

145 BRATTLE STREET,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

December 10th 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" ~~xxx~~ 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

this change
I have my hand

John Brewster
Museum
Cambridge, Mass. Corp.

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 25th. Please let
me know when you are likely
to need it.

If the latter half of Section 2
including all the words after "owners"
can be ^{otherwise} stricken out the conditions,
as they stand, will be perfectly
acceptable to Mr. Agassiz. I

Cambridge.

January 17th 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 loan than there then
would be now.

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

Cambridge,

January 9th, 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 5th, 1900.

Dear Mr. Bigelow;

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

of it, and I shall be sorry
in the north through the latter
part of May & the whole of
June. In July better will
be here & very much at
business. One I suppose your
house will be closed then,
would it inconvenience your
grandmother very much if
the water were to lie over
until the autumn?

Yours truly
Richard Brevint.

Concord,
April 19, 1900.

Dear Mr. Bigelow;

I don't like to
have you take any trouble or
go to any expense about the
eyes. I have exceedingly suggested
to Mr. Deane that he go in
& look them. If he does
not care to do it (it is
outside his regular work) I
can think of no one else.
I have called 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 18th 1903.

Dear Mr. Bigelow;

I am delighted to know by your letter of June 3rd (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.)