



Joseph Grinnell,

576 N. Marengo Ave.,

Pasadena,

California.



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Dec. 24 - 1907

At Denver from 1:30 P.M. to
9:50 P.M. Found F. M. Dille
at his office, and he took me
out to the Colorado Museum
of Natural History located
on a hill in the City Park.
The building is an elegant
concrete edifice suited solely
for museum purposes. It
seems that the building has
been constructed by private
wealthy citizens, but that there
is no endowment for its
support. It is hoped that
it can be turned over to the
City and an appropriation
be provided; otherwise the
interest seems to be lacking
to carry on the work.
The Chief Taxidermist is Victor
H. Borchardt, with 2 or 3 assistants;
they are working on

groups of Colorado big game; and the quality of the work looked to me excellent. There are already completed groups of antelope, buffalo, and mountain goats, and probably a dozen other single large mammals. There are a few bird groups, the best being of the white-tailed Ptarmigan, 4 cases together showing the four seasonal plumages; a case of flamingos is not so good; and there is a miscellaneous lot of other things. This museum hasn't a great quantity of stuff; I saw no research collections. But the building is fine.

Then I was taken to the State Capitol Building where I saw the miscellaneous collection of the State Historical and

Natural History Society, with Horace G. Smith as Assistant Curator and apparently the main worker. There were no groups in sight here, but plenty of mounted birds in wall cases. The system emphasized was that of having a sort of superficial exhibit in show case on top of chests of drawers containing the systematic research collections. The fungi were especially well arranged.

Then Prof. Geo. S. Cannon, of the High School took me down to the Colorado Scientific Society's rooms located in the Denver Chamber of Commerce. This is devoted exclusively to a library and collection relating to geology and mining.

The evening was spent with Robt. B. Rockwell, discussing Condor affairs; and we visited L. J. Hersey, an elderly man who evidently knows a lot about birds. He has a lot of the larger species mounted, among which are several rarities for the State. Hersey and Rockwell together have a card catalog of their field notes, tho it seems to me considerably too bulky. They also had an album of very good photos, mostly of nests and eggs of ducks, coots, grebes, rails & dove.

Denver so far doesn't seem to be succeeding as well as it ought in the museum line. The several societies should concentrate. There seems to be a lot of jealousy.

Jan. 11-14.

At Am. Mus. of Nat. History,
New York City, Jan. 11, 13 & 14.

The important feature here
is the bird exhibit. There are
some 12 or 14 ideal groups, the
summit of the development
along this line, together with
a larger number of the older
or less successful style.


The most successful & latest
groups owe their splendid
effectiveness to the artistic painted
backgrounds as well as the
well selected life-history groups
themselves. Perfection in the
blending of foreground, of real
materials, with the painted
background showing the typical
landscape (usually an actual
landscape painted on the
spot where materials of group
were obtained). In the

case of tree-top groups, or mountain aeries, such as those of condor & eagle, the effect of distance and depth is wrought by having a hiatus in front of back-ground, and actual declivity between it and foreground. Flying birds on background were first painted on paper, then cut out & introduced by means of pins slightly projected from rest of back ground scene. This makes, for example, the flying condor appear above the gorge, suspended in mid-air. All groups & paintings were from photos taken in the field, & represent actual poses & scenes. Reflections from the glass front, is prevented by having

canvas shades a cross gallery
say 10 feet in front; so no
light gets into picture
except from above:



Artificial lighting by series
of incandescents out of sight
above the groups, also heightens
realism. Most group

backgrounds are 7' high
by 18 feet long, latter arranged
in semicircle or: 

The San Joaquin valley group is
far larger.

Small, for cheaper, single species
groups are also ^{fair} success; four-
sided glass cases with pair
of common birds & their nest
in natural surroundings, as
with ovenbird.

The study series at Am.
Museum are not particularly

well cared for. There is no reference catalogue, & dept. catalogues are in old-style ledger form. Tags are too large. One method is good: a rubber stamp is used on original labels, & provide space for museum number without necessity of taping on an additional label:



With mammals until recently there has been a numbering number separately for skins & skulls!

The Cambridge cans are in use. It seems to me they are too small, waste space, & piled too high (on racks). Our zinc cases are better.

Jan. 17

Went out to Thayer's. Thayer lives near Lancaster on a large country place $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles or thereabouts from Clinton, which, in turn, is about 40 miles ^{East} from Boston. Thayer's Museum

is in the town of Lancaster near an electric RR so that it is more easily reached. Thayer is a

fat man of 45, or so, very talkative & affable, & wealthy: tries to take care of 14 millions, so he says! (left him by his father). The museum

is of brick & of good size, with tile finishing inside, only the doors & furniture being of wood. The mounted collection, containing everything obtainable on the AOU list,

is arranged systematically
on stands behind glass.

