to learn that you are interested in the project, and I am sure that your efforts will be successful in securing the necessary support for the school.

The school of science at Washington is a project of the highest importance to the Government and to the people of the United States. It is a project which will do much to advance the progress of science in this country, and to secure for our country the best of scientific education. The school will be a school of the highest quality, and will be a school which will do much to advance the progress of science in this country, and to secure for our country the best of scientific education.

The Biological Department of the school will be particularly strong. The plans for the Biological Department are as follows: The Biological Department will be a department of the highest quality, and will be a department which will do much to advance the progress of science in this country, and to secure for our country the best of scientific education.

The Biological Department will be a department of the highest quality, and will be a department which will do much to advance the progress of science in this country, and to secure for our country the best of scientific education.

The Biological Department will be a department of the highest quality, and will be a department which will do much to advance the progress of science in this country, and to secure for our country the best of scientific education.

473

Washington, D. C.,
January 13, 1900.

Prof. H. H. Donaldson,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Sir:

Believing that one of the needs of American men of science is a representative organization--an organization comprising the leaders in the various branches and departments of science--the Washington Academy has established a class of non-resident members, as you will see from the accompanying papers, and has appointed special committees in the several branches of science for the purpose of nominating the most distinguished representative men in each class. You have been thus nominated, and unanimously elected by the Board of Managers, and I trust you will accept.

The Washington Academy has undertaken the publication of a Proceedings, which in form, quality, paper, and character of illustration, is intended to equal the best in the country. The first volume contains 8 papers, a number of text figures, and 26 full page plates. The second volume promises to be much larger and more fully illustrated than the first. It is believed that the excellence of this publication will gradually lead to a reduction in the number of scientific serials now so widely scattered over the country. Papers are published on the 'dated brochure' plan, and are mailed to members and to an exchange list on the date borne on the first page.

Very truly yours,
A. S. Peck

February 3, 1900.

Dear Professor Langley:

In reply to your letter of yesterday asking for an expression of my views respecting the Bison Preserve scheme of 'Buffalo Jones', I would state that the Jones proposition seems to me in the main a good one and well worthy of support. But the Senate Bill (2331) providing for the same, introduced January 11, by Mr. Baker, requires in my judgement, a few amendments.

The first relates to the number of females, which is not specified. Would it not be well to amend line 12 of Section 2 so that it shall read "American bison, of which number at least 50 [or 75] shall be females of suitable age for breeding"? Before fixing the number, it might be well to ascertain from Mr. Jones how many it is possible for him to supply.

I do not like the unit of increase by means of which excess is measured (p. 3, lines 20 and 21), namely, "one bison to each 500 acres of land" and would suggest that definite numbers be used instead.

Would it not be well to interpolate a clause in line 22 page 3 after the word 'case', as follows: "always provided the total number of adults remaining is in excess of one hundred"? This may be implied, but it seems to me it is not stated with sufficient clearness, and there would be no harm in making it absolutely free from ambiguity.

Would it not be well to amend Section 3 in such manner that the control of game in the reservation be left with the Secretary of the

Interior? While it is manifestly proper that the bison should be under the control of Jones, it seems equally clear that the game, being on public land, should be under the control of the Secretary of the Interior. With this object in view, I would suggest that the first part of Section 3 be amended to read as follows: "That it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to kill, maim, take or dispose of any bison, or cut, tear down or destroy any fence or enclosure except by written consent of the said Charles D. Jones, his heirs or assigns; and that it shall be unlawful to hunt, shoot, take or trap game of any kind within the boundary of said tract of land except by written consent of the Secretary of the Interior."

You have probably observed that the Bill assumes throughout that the project will be a success and makes no provision for failure in whole or in part. It occurs to me that in the event of the herd's diminishing instead of increasing it might not only prove impossible for Jones, his heirs and assigns "to remove from said tract of land for his [or their] personal use the same number of male and female bison first placed by him upon said tract of land", but further, that the United States might become liable for a deficiency. Would it not be well, therefore, to interpolate a provision in line 3 of page 4 to the effect that the number withdrawn by the Jones interest shall be contingent on the number then present on the reservation?

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

To Prof. S. P. Langley

Secretary Smithsonian Institution.

