

John Munroe & Co.
Bankers,
No. 8 Wall Street,
P.O. BOX, 2958.

Munroe & Co.
Paris.

New York, 100th 9th 1878

Mr. William Brewster

Cambridge, Mass.

My Dear Sir:

Your letter of 7 inst. in relation to the specimen of Neleucis hobbaga is at hand. Do not hesitate to retain the bird as long as you may desire. It is of course desirable that such a specimen should have thorough treatment, & I cheerfully submit it to you for investigation, the results of which you are at perfect liberty to publish, as, never having seen leucobronchialis I should feel it an assumption on my part to express any opinion publicly, concerning it.

The bird came into my possession in the following manner: Abt. the first of last June at his taxidermist's shop in North 4th St., Mr. Wallace, showed me the above specimen, stating that it was brought to him by a young man living in Nyack N.Y. when it had been shot and thinking it somewhat different than anything he had

R.S. I might add that compared with my
series of forms the principal differences are
that the radical variation of head, nose,
lower parts; lies in the greater width &
consequent closer approximation of the
wing bands, with an almost entire absence
of yellow on the head, and also in the light
edging of the wing veins which in this species
is I remember it less prominently than in a brownish
diffusion over in peris. The tail also
may be relatively longer. - (172)

E. S. Bicknell
Nov 9, 1875

John Munroe & Co
Bankers
No. 8 Wall Street
P.O. BOX, 2958.
Munroe & Co
Paris.

New York, Dec 10th 1878

Mr. Wm Brewster,
Cambridge Mass.

My dear Sir:

Your favor of 4th inst. is at hand. Thank you very much for the full & complete manner in which you have informed me relative to the Helminthophaga pinus. I had hoped that it might turn out to be leucobronchialis as this would have added a new bird to the fauna of the Hudson Valley, at the same time connecting the Pa. with the Conn. records of this species. However leucobronchialis will probably be taken before a great while in N.Y. State and this specimen of pinus may be equally interesting as being so unique in plumage.

I am glad you did not return the bird. The proper place for it is in your hands where any future material of a similar nature, will be most likely to collect, and I suppose that all such specimens representing ~~such~~ a departure from the normal type not directly attributable to any known cause, may prove of value in the future as evidence of the possible ancestry or tendency of the species. Therefore I take pleasure in tendering it to you. Hereafter I shall take particular pains in securing specimens of pinus, in the hope

plumage longer than usual. I have another specimen apparently younger in which the under parts are of the normal color but with indications of a white throat & median line. Certainly this black plumage seems to be very unusual or more would be known about it. May not this species be subject to dichromatism (as some of its allies) which may be very uncommon, only occasionally finding expression in young birds?

Very truly Yours
E. M. Mearns

finding another similar anomaly. ^{on "First Plumage"}
In view of your very interesting article now publishing I have for some time past been intending to write you in reference to a peculiar specimen of Pallus virginianus, in my possession. It is I think the smallest individual of this species which I have ever seen, but I find no other evidence of its age and possibly it may not be a young bird. Excepting the throat the whole under parts are of a dark slaty black divided by a median line of white extending from the white throat & coalescing with the white crossbar of the abdomen. Otherwise the bird is similar to ordinary virginianus but darker above & with a decided slaty suffusion abt. head.

Some years ago Mr. Geo. A. Lawrence pronounced it a melanotic form but since then I have understood that Mr. Herrick has a somewhat similar specimen which he regards a young bird. No one else with whom I have spoken on the subject has ever heard of virginianus in this plumage, & I can find no published allusion to it, consequently ~~that~~ I have been induced to communicate with you on the subject thinking that possibly it may also ^{have} escaped your observation. If you should desire this specimen for comparison, or description in your article I will be pleased to send it to you.

It would seem very probable that the young of this species (as of others of the ^{same} genus) would be black, but I find nothing published to this effect, ~~and~~ in the case of such a common bird it certainly would be remarkable if it has been overlooked. If it is the case that the young of this species are black, my bird probably has retained this

E. P. Bicknell

Dec. 10, 1878

N.Y. April 24th 79.

William Brewster Esq.

Dear Sir:

Agreeably with your request
as set forth in your letter of 13th, I have
exhibited Mr. Meon's pictures at the L. Society
meeting last Saturday, & now enclose the
necessary funds, for your sets. Those you
sent I retain for the L. Society, the others sets
were taken by Messrs. F. Deumer, W. C. Osborn, &
John Lawrence. Messrs. Daily, & W. Lawrence will
probably also take each a set but not just at
present. Other subscribers would have been
secured had they known a few weeks ago,
as now many of the members are out
of the city, & after the next meeting the
Society breaks up for the summer. I have
liked to have taken a set, but really the
so many more necessary things in the
way of lists, works, &c. which I must possess
that I scarcely feel justified in doing so.