There are besides many
small groups neatly arranged
with artificial foliage, etc.,
especially for school use.

Among the birds, mounted, I
saw Labrador Duck, Gt. Auk,
Heath Hen, Kites, Parrots, etc., etc.

The skin collection is
systematically stored in
tall zinc cases, the doors
being hinged & swinging,
& fixed with clamps, which
hold the door against the
rubber rim.

The trays are
heavy-framed with heavy
paper bottoms. The covering
is thus expensive. The

skins from Mexico &
Lower Calif. made by Brown
are the most perfect I
ever saw. I saw the big

series of Toxostoma r. helva
taken on coast of No. S. Cal.
They look to me mightily
like Pasadenensis.

The most attractive + best
cared-for part of the Museum
was the egg-collection. Both
eggs + nests were all inside
of the square, black-lined, glass-
topped paste-board boxes of
varying sizes to suit the
specimens. Where eggs only,
the trays were shallow +
filled up with cotton around
the set, so that box could
be tilted without displacing
the eggs any; in other
words the eggs were almost
held against the glass top
by the fluff of cotton holding
them. Many nests
in situ were also set up on
shelves behind glass doors.

The journal method of
numbering numbers was
employed, the neatest I
have seen. If this method
were adopted Thayer's books
should be used as models.
Besides this, Thayer has
card reference catalogs
for his library, & all
specimens. He does all
this detailed work himself,
tho he hires the best
Taxidermists to mount his
birds & to re-make poor
skins. The latter he does
regularly. His library
is very extensive, & includes
the most expensive binding
& all the monographs. The
library is at his luxurious
home, out of Lancaster a
mile or more.

Rec'd from Miss Alexander:
Dec. 12 P.O. Money Order \$ 8 00
" 14 Check 350 00

Paid out on Alexander Acct:

			\$
Dec.	12	1 aux.	6 00
"	19	Round Trip Ticket 1st-Class to Chicago	\$ 110 00
"	"	Pullman berth to Oakland	2 50
"	20-21	Dinner + BRfast + 4 tips	1 60
"	21	Car-fares st Berkeley	20
"	"	Tourist berth to Ogden	2 75
"	22	BRfast + 2 tips	85
"	22	Dinner + Supper + 3 tips	1 70
"	23	BRfast	50
"	"	Berth Ogden to Denver	2 00
"	"	Supper	75
"	24	BRfast + Tip	40
"	"	Lunch + dinner at Denver	1 00
"	"	Pullman, Denver to Chic.	6 00
"	25	BRfast + 2 tips	80
"	"	Lunch + Dinner + 2 tips	1 00
"	26	BRfast + 2 tips	55
"	"	admission to Museum + check	30
"	"	Supper (4)	1 10

Dec.	26	Room	1 35
"	27	BKfast (3)	1 50
"	27	Supper & 2 tips	1 10
"	"	Berth to Wash.	5 00
"	"	Ticket to Wash.	17 50
"	28	BKfast	40
"	"	Lunch	60
"	"	Messenger + service at Wash.	70
"	29	BKfast + car fare	35
"	30	dinner	75
"	"	BKfast	25
"	31	"	30
"	"	dinner	50
Jan.	1	BKfast, dinner + carfare	65
Jan.	2-5	Meals, etc.	2 00
"	5	Week's Hotel bill (Wash.)	7 00
"	6	2 meals + Car fare	1 20
"	"	Express on box to Pas.	6 20
"	7	Meals 3	1 30
"	8	Hotel bill (Wash.)	4 60
"	"	Ticket to Phila.	3 40
"	9	meals	1 25
"	10	"	1 35

Jan.	17	Round Trip to Clinton	1 50
"	18	BKfast	50
"	"	dinner	40
"	"	Supper	75
"	"	Porter tips	25
"	"	Berth to Chic	3 00
"	19	BKfast	25
"	"	Berth to Los Angeles	14 00
"	20	BKfast	50
"	"	Lunch	70
"	"	Dinner	90
"	"	Porter	25
"	21	BKfast	50
"	"	Porter	25
"	"	Lunch	85
"	"	dinner	80
"	22	Porter	25
"	"	BKfast	50
"	"	Lunch	55
"	"	Cab	1 00

Jan	10	Hotel bill at Phil.	3 00
"	"	Ticket to N.Y.	2 25
"	11	Meals	1 50
"	12	Meals	25
"	"	Round trip to H. PK.	1 00
"	12 + 13	Car fare	30
"	13	BK fast	35
"	"	Hotel bill	6 00
"	14	BK fast	30
"	"	Telegram	85
"	15	Ticket to Boston	4 65
"	"	Supper	35
"	"	Cab	50
"	16	BK fast	55
"	"	Car fare	25
"	"	dinner	80
"	17	BK fast	25
"	"	2 meals	2 25
"	"	Telegrams (2)	70
"	"	Hotel Bill	3 00
"	"	Ticket to Chicago	21 95
"	"	Birth to Buffalo	2.50
		Total	\$ 280.50

Jan. 28 1 M shells ^{+ express chgs} under the 10.55

188 Bubo m. saturatus (H.C.O.)

Extreme of darkness. (black + buff)
toward Lagophantes.