Washington, D. C., February 13, 1900.

Mr. C. William Beebe,
33 West 124th Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Beebe:

Pardon my delay in acknowledging your letter of the 7th inst. and the series of photographs which arrived in good condition a day or two later. I was in bed with an acute bronchitis at that time and am not yet caught up.

You have certainly been remarkably successful, and I hope you will keep at this line of work whenever you have an opportunity. You have evidently mastered the technique and have overcome most of the obstacles that beset a man in his early career as a photographer of zoological objects. You are now in a position to go ahead, and no one may say where you will bring up. Some of your pictures are simply fascinating. I wonder if you would be willing to have slides made for me, at my expense of course, of three of them. I should like particularly to have the jumping mouse, the *Idotea*, and the spider on a bunchberry blossom. I should also like the *Pleurobrachia*, both on the same slide, to show what Yankee ingenuity can accomplish in the way of devising impromptu tools. If this is not asking too much, and you can have these made so that they will reach me not later than the 2nd or 3rd of March (earlier if practicable), I shall be greatly obliged. I will return the prints to you immediately after the meeting, though I should very much like to keep

C.W.B.P.

the print of the Zapus.

Thanking you again for your interest and kindness in the matter, I remain,

Very truly yours,

C. W. Beebe

Washington, D.C., February 13= 1900.

Hon. John B. Wight,
Commissioner District of Columbia.

My dear Mr. Wight:

Mr. Walcott has referred to me your letter of the 7th inst., inquiring about the plates from which Judge Davis's paper was printed. Unfortunately for your purpose, this, like all other papers in the Proceedings of the Washington Academy of Sciences, was printed from the type direct, and the type distributed immediately thereafter. Copies of Judge Davis's paper on the Political development of the District may be had from the Treasurer, Mr. Bernard R. Green, Library of Congress Building, at 25 cents each. The same is true of the paper on the Economic development of the District, by Carroll D. Wright, and Mr. Spofford's paper entitled "The coming of the white man and the founding of the National Capitol."

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Editor

Washington, D.C., February 13, 1900.

Prof. E. E. Wilson,

Columbia University, New York City.

My dear Wilson:

Your letter of the 7th inst. is the kind of a letter I like to receive. I am very glad that your attitude toward the Washington Academy is what you state, and I think that as time goes on you will find it desirable to remain a non-resident member. The Academy has, as I understand it, two definite objects in view: The first is to become the representative organization of American scientific men-- a live, active organization, not too conservative or too lazy to undertake important things. Its second object is to publish a scientific Proceedings, on the dated brochure plan, which will take rank with the best in the country. Only permanent paper will be used for either text or illustrations. Papers submitted for publication will be received at any time, and after proper scrutiny will be published and distributed promptly.

With best wishes, I remain,

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Washington, D.C., February 13, 1900.

Prof. Simon H. Gage,
Ithaca, New York.

Dear Professor Gage:

I am obliged for your note of the 10th inst., and am glad to know that you are willing to aid us in our attempt to advance the art of photography as an adjunct to scientific research. I enclose herewith \$2.00, and shall be glad if you will kindly have made and sent to me its equivalent in slides, the same to be selected by yourself as those best illustrating either the advantages of photographic illustration in particular cases, or the special merits of special methods. I shall be glad also if you will loan me a few photographs which I will return after the meeting. If you can refer me to some publication containing a description of your methods I shall be greatly obliged. I am also grateful for your calling my attention to the work of Professor Slingerland. I shall endeavor to obtain some of his results also.

Very truly yours,

E. Hart Merriam

Washington, D. C., February 13, 1900.

Prof. H. O. Bumpus,
Brown University,

Providence, R. I.

My dear Professor Bumpus:

I am exceedingly obliged for the trouble you have taken in sending me the dozen lantern slides, which arrived today in good condition. These slides are certainly wonderfully interesting, and show a phase of the subject which is entirely new to most of us here. I am sure they will be greatly appreciated by the Academy.

I am also obliged for your paper on Necturus, and your explanation as to the way the plates were made directly from the films. This is certainly most remarkable.

Kindly thank Professor Gorham for his paper showing photographs of living fish.

I shall return your slides promptly after the meeting, which is to be held March 6, instead of February 27 as at first supposed.