Neither Mr. L. nor myself knew
much about the expedition or I would
advise you more fully regarding it.

In great haste which please
excuse

Yours very truly
J. W. Brown

P.S. I enclose \$10, to obviate the
trouble of single bills, & trust it
will reach you in safety.

Best wishes for your Maine trip.
J. W. B.

The pictures have been admired by all,
including Mr. G. Lawrence. Those subscribed
for may be sent to me at P.O. Box 2958
this city. Today Mr. G. Lawrence
showed me a letter from Prof. Baird inquiring
for some one to go as naturalist on
the Bennett Expedition to the arctic
regions sailing from San Francisco, at
\$600 per month. We could think of
no one in this city, who could very well
go, & I told Mr. L. that in writing I would
inquire of you if you knew of any ~~one~~
~~so~~ desirable person who would go, I thought
of Werner, whom you spoke of as poor, and
devoted to ornithology. If he or anyone
else whom you know of would accept the
position will you kindly advise me as
soon as possible. I deeply regret that
my present circumstances will hardly
permit of my taking the position other-
wise just at the opportunity to
visit a region where I have always
had a longing to go, especially in the
pursuit of natural knowledge.

E. P. Beckwith
Jan 24 1879

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write again please let me know how soon I may expect the proof and when it can be returned, as I am thinking of leaving town for a few days and do not want to delay its return.

I am glad to see that you have returned from the west and hope you have been successful. I trust that Mr. Allen has been benefited by the trip.

Yours Very Truly

Cyrene Bicknell

P.S. as the latter part of my paper is of the most scientific importance scientifically, is the title, as enclosed, sufficient?

You will notice that I have used generic and varietal names together, separated by an apostrophe, and have preceded by the same sign varietal names used by themselves. This practice I have found convenient in my private notes and ~~do not~~ ~~think~~ ~~feel~~ ~~any~~ ~~objection~~ ~~to~~ ~~its~~ ~~use~~ ~~in~~ ~~print~~.

Bicknell (E. P.)

June 13, 1882

P.O. Box 2958 My City
June 13/82

My dear Mr. Brewster:

I received the MS. yesterday and thank you for your kind supervision of it. At best, the paper seems to be a good deal of smoke for a very little fire and it hardly worth holding over, so that, though so much mutilation of it is hardly agreeable, I have cut it down as you wished for the July Bulletin.

Notice that you have corrected several very careless errors on my part and made some verbal changes.

Though I recognize the improvement of most of the latter, and am obliged for them,

in several cases I prefer still
the original reading, and
where this is the case have
underlined the words in
red pencil. If you perceive
nothing actually wrong with
them I should rather have
them stand as written. I
was rather in doubt about
writing at such length on the
nest and eggs, and see that
it was unnecessary - I have
also reduced some of the
critical portion, as, if more
material should come to
hand later, this would then
be more appropriate.

If further reduction should
be necessary please use
your own judgment. I have
been over the MS. very hastily
and shall rely on the proof for

for giving the finishing changes.
It is not customary with
you to return MSS. I will
send the necessary postage
for the return of mine, as so
much of it will not be
printed.

Do you think
the remarks on the early
light on Mountain tops, in
relation to the birds, are
of sufficient interest to
incorporate with a somewhat
extended paper on the fauna
of the Catskills in general
when I allude more
particularly to the high
mountain tops as illustrating
more northern mammals?

If you do not think ~~the~~ my
remarks too speculative I
will take the latter course.
If you have occasion to

E. P. Bicknell

July 18, 1882

Riverville N.Y. City

July 18/1882

Dear Mr. Brewster -

Yours of the 2d was duly received and I see that you and Mr. Patchelder were entirely right in the action you took with regard to my apostrophes and capitals. I am only sorry that I did not

know what your final decision about the former would be before the paper was printed as rather than use varietal with generic names without the qualifying apostrophe

I should have used full
trinomials.

With Dr. Fisher I was
upon the Slide Mtn. June 25-26
and secured another example
of H. bicinctus - Judging
from their songs the birds
were common, as also were
M. mainsoni, but the one taken
was the only one that could
be secured - from the
difficulties of the ground.

Dr. F. discovered the nest
- 4 fresh eggs - of Empidonax
flaviventris.

