

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

Dear Mr Racey,

Nov. 22. 52.

I trust that all is well with you, but it is some-time since I had any news.

I myself have been inordinately pressed both in the practice as well as with the page proofs of the book, now happily nearing the time when it will be off my hands. I have seen practically the complete page proof of the two volumes now.

Meanwhile today I have looked out for you the following specimens, which I hope you will like. They are not all recent skins but will send you others if you advise me that you would like them as I get specimens. Some of the birds sent very rarely come my way, e.g. Porzana porzana, but as I have just recently received an extra one from abroad I am able to release one of the better ones in my present small series. Crex crex is another species which I do not often get, such as I do receive are usually young birds in autumn dress, in fact I have only two adults in summer plumage, one of which I now send you. It is possible that I may be lucky enough to get a Pechard or two sometime, particularly if I get a chance to go north, if so I will certainly send you a pair to replace the two I now despatch. I shall hope to send you some of the smaller species you asked me for in your last letter in due course.

It has turned very cold here recently and it looks like being a severe winter, may be that will be good for the duck shooting.

By the way do you want Athene noctua from here, or Strix aluco sylvatica? Asio flammeus presumably you would not want. Do you want any specimens of Gallinula chloropus chloropus?

I have recently had a visit from John Williams, of the Nairobi museum; I believe you know him.

With the recent gales we have had, there has been a real "wreck" of Petrels, on the west coasts large numbers of Leach's Fork-tailed Petrels have been stranded, and I have had one from off the north Kent coast, while a Fulmar arrived at a village near here on October 18th, and was kept in a duck run for most of the time. Ultimately it came to me and has since died, and is now a nice mounted specimen in my bird-gallery!

Well that is, I think, about all the news at present so will end this. I shall hope to send off the parcels with the above skins to you early next week.

Kindest regards, and all good wishes,

Yours very sincerely,