

"Bowerwood House"
Sevenoaks, Kent.

Dear Mr Racey,

I am afraid I have been a somewhat long ~~XX~~March 18. 52.
time in acknowledging the safe receipt of the box containing the
eight nice skins. I am very pleased to get these particularly those
new to my collection.

The delay in writing you earlier is due to the fact that I
have been inordinately busy both in the practice, as well as in other
directions. The work on the book has demanded a good deal of time, but
now that I have at last reached page proof stage things are a bit light-
er, though there is yet a good deal to do before it is off my hands.
In addition to this I have had one or two commitments which have ne-
cessitated my expending a bit of time on preparation. This afternoon I
had the privilege and pleasure of opening the new Bird Room of the Maid-
stone Museum, which had had the good fortune to be given the magnificent
collection got together by a friend of mine, Mr Guy Mannering; he is now
a bit over 60 years old and has put in a life time of work, running all
the hazards which now confront anyone who collects birds! Practically
every specimen was shot and set up by him. Next Tuesday I have a lecture
to give at Folkestone to a Girls School, the penalty paid for coveting a
pair of Greenland Falcons, once in the Tournay collection. They are
now here, but it has meant my giving up sometime to the preparation
of a birdy talk!

Anyway I have now ~~xxx~~ looked out the following fourteen speci-
mens and packed them up, though yet have to find a wooden lid for the
box. You should find the following birds:-

ad. ♂ ♀ and imm. ♂ Coshawk; ♂ Bittern; ♂ Quail; ♀ Jack Snipe; ♂ Great
Snipe; ♂ ♀ Little Grebe; the Turnstone, inadvertently omitted from
my last consignment to you; ♂ Corn-Crake; ♀ Water-Rail; and a ♂ Hoo-
poe. I have looked out as recent specimens as I could spare, but one
or two not recent, but nevertheless good specimens and I hope you will
like them. Also Storm Petrel, ♂ ad.

Some of the species mentioned in your list I shall find it dif-
ficult to get I'm afraid, but will send you what I can from time to
time. I shall presently be seeing what Anatidae I may have to spare;
I can certainly find the following:- Sheld-Duck, Goldeneye and possibly
a female Smew, though probably not a very bright one. I'll bear some
of the others in mind in case I get spares later. Have not yet had the
Cormorant drive, but hope to before long, should then get a good ex-
ample of Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis; I have an adult female here
which was sent to me but it has not assumed much of the summer dress
yet. I have found this form a pretty common bird in Kentish waters,
and have several specimens but none of them full plumaged birds. It
is in order to sort out the relative prevalence of the two forms that
we have been planning a "naval occasion" in the Medway area, but
"operation cormorant" has not so far been dated finally!

In this country we are over-run with the species Bird-Watcher,
and the acquisition of specimens becomes more and more difficult one
way and another. There is no recognised policy in connection with col-
lecting, and it is all "agin the law". There is also every prospect of
shortening up the official duck shooting season to make it commence in
September or even October; so that the shooting of shore species be-
comes even more difficult. Many interesting birds appear as early as
the last week in July, and August and September were always good months
for the coast. I suppose you do'nt suffer such restrictive efforts in

"Bowerwood House"
Sevenoaks, Kent.

Dear Mr. Racey,

I am afraid I have been a somewhat long time in acknowledging the safe receipt of the box containing the eight nice skins. I am very pleased to get these particularly those new to my collection.

The delay in writing you earlier is due to the fact that I have been tremendously busy both in the practice, as well as in other directions. The work on the book has demanded a good deal of time, but now that I have at last reached page proof stage things are a bit lighter, though there is yet a good deal to do before it is off my hands. In addition to this I have had one or two commitments which have necessitated my expending a bit of time on preparation. This afternoon I had the privilege and pleasure of opening the new Bird Room of the Natural History Museum, which had had the good fortune to be given the magnificent collection put together by a friend of mine, Mr. Guy Warrington; he is not a bit over 60 years old and has put in a life time of work, running all the hazards which now confront anyone who collects birds! Practically every specimen was shot and sent up by him. Next Tuesday I have a lecture to give at Folkestone to a Girls' School, the parents paid for covering a pair of Greenland Falcons, once in the Torrey collection. They are now here, but it has meant my giving up sometime to the preparation of a birdy talk!

Anyway I have now with me the following fourteen species and packed them up, though yet have to find a wooden lid for the box. You should find the following birds:-

ad. ♂ and imm. ♂ Gadwall; 3 Bittern; 3 Quail; 3 Jack Snipe; 3 Great Snipe; 3 Little Grebe; the Turnstone, inadvertently omitted from my last commitment to you; 3 Gull-in-Lake; 3 Water-Rail; and a 3 Hoo-see. I have looked out as recent specimens as I could spare, but one or two not recent, but nevertheless good specimens and I hope you will like them. Also a few more.

Canada?

A friend of mine Forrer, who made a fine collection which is now in the Zoological Museum, Cambridge University, lives at Cley in Norfolk, which as you know is a famous bird resort, especially in migration time. There exists as a sort of ostracised person, and as there are many of the sentimentalists amongst ornithologists, particularly of the fair sex, he finds life somewhat trying, as some won't even extend a civil "good morning" to him as he passes! Nevertheless they like to know what a Pectoral-Sandpiper looks like at close quarters, in case they see one on the shore!

Well I think that that is about all the news at present,

Hope you are fit and flourishing, and that you will have much of ornithological interest.

Believe me, with kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

P.S. I hope to have the box off to you during the latter part of the week or early next week.