

Canada
April 16/53

Dear Dr. Harrison:-

Once more I am far behind with my correspondence, but quite unavoidably so! I must thank you for your letters of March 27th & April 5th & 10th which were most welcome. I am now very keenly looking forward to the arrival of the 14 specimens which you dispatched a short time back.

I hasten to say that specimens made up by J.W. are very nice as he was taught by my old friend the Lieut Major Allan Brooks of Okanagan Reg. My trouble is that returns have not been forthcoming & unanswered letters.

Yes, gasoline used alone is explosive & it is better not to use the coloured (poisonous). Please allow me to give a few more details relative to solvent & when it is for what it is worth. For ordinary Waders & duck skins (not oiled birds) wash in soap suds, rinse twice in clean water, squeeze out & immerse in the following

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|---|-----|------------------|
| White gas (petrol) similar to that used by aircraft | --- | 2 quarts |
| Carbon tetrachloride | --- | 1 quart |
| Alcohol | --- | 1 cup (small) |
| Turpentine | --- | 3 tablespoonfuls |

As you are aware the carbon tet. is an excellent degreaser & counter the inflammability of the gasoline. Alcohol increases penetration & the turpentine assists in retaining the lustre of the feathers. This mixture is very convenient & one can immerse a specimen clean it in the solution for as long as desired. To complete, squeeze out & put specimen in a tray or pan of fine hardwood sawdust, rub gently onto feathers, shake out surplus & fluff out with blower i.e. hair dryer or reversed vacuum cleaner, find it better to remove crude oil with cheap floor solvent in a pail before spinning three changes.

I wish David all sorts of good luck & good collecting. Please give him my best wishes.

The redpolls have gone north from the Interior so it will be next winter before more specimens can be collected.

I hope that the Editor of the "Field" is very anti collector judging from his article in a Jan. issue. Could not the B.O.U. exert enough pressure so that genuine scientific collectors could be granted collecting permits as is done in this country & where every collector requires two sponsors?

Kindest regards, best wishes

Very Sincerely

Kenneth Racey

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