131 Ardea herodias femini (H.C.O.)

Extreme of darkness; back
dark slate; size small; plumes
on scapula not developed & darker
more slaty.

134 Archibuteo l. sanctijohannis

dark like others from
Labrador, Wash., Oreg, & Utah (winter)
Seems to be a geographic form. (?)

47 Falco anatum

not pealei Characters of pealei don't
seem to be constant geographically
possibly not separable in adult
plumage! Young = type. No
adults show characters. (?)

206 Astur atricapillus striatulus

Young, dark, blackish & more rusty than eastern young; dorsal tail bars very black; whole dorsal surface exceptionally dark.

164 Buteo borealis (subsp.?)

Smaller, blacker, & rustier than eastern birds; flanks strongly barred, all eastern males have plain flanks (boots), tail more barred. Is a light phase, yet has blacker back than the darker phases of calurus. (J.H.R.)

207 Accipiter velox rufilatus

Very dark dorsally as compared with eastern birds in same age.

Type of rufilatus = ad. ♂ from Ft. Bridger = a rather pale slaty-backed bird, not like dark NW coast birds.

No synonyms.

#141 ♀ Aythya affinis (O.R.)

#78 ♂ Phalacrocorax pelagicus
not resplendens. Seems to be more
brilliant than Bering Sea examples,
possibly robustus. Has a very
heavy bill. See measurements
in all books.

#14 ♂ } Sendragapus obscurus (subsp.?)
#105 ♀ } Both darker: ♂ blacker
on rump & mid back & fore breast,
whole slatiness more sooty than in
any Oregon or Washington birds; ♀
with wash deeper & more extensive
brownish bars dorsally & laterally.
Size larger. Type of fuliginosa
darker, feet as large.

#130 ♂ Lagopus rufestris (?)

Very dark, only equalled by Evermanni from Alaska. All the others lighter. But mine with barred (finely) chest while Evermanni = uniformly black. (Look up moults). Next nearest like Nelsoni. Transverse vermiculations very fine.

#135 ♂ Lagopus lagopus ♂

Very sooty + brown dark (?). Feathers of dorsum mostly black with incomplete wavy bars, + no white terminal bars so conspicuous on birds from elsewhere. Feathers of rump + upper tailcoverts with much broader black bars so that rusty bars are narrower. Cervical bands narrow and yellowish instead of nearly white. Study bill.

99 ♂ Picoides ~~alaska~~ americanus

(subsp.?) Smokey breast! ∴
homologous to D. v. harrisi; white
spotting on wings reduced. ♂
Bill large. Tail below without
bars showing. Smokey pink
permeating white on sides of
head and forehead. As compared
with northern Alaskan skins, far
less white, bill larger, wing
shorter, & white permeated with
smokey.

1 ♂ Sphyrapicus varius subsp. (?)

mid-dorsal stripe reduced to a
series of lemon yellow flecks;
coloration, yellow & red, brilliant;
flanks & sides with more black;
bill large.

54 ♂ Loxia leucoptera

Color different from any from east, or no. Alaska. - more orange red, instead of pinkish red. No other characters.

90 ♀ same.

27 ♂ Loxia c. minor Color more orange than any other birds.

121 ♂ } Poioicola enucleata flammeola
62 ♀ } O.K.

20 } ♀ Tringa couesi - O.K.
60 } ♂

13 ♂ } Passerella iliaca townsendi
91 ♀ } Compared with type = a little more sooty, like fuliginosa.

The 5 song sparrows are probably rufina. But authority should be Bonaparte probably (fide Richwood).
Bp. Cousp. Av. I, 1850, 477)

"*Emberiza rufina*, Brandt, Orn. Ross.
t. 2. 5. e Sitka. Minor: rufo-cinereum,
dorsum maculis rufo-brunneis; subtus
albicans, maculis rufo-brunneis; rostro
producto, gracili." This
description doesn't fit the ^{song} sparrows.
However better let it go!

4

Robins: # 185 compares with
type of propinqua as follows:
breast deeper chestnut, wings, tail
& back far deeper & darker,
wing much shorter. With
a typical eastern bird it is
similar except that black of
head is abruptly defined
behind, and it lacks the terminal
white tail spot. A good subsp.