Very truly yours,

E. Hart Merriam

Washington, D. C.
February 17, 1900.

Major Henry L. Higginson,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

The Washington Academy of Sciences is a representative organization of American scientific men. It embraces all departments of science, and its membership, including the non-resident class, comprises most of the representative workers in each branch of research throughout the country.

The Washington Academy has undertaken the publication of a 'Proceedings', which it aims to make the best in America. I take the liberty to send you herewith a set of the papers which make up the first volume. The illustrations in this volume are not satisfactory, but it is hoped that those in the second volume will be better.

We have no publication in this country corresponding to the better class of those issued by foreign learned societies, such as the Royal and Zoological Societies of London, and as a result American scientific men are forced to publish in widely scattered serials, none of which have adequate means for illustration. The Washington Academy hopes to secure a publication fund, or several funds devoted to special subjects--as Zoological Botanical, Astronomical and so on. In case of the contribution of such funds, the name of the donor will be carried in perpetuity on the parts of the Proceedings published therewith. Personally I am most interested in the establishment of a fund for the publication of Biological papers.

I trust you will pardon the liberty I have taken in bringing this matter to your notice. I thought it might possibly interest you. If not, do not take the trouble to reply.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Editor Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.

Feb. 25, 1930

My dear Major Higginson:

Please pardon my delay in acknowledging your very kind letter of the 19th inst. which reached me just at the time of my father's death. Between that time and this it has been impossible for me to write.

Respecting your generous offer to contribute funds to enable us to continue, or supplement your son's work in Montana, I must say frankly that the results would not be likely to justify the expenditure, from the standpoint of the Biological Survey. From your son's standpoint, however, the case may be different. I mean by this that if your son really desires and intends to write for publication a report on the scientific results of his trip, he should have more to write about than the material he has himself

collected. In this case it would be desirable to send some one there to make as complete collections and notes as possible, and I should of course be glad to help find a competent man for the task. But as this will depend entirely upon your own plans and aims I do not feel competent to advise in the matter.

I have arranged with the St. Northern RR to stop their east bound No. 4 express at bridge 125 on the evening of March 7 (Wednesday) to take aboard your son and his wife.

With assurances of appreciation of your generous offer, and regrets that the circumstances do not seem to warrant me in taking advantage of it, I remain,

Very truly
Yours

C. Hart Merriam

Major Henry H. Wiggin
Boston

February 28, 1900.

Mr. William Brewster

Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Brewster:

It is much to be regretted that you, Batchelder, and Faxon were unable to be present at the meeting of the A. O. U. Index Committee held here last week. In matters of this kind it is almost impossible to arrive at the best results except by coming together where we can listen to the arguments pro and con.

From our point of view at this end of the line, the two cardinal principles to be kept in view in indexing are (1) the object of an index, which is convenience in looking up references; and (2— a natural corollary of the first) that where page references accumulate under a given entry, they should be classified under discriminative subheadings to avoid what we so often see in old style indexes---solid blocks of page numbers. We passed a resolution to the effect that not more than six page references should be given under one heading.

There are two points concerning which we feel very strongly at this end of the line and on which Doctor Dwight tells me you differ from us radically, and I promised to write you and present our views. The first is the generic name under which the various entries should be arranged; the second is the treatment of subspecies. In the case of the generic name, we feel that the latest name adopted by the A. O. U. should be the one under which the entries are arranged in the Index, and that all other generic names

W. B. S.

should cross refer to this one. The reason for this is that the Index will be used in the future, not in the past. Consequently the generic name sought for would be, in nine cases out of ten, the name last adopted by the Union. We know very well from experience that in a few years former generic combinations will be forgotten and only the current name used. There are two or three cases, I believe, in which the Union has accidentally made a wrong ruling, which ruling may be corrected in time for the Index. Of course you understand that all generic names used in the text, from the first volume of the 'Nuttall Bulletin' down to date, will be given in the Index, and that each will be followed by a cross reference to the modern generic name under which all page references are given.