In writing I might
make inquiry about some
birds which Capt. Bendire,
some months ago, wrote me

that I would receive through
you. In this last letter
to me the Captain again
alludes to them and I
do not like to reply
without being able to say
something definite regarding
them. As far as the

skins themselves are concerned
I am not in the least
waste to receive them.

Trusting that you are
having good success with
the birds

I am

Yours very truly
Eugene P. Mitchell

P.O. Box 2958 N.Y. City
July 25/82

Dear Mr. Brewster:

Letters of the 22d came to hand
this AM. I was glad to
hear of the Bendire collection.
Please do not consider the
object of my inquiry regarding
it was to hasten you; I
already understood that,
before distribution, you were
to mark the birds up, and
merely desired to know that
the collection had been safely
received. So far as my
share of it is concerned I
hope you will take your
own time.

I am glad to hear your
interesting news about aliciae
and shall take pleasure in

preclude its being entertained
at least for the present.
You ask about the bird's song.
Upon the mountain, besides the
songs of naues and Trainsoni,
was heard another which showed
its author to be common. This
song seemed very similar to that
of aliciae proper, as the latter
is heard on its spring migration,
and I took it to be the song
of bickardi, although the bird
was not actually observed in the
act of singing. At dusk there
were a number of different call-
notes heard, some of which which
I took to be those of struthus
and different than anything
I had before heard.

I shall be pleased to give
you any further information you may
desire, which I can

Very truly

Alfred P. Dickcull

Bicknell
July 25 '82

sending you as many of my
examples of bicknelli as you
may desire. For the present
I send two only, for the sake
of precaution.

Mr. Deane
called on me yesterday and
stated that probably Mr. Purdie
would be in N.Y. tomorrow.

If so he will doubtless call
on me, and if he is willing
to convey the specimens I will
entrust them to his care -
as a safer means of transport
than the mail or express.

Of course, in view of your
remarks, I will be silent
regarding your captures.

Of the three specimens I have
from the Catskills, I send the
type with the one taken last
June. The one I retain is
similar to the type except
in being less distinctly brownish
above, and much less buffy

on the breast. The bill is very
similar. This year's specimen
is in somewhat worn plumage
and differs somewhat from the
others. The bill especially is
different, as you will see, being
stouter, with the culmen convex
instead of the reverse; this
latter character is so pronounced,
however, as to suggest an
abnormality. The head of this
specimen is much like that of
nanus G., or, more properly, of a
specimen of nanus, ~~taken~~ in about
equally worn plumage, also taken
on Slide Mt. The race,
indeed, seems to be somewhat
intermediate between trairsoni
and nanus with which species
it was so intimately associated
and the idea of hybridity has
suggested itself to me. Obvious
considerations, however, tend to make
this appear so improbable as to

Bicknell

Sept. 26, 1882

P.O. Box 2958, N.Y. City

Sept. 26, '82.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

I received the box of birds last evening and am greatly obliged to you for your trouble and care in packing them.

I checked off all the specimens on Capt. Bendire's invoice, and they are all right; but I have one bird which is not down on the Capt's list - a specimen of Paleo sparrow. Possibly he omitted to note it on the list sent me, or it may have got into the box by mistake. If it was accidental among my birds I will return it on advice from you of such fact.

Your disposition of the owls
is entirely satisfactory to me.
The thrushes were safely received.

Very truly
Yours,
Osgood P. Mitchell

E. P. Bicknell

Dec. 17, 1882

Riverton, Dec. 17, 1882.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

I am glad to hear that you are to review my paper on Cuckoo Birds. Two or three points connected with it I would like to speak of beforehand.

In case you have any structures to make on my use of an apostrophe between generic and varietal names in place of the specific name, and on my use of Capitals in specific names derived from proper names and names of places, I would like to make my position clear to you on these points. With regard to the former I have found the use of an apostrophe in the place of a specific name a great convenience in MS. notes, and it appears to me to answer all the requirements of

a legitimate abbreviation of a
trinomial, I cannot see that
it is any concession to the
binomialists. The abbreviation
of a trinomial is often, of course,
desirable, especially where the
name is continually recurring,
and how better can it be done
than by the apostrophe indicating
that the middle name is
omitted. The omission of
either the generic or specific
name without any qualifying
sign would tend to give a
wrong impression of the authors
view of the status of the bird
designated. Perhaps there is
precedent for this use of the
apostrophe, but you will notice
that the significance of the
sign is very different than
that of a comma separating
the names, which I believe

has been used by some but
abandoned -

In the use of capitals to
proper specific names I have
gone counter to the usage of
most Zoological writers, but
followed the botanists, almost
all of whom still insist on their
use - This of course is
largely a matter of choice,
and for my part I cannot
look calmly on a proper
specific name started with
a small letter - it is too
suggestive of a defective
specimen; of a bird with its
head cut off. I do not
write this to present any
criticism you may think it
necessary to make, but only to
explain fully my position.