41 } *Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*
55 } O.K.

Bubo — "dark; like
saturnatus,

Alcoholometer

Hirsch & Kaiser.

Short — Scale 0 — 100 %

Duty free — alc.

Western Distillers

~~See G. B. Clark~~

See G. A. Clark

Whitall Tatum & Co.
Phila.

Jars —

Paper on Osteological
Methods = Scoullie in
Bull. ^(?) U.S. N. M.

Zeiss Bin. Erecting
Mic.

Bausch & Lomb

\$ 108 inc. duty

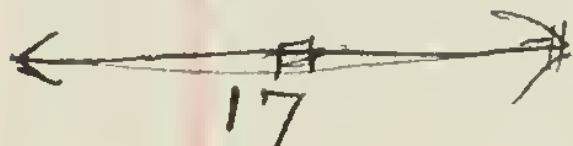
Reptile racks



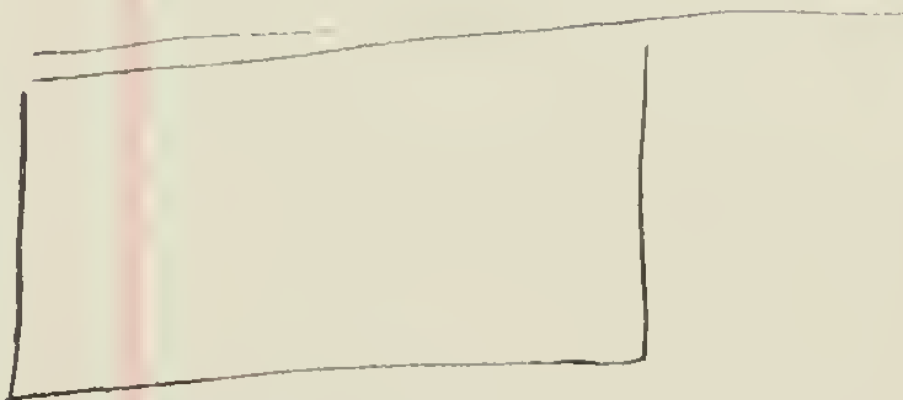
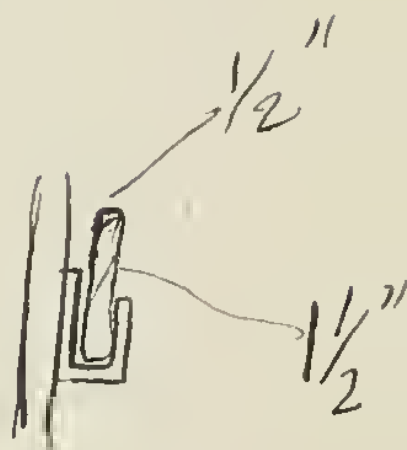
$\frac{7}{8}$ " stuff.



$\frac{1}{2}$ in.

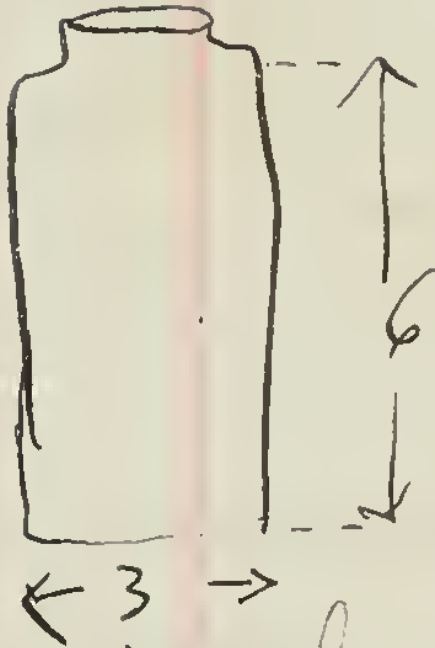


17



protector

Size



$\therefore = 3 \times 6$

Write for Catalog.

Whitall Tatum & Co.
Phila.

Rich; enquire from Snyder

Zinc tag numbers
ask Snyder

(?) Patrick & Co., S.F.

Official Printing Press
5x 7 1/2 (?) (\$25)

Get type at

Am. Type Foundry
not "amateur" type

Get Smallest Printers Case:

Yankee Job Case
2/3 size.

Am. Type Founders Co.,
San Francisco, Cal.

(Send for catalog).

Get leads & rules cut to
ems. (labor-saving).

Get Metal furniture

Plate glass ~~for~~ instead of stone.

Wooden (made) galley.

Wheels must be but slightly less
in diameter than rollers.