Now as to subspecies: Inasmuch as an index is an index and not a classification, it deals with names and has nothing to do with matters of rank. Therefore, in our judgment, subspecies for index purposes should be treated as species, exactly as in the case of nomenclature. In the case of subspecies and subgenera, there always has been, is, and always will be difference of opinion as to the matter of rank. The history of our own Checklist as well as the experience of zoologists and botanists throughout the world shows not only that what one man regards as a species and genus, another ~~man~~ regards as a subspecies and subgenus; but that individual authors and committees change their points of view from time to time as to the rank of a particular form or collection of forms, so that while names are matters of fact conceded by common agreement to be fixed and stable, matters of rank are matters of opinion, cannot possibly be fixed, and are undergoing constant fluctuations.

W. B. 3.

It should be constantly borne in mind that the Index is for future use, not for past or present use, and therefore that particular combinations which some of us remember, will be unfamiliar to the great majority of those who use the Index. But even now, who can remember off hand the particular specific name with which ~~all of the~~ ^{each} subspecies of North American birds ~~are~~ ^{is} associated? In my own case, I think of subspecies as units, without regard to the combination, and in the case of a large number of western subspecies with which I have been for years familiar, I am obliged to admit that it is impossible for me to give the full combination off hand. Take a simple case. Suppose a man is in search of information respecting the Texas night hawk. He would naturally turn in the Index to Chordeiles texensis under which head the bird was given in the first edition of our Checklist, and under which name any one would naturally think of it. But in the Index, if the full combinations are given, the name could not be found in its proper alphabetic order at all, but would occur on some distant page under the name Chordeiles acutipennis texensis. It must be remembered in this connection that the species and subspecies in our Index will not ~~be~~ ^{stand} together in a single compact series, but will be separated by a vast accumulation of headings and subheadings relating to a great variety of subjects, so that the alphabetic position of a subspecific name will often vary several pages according to whether it is indexed (as it should be in my judgment) under its individual name, or whether it is indexed under the species with which it chanced to be associated at the particular moment the last edition or supplement of the Checklist happened to be voted upon.

W. B. 4.

There is another ^{but} very much less important reason for not indexing subspecies as trinomials. It is this: Printed as trinomials, they take up much more room on the line and consequently turn more lines, increasing the size and cost of the Index. This to me, however, is a trivial objection. The main point is that an index is not a classification. It deals with names which are matters of fact, not with rank, which is a matter of opinion.

I had intended to ask you to send this letter to Batchelder and Faxon, but I think I will send it in duplicate in order to save time, and hope you will have an opportunity to talk the matter over with them.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

*Sent in duplicate to
 Chas. J. Batchelder
 Walter Faxon
 Mitmer Stone*

Washington
March 10, 1900.

My dear Mrs. Higginson:

How can I thank you sufficiently for what you have done? I am only afraid that the fifteen hundred dollars you have so generously contributed to our publication fund will enable us to print more papers in systematic zoology, shall be spent in such manner as to advance zoological science in a field which is now much handicapped.

You are well known that the study of species is better - the study in which your father and mother obtained such eminence, and to which a few Zoologists (myself among them) have devoted the greater part of their lives - is not fashionable now.

104

a-days, and receives little support, and of the teachers in the colleges having gone to the same section writing history and other small matters which they contribute to scientific Biology. As a consequence, workers in systematic zoology are hard pressed for suitable mediums in which to publish their papers.

Washington Academy offers such a medium, so far as the limited funds go; and your generous gift will enable us to take a long stride ahead and set a good example.

A few days ago I read a letter from your son, dated Feb. 5, in which I shall answer shortly.

With kindest regards and appreciation
thanks to you and Mr. Higginson

Very truly
C. Hart Merriam

March 10, 1900

March 24, 1900.

Pres. J. M. Taylor
Vassar College
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Learning that Dr. C. H. Eigenmann of the University of Indiana is an applicant for the Chair of Zoology in Vassar, I take the liberty to say a word in his behalf.

While I have not come in contact with Professor Eigenmann as a teacher, I have known him in this capacity for many years, and have always heard his school work spoken of in terms of commendation. I know him best as an investigator in zoological science, a field in which he has obtained eminent distinction, and is known the world over. I may mention incidentally in this connection that Doctor Eigenmann was one of forty American zoologists invited to become non-resident members of the Washington Academy of Sciences, which fact shows the esteem in which he is held as an original investigator.