Sincerely
Yours,
Eugene P. Cressall

E. P. Bicknell

Apr. 6, 1883

New York, April 6, 1883

Johns. Munroe & Co.
Bankers,
No. 8 Wall Street,
P.O. BOX, 2958.

Munroe & Co.
Paris.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

I owe you an apology
for not having written
you before with regard
to your review of the
Transactions of the Linnaean
Society in the January
Bulletin, inasmuch as you
had written me regarding
the nature of your remarks
on my paper before they
appeared in print.

Let me frankly say
then that, though I think

that no violence would
have been done or
any good have been
left undone by leaving
unsaid some of what
you did say, the
general spirit of
your criticism was
perfectly fair and
just. In other words
I admit the justice
of your criticisms. I
must thank you, too,
for the space you
gave to your notice
of our Transactions.

I read with great
interest your article
on Turdus alinae Bairdellii
in the White Mountains.

Your description touches
me in regard to the
scenery and the character
of the vegetation recalled
vividly to me my
own experience in the
Catskills.

Very truly
Yours,
Eugene P. Bicknell

now return them with many thanks
had well have occasion to use
some of them in the body of
my paper.

I forgot
all about speaking of the
old duck in my last.

Just after we left an egg
was tested and found to
be with very malodorous

contents. Accordingly the
nest was broken up, and
its matron has not since
been seen.

Are ever
humanity and cruelty
convertible terms?

Sincerely

Eugene P. Dickman

Riverdale, N.Y. city.

Nov. 21, 1883.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

I will mail to you
tomorrow the introduction to
my song-paper, and would
be glad to hear any
suggestions or criticisms either
from you or Mr. Allen.

I have been carefully over the
draft of the paper of which
I read you part, reducing
it in some places and
adding to it in others, and
trust that it is now in
proper shape. As it was
originally read before the
Linnæan Society, it would seem
proper to have this fact
noted as a foot note to the

Nov. 21, 1883

E. P. Dickman

title. It is probable that the L. Society will start a second volume of proceedings before long, but there is enough material for this without my paper, so I have permission of the Council to publish it elsewhere. I suppose that there can be no objection to the foot-note from the title that I have written, but if there should be insuperable objection it can be withdrawn. Do you regard the title as sufficiently comprehensive? As to the portion about the song-flight of birds in the fall to which you were disposed to object, I have gone over it and find it is entirely supported by my observations. I have taken pains to let it be understood that the paper is

written solely from a local stand point. It was rather singular that shortly after I talked with you about song-flight in the fall, an instance of it came under my observation. It was at Saratoga on Sept 30, the actor being undoubtedly Pooecetes gramineus, although I could not be quite positive. The bird rose singing from a wide sandy field, and gave quite a brilliant performance before it descended to the ground. At the spot where it alighted was a flock of P. gramineus and the song suggested that of this species but was more prolonged and varied. I never knew an instance of its singing in this way before. Please pardon my delay in sending back your notes. I

Johns. Munroe & Co.
Bankers,
No. 8 Wall Street,
P.O. BOX, 2958.

Munroe & Co.
Paris.

E. P. Dickkessel
Dec. 7, 1883

New York, Dec 7, 1883

My Dear Mr Brewster:

I am greatly surprised at the receipt this morning of a letter from Mr. Allen, accompanying the MS. of my paper on the singing of birds, and stating that it "proves inadvisable" to publish this paper, or any part of it, in the January number of the new magazine.

From correspondence with you I had understood that the matter of its publication was decided, the only open questions being in regard to certain

matters of detail. In fact you stated that I would be allowed 30-40 pp. Mr. A. thinks that the paper would be improved by a third or quarter reduction, and states that in any event not more than ten or fifteen pages could be given to it in any one number of the publication. But I am at a loss to understand why for these reasons I am so unceremoniously, for I cannot regard it otherwise, denied any space in the Jan. number - denied what had been already granted! I could very easily ^{have} condensed the paper, and had ready in

time enough for 10 or 15
pp. And weeks have
elapsed since I sent the
MS., and, tho. I have not
been consulted at all on
the subject, the paper is
now sent back as too long.

I do not attempt to
conceal that I feel
indignant at this treatment,
I ~~sp~~ went to considerable
trouble and some expense
to get it ready in time.

