

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

April 5th. 53.

Dear Mr Racey,

Firstly may I say how glad I am that you are better. Thank you very much for the fourteen nice skins just arrived; I am pleased to have them all. I will try the method of relaxing, but unfortunately we have a difficulty here in getting a high grade petrol which is colourless, but I presume that benzene would serve as well. Is there not a good deal of risk re the possibility of fire this way. Actually I tried a fresh Kittiwake by the method with a petrol coloured red; it all came out quite well but I would hesitate to use a coloured petrol on anything good. This particular bird was stale and very dirty and I did not much mind trying an experiment. It was a bird found here in our district otherwise I should not have troubled to preserve it at all.

I have looked out some skins for you during the past couple of days, these include 1 Buteo buteo buteo ad. this is as you doubtless know a very variable species, and the one I am sending you is a rather light phase.

2	<u>Calidris maritima</u>	
2	<u>Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula</u>	
3	<u>Loxia curvirostra curvirostra</u>	
2	<u>Chloris chloris chloris</u>	
1	<u>Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes</u>	ad.
2	<u>Anthus spinoletta petrosus</u>	
1	<u>Anthus pratensis</u>	14 specimens.

These I will despatch immediately after the Easter holidays.

I do not think I shall need the American representative of Buteo buteo as accommodation for the larger skins is necessarily restricted. I was particularly pleased to get the series of Redpolls and would be very glad to have even a few more as some of my series of this species is made up of rather poor material.

We are well away from the flood area, but in actual fact I, both my sons and my elder son's Fiancee, Pamela Carter Braine got off the Island of Sheppey just two hours before the road was cut. We did not realise what was coming although well aware that the north-wester which was blowing had exceed anything we had previously experienced. That day was the last one of the season for duck so we naturally went out. We had a pretty good flight too but nothing very remarkable, only common species. I had my first shot ever at geese in my Home County, four White-fronts but unfortunately just too far to do the trick although one could hear the shot rattle up against them.

David has now joined up to do the two years National Service as a Medical Officer in the R.A.F. He is moving Heaven and earth to get abroad to the Middle East, its the bats and rats etc etc he's after!

Please excuse more for the time being; I shall hope to hear good news of you ere long, and sincerely hope you will like the skins

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

April 25th. 55.

Dear Mr. Rasey,

Firstly may I say how glad I am that you are better. Thank you very much for the fourteen nice skins just arrived; I am pleased to have them all. I will try the method of relaxing, but unfortunately we have a difficulty here in getting a high grade petrol which is colourless, but I presume that benzene would serve as well. Is there not a good deal of risk in the possibility of fire this way. Actually I tried a fresh kitten by the method with a petrol coloured red; it all came out quite well but I would hesitate to use a coloured petrol on anything good. This particular bird was stale and very dirty and I did not much mind trying an experiment. It was a bird found here in our district otherwise I should not have troubled to preserve it at all.

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2 Colaptes auratus
2 Chondestes haliaetus
2 Larus curvirostris
2 Chloris chloris
1 Coccyzus erythrophthalmus ad.
2 Actitis hypoleucos
1 Actitis hypoleucos

14 specimens.

I shall presently be sending off to you. These I have kept for you.

With kind regards from us all,
Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,

We are well away from the flood area, but in actual fact I, both my sons and my elder son's fiancée, Pamela Carter, have got off the island of Sheppey just two hours before the road was cut. We did not realise what was coming although well aware that the north-wester which was blowing had exceeded anything we had previously experienced. That day was the last one of the season for duck so we naturally went out. We had a pretty good flight too but nothing very remarkable, only common species. I had my first shot ever at geese in my home county, four white-fronts but unfortunately just too far to do the trick although one could hear the shot rattle up against them.

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