

"Ewerwood House"
St Botolph's Road, -
SEVENOAKS, Kent.

January 8th, 53.

Dear Mr Racey,

I was very sorry indeed to learn from your kind Xmas greeting card that you were indisposed, and we all join in the hope that you are by now well on the road to recovery. I was afraid that perhaps you were not well as I had not heard from you of the safe arrival of the last consignment of skins, which I despatched to you on November 25th. I do hope that it arrived safely; the box contained the following skins:-

Pochard ♂ and ♀
Land-Rail
Spotted Crane
Reed-Bunting ♂ and ♀
Kestrel ♀
Linnet ♂
Merganser ♀

I know that there were one or two that you were keen to have, and as some of them, e.g. the Spotted Crane do not so often come my way, I trust that they did not miscarry.

It has turned very cold here the past few days with some snow, I am rather hoping to be able to get out early on Saturday morning next for a flight at duck, but at the moment am one of those indulging in a cold, so am not too sure at present. A certain number of storm driven Leach's Fork-tailed Petrels have arrived here, mostly from the west country, though I did receive one from Kent, and also a Fulmar which was found only a few miles from Sevenoaks. Up to the present we have had quite a successful season on the duck, but unfortunately no very special species. However we did manage to get quite a few in various degrees of eclipse plumage for the bird-gallery, so earlier I had quite a busy time setting up these specimens.

Thank goodness the final notes of my book were handed in on December 30th, so that now the business of production is going ahead. The publisher (H.F. & G. Witherby & Co, 5 Warwick Court, High Holborn, LONDON, W.C.1.) tell me that they anticipate that the book will appear in either April or May.

Well please excuse more for the time being; I hope that I shall hear from you ere long and that you will be able to tell me that you are once more fit and in the fighting line.

With kind regards, and all the best for the New Year,

Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,