Mrs. Eigenmann also, as you doubtless know, is one of the few women in America who have obtained distinction from original work in zoology. I believe that Professor Eigenmann would fill the Chair of Zoology in Vassar to the satisfaction of all concerned, and that his presence there would reflect credit on the institution.

Respectfully,
C. Hart Merriam

March 24, 1900.

Prof. C. H. Eigenmann
Bloomington, Indiana.

My dear Doctor Eigenmann:

It gives me much pleasure to write to President J. M. Taylor of Vassar, recommending you for the Chair of Zoology. I shall be very glad to learn that you succeed in obtaining this position.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Washington
April 30, 1900.

My dear Judge:

I am glad to learn from your letter of April 24 that the Hadley estate account is to be presented to the Probate Court shortly. I have been expecting to receive this account daily for some time past but it has not yet arrived. Please send it as early as possible as it will take some time to go over it and check it up with the previous statements I have.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

Yours,

Judge W. K. Townsend
New Haven, Conn.

Washington, D. C.

Jan. 20, 1896.

Dear Professor Osborn:

In reply to your recent letter I would state that in my judgment no one in America is better qualified for the position of Superintendent of a great Zoological park than William T. Hornaday. Mr. Hornaday has traveled extensively in various parts of the world and has made enormous collections in Natural History.

His interesting book entitled *Two Years in the Jungle* tells of his personal experiences with the big game of India, Ceylon, the Malay Peninsula and Borneo; while in this country his expeditions to the far west, when collecting Buffalo and other animals for our National Museum, have brought him into personal contact with the habits and mode of life of many species. Furthermore, his numerous articles on the mammals of North America show him to possess in a marked degree the two prominent qualifications of a successful keeper of animals, namely, love for the animals themselves, and personal knowledge of their habits and food.

Mr. Hornaday is a man of absolute integrity, and his most prominent characteristics are energy, enthusiasm and common sense. He is the father of our National Zoo at Washington, and I believe him to possess more of the qualifications necessary for building up a great Zoological park than any other man in America.

Hoping you may be successful in securing his services,

I remain,

Prof. Henry F. Osborn,
New York City.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Retake of Preceding Frame

497

Washington, D. C.

Jan. 29, 1896.

Dear Professor Osborn:

In reply to your recent letter I would state that in my judgment no one in America is better qualified for the position of Superintendent of a great Zoological park than William T. Hornaday. Mr. Hornaday has traveled extensively in various parts of the world and has made enormous collections in Natural History.

His interesting book entitled *Two Years in the Jungle* tells of his personal experiences with the big game of India, Ceylon, the Malay Peninsula and Borneo; while in this country his expeditions to the far west, when collecting Buffalo and other animals for our National Museum, have brought him into personal contact with the habits and mode of life of many species. Furthermore, his numerous articles on the mammals of North America show him to possess in a marked degree the two preeminent qualifications of a successful keeper of animals, namely, love for the animals themselves, and personal knowledge of their habits and food.

Mr. Hornaday is a man of absolute integrity, and his most prominent characteristics are energy, enthusiasm and common sense. He is the father of our National Zoo at Washington, and I believe him to possess more of the qualifications necessary for building up a great Zoological park than any other man in America.

Hoping you may be successful in securing his services,

I remain,

Prof. Henry F. Osborn,
New York City.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

PREFATORY NOTE.

The notes contained in this book were taken from March to May 1889, and from March to July, 1894, at Twin Oaks, San Diego County California. Twin Oaks is a post office in a small valley of the Coast Mountains, forty miles north of San Diego, and fourteen miles east of the Pacific.

In a few instances the identity of a species is uncertain; in and it is therefore left unnamed. In cases where the plumage of the two sexes is practically identical and no significance attaches to it, they have been arbitrarily distinguished. A list of the birds referred to in the text follows the Table of Contents.

Several of the articles have appeared before in somewhat different form, in the Auk, the Observer and Our Animal Friends.

The illustrations are from actual photographs taken at the time, except those of eucalyptus from Los Angeles, for the use of which I am indebted to the courtesy of Dr. B.E. Fernow, Chief of the Division of Forestry, in the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C.

F.A.M.

January 14, 1893.

**END OF REEL.
PLEASE
REWIND.**

