

"Bowerwood House"

St Botolph's Road,
SEVENOAKS, Kent.

March 27. 53.

Dear MR Racey,

I am afraid I have been rather a long time in answering your last letter, i.e. that of February 4th, but this winter which has just passed has been an inordinately busy one in so far as epidemic disease has been concerned, consequently very little spare time, also the proofs on my Birds of Kent have also pressed heavily on my time. Well now the disease wave has eased considerably and the proofs are almost through so life has improved somewhat.

I am glad to know from your letter that you are better again and quite approve of your occupational therapy; we practice that here, and I have a cine film I took of Jeffery, our eldest son when he was a small-boy after having his tonsils out, sitting up in bed skinning a Water-Hen! David, who had his tonsils done at the same time is employed with a young Rabbit!

Now that things are less rushed I will look out the Buteo bute skin and get it despatched, I will also refer to you list of desiderata and will hope to add something as well. /6

I was sorry to learn that you got some poor exchanges from J.W., I have only had two specimens, a pair of Tringa stagnatilis, both are excellent skins I must say, but one must wait and see.

Every one here very sad to lose our Queen Mary, - she was a wonderful old lady and really was an example to all of us. We had realised that she had been failing for sometime now. However as it had to be it was as well that it did not happen nearer the Coronation. As it is and with a quiet funeral it will not affect the arrangements which have been made for the many visitors who are coming over.

I was very glad to get an idea of the technique you use for the relaxing of skins preparatory to processing as mounted or skins, and I shall certainly try out your method. I suppose you also get a good deal of trouble from crude oil. It is really very difficult ridding specimens of this pestilential substance.

David leaves us on Monday next to join the R.A.F. as a medical officer of course. He will be in this country for about six weeks more then hopes to get posted to the Middle East - it's the bats and rats etc that he's after out there of course!

Please excuse more just now,

Kind regards, and all good wishes,
Yours very sincerely,