

145 BRATTLE STREET,  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

December 10<sup>th</sup> 1898.

Mr. Bigelow:-

Mr. Agassiz objects to the latter half of section 2 of the "conditions." Since the collection is not to be open to the public but is to be kept under lock and key in a room in which valuable material belonging to the Museum is also stored he cannot agree to give access to this room to "persons" + + + designated by "your family." Of course you will be free to bring with you anyone whom you may wish at any time but access to anyone whom you may "designate" cannot well

return the draft in the hope that you will be  
writing to  
to

change  
water  
to

John  
William Brewster  
Mammals  
Dept.  
Harvard  
Mass. Comp.  
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be granted in view of the  
peculiar conditions of the case.  
I think you will see that this  
must be so if you will think  
the matter over carefully. If  
the room were a could be  
devoted entirely to your collection  
the case would be different.  
I have arranged to have a  
vacant room placed at your  
disposal temporarily for the  
purpose of labeling the collection  
can by can according to the  
plan which we discussed at  
our last interview but this room  
will not be available until  
after December 25<sup>th</sup> Plan as  
we know when you are likely  
to need it.

If the latter half of Section 2  
including all the words after "owners"  
can be <sup>otherwise</sup> stricken out the conditions,  
as they stand, will be properly  
acceptable to Mr. Agassiz. I

Cambridge.

January 17<sup>th</sup> 1888.

Dear Mr. Bigelow: -

Poor Birtwell has apparently "fallen between two stools" for, supposing that he was here of your work, I have already had what little he could have done here performed by my regular assistants. It is too bad for I fancy he needs the money badly but of course it could not be helped.

I trust you will return in time to have the work

on your birds begun in March.  
as far as I know there will  
be no more difficulty about  
the room than there then  
would be now.

Wishing you a safe and  
pleasant trip. I remain  
very sincerely  
William Brewster.

Cambridge,

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1880.

Dear Mr. Bigelow

Eggs collected more than  
thirty years ago were usually  
and blown and not very carefully  
labeled with respect to localities,  
dates etc. On this account they  
have little value in the eyes  
of modern oölogists. Nevertheless  
if you are willing to give  
to the Museum unconditionally  
the eggs which your grandfather  
collected allowing us to destroy  
or give away such as we do  
not want I think I  
can agree to take them  
off your hands. If you

wish me to see the collection  
before deciding the matter will  
have to be deferred for a week  
or two as I am exceedingly  
busy just at present. If,  
however, you are willing to  
let the eggs come to us without  
conditions & without previous  
inspection on my part I  
will send a man to pick  
them very soon after I  
get your reply.

Very sincerely  
William Brewster.

Cambridge,

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1900.

Dear Mr. Bigelow;

Had I heard from  
you promptly in reply to my  
last note I could have  
spared Gilbert for a day in  
town to look up the eggs.  
But your verbal reply brought  
by Mr. Deane came too  
late, for Gilbert and I are  
going away for a month or  
more until Saturday and  
we are both extremely busy.  
Perhaps I shall be here long  
enough next month to  
attend to the matter  
but I cannot be sure

of it, and I shall be away  
in the north through the latter  
part of May & the whole of  
June. In July either will  
be here & very much at  
business. One I suppose you  
have not to do with them,  
would it inconvenience your  
grandchildren very much if  
the matter were to lie over  
until the autumn?

Yours truly  
William Brewster.



Concord,

April 19, 1900.

Dear Mr. Bigelow;

I don't like to  
have you take any trouble or  
go to any expense about the  
eggs. I have accordingly suggested  
to Mr. Deane that he go in  
& pack them. If he does  
not care to do it (it is  
outside his regular work) I  
can think of no one else.  
I have asked him to let  
you know his decision.

Very sincerely

William Brewster.

Lancaster, Mass.

June 7th, 1902.

Dear Mr. Bigelow,

Your mother will, no doubt, have told you of the correspondence I had with her last winter about Mr. Howe's work on the bird collection, and Mr. Howe writes me that he is to see you about it as soon as you get back. He wishes me to send either to you or to him a list of the mistakes which I have discovered in order that he may rectify them before leaving Cambridge for the summer. I have replied that I think it better for you and him to meet me at the Museum so that we can look over the collection together and decide what is best to be done. I have suggested the forenoon of June 12th, as the time for this meeting as that is almost the only day of this month when I can visit Cambridge, although I might perhaps arrange to go there on the 20th or 21st, if the 12th will not suit your convenience.

Mr. Howe seems to think that the mistakes of identification which he has made are of trifling importance and that many of them relate to matters covering which ornithologists may hold different opinions, but some of them which I have noticed are really inexcusable on the part of one who has been supposed to possess a fair technical knowledge of North American birds and this fact, taken in connection with the large number of mistakes (upwards of thirty, if I remember rightly) which I found in looking through only ten or a dozen of the trays, has led me to fear that more or less similar errors will be brought to light when the whole collection is critically examined.

2.

In addition to verifying all the identifications of the specimens it will be also necessary, I should say, to make sure that the data on the original labels have been carefully and accurately transcribed, although I have no reason, at present, to distrust that part of Mr. Howe's work.

It will give me pleasure, of course, to aid both you & Mr. Howe in these matters to the full extent of my ability but, unfortunately, I shall not be able to give much time to it before July.

Yours sincerely

William Brewster.

(Copy).

(Mr. Henry Bryant Bigelow,  
251 Commonwealth Ave., Boston).

Cambridge,

June 18<sup>th</sup> 1903.

Dear Mr. Bigelow;

I am delighted to know by your letter of June 3<sup>rd</sup> (which I find here on my return from a trip to the Rocky Lakes) that you have decided to turn over to the Museum of Comp. Zoology, as an absolute and unconditional gift, the Bayard Collection of Birds.

This collection is by far the largest and most valuable one of the kind that the Museum has received since I have held an official position there. Indeed I am by no means sure that, aside from the value & interest which it possesses because of the fact that it contains a considerable number of skins collected by your grandfather,

it is not a more useful and  
desirable working collection of North  
American birds than that already in  
the Museum from other sources.

Fitting acknowledgment of this  
rich and generous gift will be  
made, of course, in the forthcoming  
annual report of the Museum.

Meanwhile allow me, on behalf  
of the Museum, to tender to you  
and to Dr. W. S. Bryant, as  
well as to all other members  
of the Bryant family who may  
have had any connection with  
the matter, my very hearty

thanks. Very sincerely  
William Brewster

(Assistant in Charge Dept. of Birds, U. S. C. Z.)