

"Bowerwood House"  
St Botolph's Road,  
SEVENOAKS, Kent.

Dear Mr Racey,

July 4. 52.

I have been intending writing you for some days; we are due to start on three weeks holiday next Tuesday and are travelling in our small Ford 10 through France and on into Spain, where we hope to explore the Mediterranean coast between the frontier and Barcelona. It is not a very good time of year for birds, but maybe we shall find a few. David will of course be catching small mammals, but we, i.e. Jeff and I will have to be very circumspect I imagine, or we may find ourselves languishing in a Spanish gaol! No guns but hope an odd bird will visit a mouse trap, or get netted in the bat-nets of David. I am also taking that primitive weapon, the catapult.

Before we leave I am hoping to make up a small parcel for you. I have a very nice Bombycilla garrulus garrulus which I trust you will like also a Larus minutus, but the latter is a species of which unhappily I do not possess extensive series of. I shall hope this coming season to be able to get out a bit more on the marshes, so will I trust be able to get you several species.

I have just started correcting the first batch of page proofs for The Birds of Kent, and expect a steady flow to accumulate during our absence abroad. While I think of it, do you require specimens of Fulica atra, Callinula chloropus, Crex crex? I would help if you could let me have a list of such species as you might be wanting just now. It will help me to know what species to collect as fresh skins during the coming season if opportunity presents; I dare say I shall have chances at Corvus cornix, Falco tinunculus, Calidris maritima, ~~XXXX~~ flammea flammea, Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula etc, Asio sch

Also what small passerines do you still need:- Emberiza hortulana, E. calandra, Passer montanus, Alauda arvensis, Anthus pratensis, Anthus spinoletta petrosus? I expect you have enough of Sturnus vulgaris?

Please excuse more for the time being, I shall look forward to seeing a letter from you on our return, after which we are hoping to be getting out actively on the coast as well as on our small shoot not far from here.

With all good wishes from us/all,

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

"Bowerwood House"  
St Botolph's Road,  
SEVENOAKS, Kent.

July 4, 52.

Dear Mr. Racey,

I have been intending writing you for some days; we are due to start on three weeks holiday next Tuesday and are travelling in our small Ford 10 through France and on into Spain, where we hope to explore the Mediterranean coast between the Pyrenees and Barcelona. It is not a very good time of year for birds, but maybe we shall find a few. David will of course be carrying small mammals, but we, I.e. I, and I will have to be very circumspect I imagine, or we may find ourselves languishing in a Spanish goal! No guns but hope an odd bird will visit a mouse trap, or get netted in the hat-net of David. I am also taking that primitive weapon, the catapult.

Before we leave I am hoping to make up a small parcel for you. I have a very nice *Bombus terrestris* which I trust you will like also a *larva minutus*, but the latter is a species of which I do not possess extensive series of. I shall hope this coming season to be able to get out a bit more on the marshes, so will I trust be able to get you several species.

I have just started correcting the first batch of page proofs for The Birds of Kent, and expect a steady flow to accumulate during our absence abroad. While I think it, do you require specimens of *Polioptila caerulea*, *Calioptila caerulea*, *Coxa erythrogastra*? I would help if you could let me have a list of such species as you might be wanting just now. It will help me to know what species to collect as fresh.

I had hoped to look out one or two other skins before leaving but have been extremely pressed and much to arrange before our departure very early on Tuesday. However on my return I shall hope to be getting some fresh specimens including some of your wants.

The parcel containing the Little Gull and the Waxwing will leave here tomorrow, and I shall hope to hear that it has arrived safely in due course.

With all good wishes from us all,

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,