

6542 Lime Street,
Vancouver 14 , B.C. Canada.
April 19.1952.

Dear Dr. Harrison;

I have just opened your letter file and to my chagrin found a letter I had written to you in early March, but not completed. I am afraid the A.D. is catching up with me. I am most sorry.

I was much pleased to hear from you and can realize how busy you must be with your practice and all your other activities. Doubtless you will be relieved when your book has been completed and in the publishers hands.

The box containing the fourteen specimens arrived safely yesterday afternoon. All the specimens are most interesting and I am very pleased to add them to the collection. Very many thanks.

Am making up another parcel for you to go forward at once and it will contain the following,-

- 1- American Scoter ad.M.
- 1- Surf Scoter juv.F.
- 2- Wilson Snipe M. & F.
- 2- Sitka Crossbills M.& F.
- 1- Bohemian Waxwing M.
- 1- Pacific Dunlin M.
- 1- Western Sandpiper M.

I hope you will like these specimens and more of your desiderata will follow as soon as I can collect them.

I am most interested in hearing that you have a bird gallery and how very nice to have a representative collection of mounted birds as well as study skins. Unfortunately there is not room for both in this house.

I was unable to make the hoped for collecting trip up the coast this spring, but may go for the southbound migration in late July and August. I am also very eager to secure specimens of that very rare shrew Sorex palustris brooksi and know a river in the centre of Vancouver Island where they are found.

Recently I skinned two cougar and was greatly struck by the very beautiful muscular development of one of them, an old female, that measured nearly eight feet long. One seldom meets a cougar when hunting and only once in forty years have I encountered one in the wilds. Our predatory animal hunters with their well trained cougar dogs tend to keep their numbers down.

Have just made the interesting discovery that the cottontails have come into the Fraser Valley. My elder son, Alan, collected one under a haystack on our ranch and a student brought me another found dead on the highway. This animal may be Sylvilagus nuttali, but I am a bit dubious.

Would you care for further specimens of White-winged, Surf or American Scoters as they become available?

Have enjoyed a very pleasant winter working with the students in the U.B.C. I happen to be the Hon. Curator of Birds and Mammals for that Institution

and am happy teaching the students museum methods in the Dept. of Zoology. Of course there is no remuneration, but I enjoy the work and associations and it keeps me busy and out of mischief.. Groups of students come occasionally to my house for a pleasant evening with the birds and mammals and afterwards a good late supper. The young people seem to enjoy these evenings greatly.

I am sure the girls at Folkstone enjoyed your lecture. The Greenland Falcon would be well worth the trouble.

Unfortunately the "Bird Watchers" have heavily invaded Eastern Canada and I understand that in one ^{Toronto} society there are six hundred members. We are moderately free from the "Watchers" out here, but there are always some to screech to high Heaven and so we are careful. I believe the Audubon Society (American) are largely responsible for much of their propoganda. Some of the States definitely prohibit the export of scientific specimens.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Very Sincerely yours,

Kenneth Racey

P.S. How do you like specimens prepared in the field so that they can be readily mounted when you receive them? Usually we borax a skin after it is largely degraded by hand.

K.R.

FIRST FOLD HERE — PLIEZ D'ABORD ICI

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS — NOM ET ADRESSE DE L'ENVOYEUR

Kenneth Racey,

6542 Lime Street,

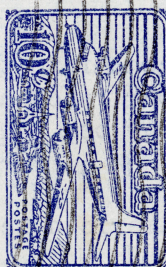
Vancouver 14

British Columbia, Canada.

NO ENCLOSURE PERMITTED — NE RIEN INSÉRER

SECOND FOLD HERE — PLIEZ ENSUITE ICI

CANADA



Dr. James N. Harrison,

"Bowerwood House"

St. Botolph's Road,

Sevenoaks, Kent.

England.

TO OPEN CUT HERE — POUR OUVRIR, COUPEZ ICI