I forfeited my chances
of publication in another
quarter, and, feeling that
my work would soon
be in print, I have been
less discreet in speaking
of its subject in certain directions,
that Caution ^{under other} ~~would show~~
circumstances would have
prompted. But I feel
that there must have been
a misunderstanding somewhere.

for publishing in the Jan. number, which proof would
I am sincerely
Yours truly
Cyrus M. Dickwell

Your last spoke of soon
sending me the proofs; now
I am told that the publication
is full! I feel particularly
ill-used knowing that articles
sent in subsequent to mine
have been accepted. Do
not for a moment think
that I have not implicit
confidence in your good
faith in the matter, I almost
feel that I owe you an apology
for thinking it necessary to
say this. Of course the
trouble has arisen from
some misunderstanding of
Mr. A. Mr. A writes
me that he will be away
for two weeks. I will write
him, but would like to hear
from you first. Can you let me
know definitely under what conditions
my paper will be accepted for the
next issue, if I should send it, Mr. A
alludes to the matter but is less
definite than were the arrangements

John. Munroe & Co.
Bankers,
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Paris.

E. P. Bricknell

Dec. 11, 1883

New York, Dec. 11, 1883

My Dear Mr. Brewster:

Your letter fully explains the refusal of my paper. I now see that the case was one of those in which no one was really responsible - in which an unfortunate result has been brought about by circumstances that could not have been foreseen. In your last you did speak of not having seen Mr. Allen, but I took you to mean not having seen him regarding matters of detail. From the outset I supposed that

the paper had been accepted and I sent it holding myself ready for such modification of it as you or Mr. Allen might deem judicious. Under my view of the case you will understand my astonishment and vexation at its return. I do not wish you to feel that you were too incautious in your writing. Of course I took your letters as friendly correspondence, open and unguarded, and consequently in no way to be held against the writer. All the trouble arose from my first interpretation that the matter of acceptance was decided. No one is to blame, there is no

reparation to be made.
Consequently I will not hear
of any paper being ejected
from the publication in order
to admit mine. But if
the number of pages of
the magazine is to be
increased, and my paper
can be accommodated
without crowding out others,
I will be very glad to have
it appear. With this
understanding I send the
remains of my original
thirty pages MS. — about
sixteen pages. This, I
calculate will take about
twelve Bulletin pages
(The type-written pages are
supposed to contain 300 words
each) But I wish it
published only on condition

that no one ~~else~~ will have
to suffer. Under the
circumstances there is no
reason why I should not
bear any injury that may
now be unavoidable.

My MS. is rather poor
thing to cut-up, but I
trust that it will be
sufficiently plain; and
trust that it has been
sufficiently reduced.

Very truly yours

Eugene P. Richman

I send the MS. to Mr. Allen & Co.
Dr. Cones as you direct. This letter
to you will render me to Mr. A.,
transmitting the MS. unnecessary.
I omitted to say above, how much I
appreciate your willingness to withdraw
your paper in favor of mine. Please do not
reproach yourself or hold yourself responsible
for the difficulty, and express to Mr. Allen my
satisfactory understanding of his course.

E. Becknell

Nov. 25, 1884

My Nov. 25, 1884

Dear Mr. Brewster:-

Your letter, just at hand, reminds me that I have not yet sent the birds; they go with this. Please excuse my delay.

I was greatly astonished at Dr. Conis' anticipating you in the announcement of *Srainson's Warbler* from the new locality, and especially so to hear of his disingenuous conduct.

It is simply incomprehensible.
I will keep the work
of the Protection Committee
in mind as you suggest.

Sincerely

Eugene P. Vickrey

The spm. of Livins is labeled
"Ludovicianus?" This was done
some years ago by Mr.
Geo. A. Lawrence before the
status of the bird was
as clear as now -

Bicknell - Eugene, V.
April 7th, 1895

Riverdale, N.Y.

April 4, 1895.

My dear Mr. Brewster:

It was an agreeable surprise to me to receive a copy of your edition of Minot's "Land and Game Birds of New England", and it was a pleasure to discover from the inscription card that it had come through you.

me at least speak of
the satisfaction I feel
in having this account
of New England's birds
posted up to date by
Yours hard

Yours very sincerely
Cyrus P. Westwell

I have been so long
inactive in bird matters
that it is natural to
take for granted that I
have been quite forgotten
by most of those who
were kindred spirits
when "ornithologists" and
their books were less
plentiful than they
have since come to be!

Please accept my
appreciative thanks for
your kindness, and let