

Would you not like, some time this summer to visit me at **BREWSTER & TILESTON,** *standing some Sunday there* Publishers and Wholesale Booksellers, with me?

~~13, WASHINGTON STREET,~~  
Removed to No. 17 Milk Street,--"Birthplace of Franklin."

Boston, May 14<sup>th</sup> 1870

Mr Wm Brewster  
Dear Sir

Your list came safely. I have hastily run over to see what you have, in order to make a few which I know the Society have to spare if those you have not. We have the following. The selection of each I append.

- No. 44 = \$0.50
- 67 = 0.50
- 112 = 0.40
- 123 = 0.50
- 153 = 0.30
- 301 = 0.50
- 308 = 0.25
- 302 = 0.25
- 346 = 0.50
- 407 = 0.40
- 418 = 0.50
- 419 = 0.50
- 447 = 0.50
- 450 = 0.50
- 474 = 0.50
- 482 = 0.50
- 484 = 0.50
- 486 = 0.25

499 = 25

You may combine these pieces in any way to suite your own wishes and preferences. Even to exceed the selection I put up for your eggs and nests. I call them equivalent to 123, or 50 cent each and allow you 50 cts for the nest. for the three 1.50  
As I have very much enjoyed just at present

Brewer, T.M.

May 14, 1870

I suggest that you write me your preferences. I will, as soon as I can have them selected and have them ready for you with Mrs. Searson at our museum, within 48 hours of receiving your note. You can then take your nest and eggs to the bank and receive yours in exchange.

Below I give the list of those the Society would like to have in exchange of those you seem to have duplicates of, and the prices as fixed by Prof. Baird.

- 17 = 50
- 49 = 50
- 240 = 40
- 252 = 40
- 369 = 30
- 448 = 75
- 517 = 75
- 518 = 100
- 582 = 100

These are all that I note just now. Another summer's campaign will doubtless add to your list of duplicates. I have not made any mention of my own private duplicates for the reason that they are now and will be during the summer inaccessible - packed away in my new home where I shall not be able to get at them until order has come out of chaos. There will be among them several you will be glad to have -

Yours very truly  
T.M. Brewer

Boston Nov. 11th 1870

No. 133 Boylston St

Mr Wm Brewster

Dear Sir

In rearranging my  
drawers after a prolonged reign  
of disorder incident to a removal,  
I find your two favours of May 17th  
and 18th. My conscience somewhat  
represents me that the entire  
season was allowed to go by without  
my having fulfilled my promise  
of asking you to make me a visit  
at Hingham and yet, when you  
look back for the summer that has  
gone and remember what a season  
it has been of constant excessive  
heat and drought you may under-  
stand why the daily discomforts of  
the present put off - and put off  
until it was too late, several visits  
& had I promised myself to seek

Brewster W. W.

Nov-11-1870

and young among the rest. This is  
a poor excuse, I am, but it is the  
simple truth, while I regret I did  
not disregard the season and not  
wait for it to improve, I may still  
hope to see you in a more acces-  
sible place. I live in Boylston  
Street, five doors west of the Arling-  
ton St Church, on the same side  
- no 133. My cabinet is unpacked  
and my eggs so far arranged that  
I may find any kind you may  
wish to see and I shall be glad  
to have you call upon me and  
spend an afternoon or evening  
looking over my collection and  
seeing how we may be able to  
benefit each other by exchanges.  
There are probably a few vari-  
eties that I may have obtained  
during the season which you may  
wish to have and I hope you  
have also added to your stores

both of new kinds and of  
duplicates. I expect to have to  
be absent the coming week or  
business in which I shall endeavor  
to make a call at Washington be-  
fore I return. As soon as I return  
I hope to see you at my home  
and during the winter to see you  
frequently.

Yours very truly  
Thomas M. Brewer

WORCESTER'S QUARTO  
DICTIONARY.



THE STANDARD.

"BIRTHPLACE OF FRANKLIN."

17 Milk Street.

BREWER & TILESTON,  
Educational Publishers.

Boston, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 1870

Mr Brewster  
Dear Sir

If agreeable to you  
and perfectly convenient I would  
be happy to see you this morn-  
ing (Thursday). We dine at 1/2 past  
five: if will take "job luck" with  
us I shall be glad to have you,  
or, if more convenient to you later  
in the evening, I shall be glad to have

Yours very truly  
J. H. Brewer

Brewer J. M.

Nov. 30 1870

WORCESTER'S QUARTO  
DICTIONARY.



THE STANDARD.

"BIRTHPLACE OF FRANKLIN."

17 Milk Street.

BREWER & TILESTON,  
Educational Publishers.

Boston, Dec 20 1870

Mr Wm Brewster

Dear Sir

I was very sorry to  
hear of your accident, and the  
more so that it compelled you  
to disappoint me at our confer-  
ence. I have some questions I  
want to ask you about some of our  
rarer birds. Almost any time I  
shall be happy to see you, and I  
have but few engagements that  
would interfere. As soon as you  
have sufficiently recovered, let  
me know when it would be  
agreeable to come,

Yrs very truly  
Wm Brewster

Brewer J. M.,

Dec. 2. 1870

BREWER & TILESTON,  
 EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS,

17 MILK STREET,

[Birthplace of Franklin.]

Boston, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 1870

Dear Sir

Your favour inclosing  
 the 2<sup>50</sup>/<sub>100</sub> dollar came safely to hand  
 to day. I have written to Baird for  
 the eggs which he will send  
 me on as soon as he receives my  
 order - I would advise you to  
 commence a collection of foreign  
 eggs - up to a certain point you  
 will not find it very diffi-  
 cult. About three fifths of the  
 eggs of the birds of Europe are  
 readily procurable in ordinary  
 times by exchange for open  
 own. By beginning early in life  
 if you persevere and improve  
 every opportunity you will be sur-  
 prised when you are 67 to  
 find what a fine collection  
 you will have for with enjoy

much greater facilities than  
I did, when I began, for a  
good many of the East Indian  
eggs were then unknown.  
The Mooruk is one of those birds  
that are doomed to a speedy  
extinction. The time may come  
when your specimen will be worth  
three or four times what it will now  
cost you. As the egg of the great  
auk now sells for \$300 readily

I am very sorry to learn  
that your eye is still troubling  
you so much. I know well how to  
feel for you, as I have been more  
or less troubled with mine all my  
life.

Yrs very truly  
Wm Brewster

Wm Brewster  
Dec-5-90

Brewer & M.

Dec. 23<sup>r</sup> 70

Boston Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1870

Mr William Brewster

Dear Sir

Mr Purdy tells me that you are sufficiently re-  
covered from your accident  
to be out of doors, as he has met  
you. I write therefore to renew  
my invitation for you to come  
and spend an evening with me as  
soon as may be convenient and agree-  
able to you. I would like to have a  
good long talk with you in regard  
to certain of our Massachusetts birds  
- to show you my collection and to  
see how far I may be able to pro-  
mote your collection, both in regard to  
American and foreign varieties. It  
will be both convenient and agreeable to  
me to see you at any time, for instance  
next Monday or Tuesday, p. m. as may be  
most convenient to yourself. Please let  
me know a little in advance of your

on 1st I may be at home.  
We dine at 1/2 past five, but  
if you can you had better be there  
by four o'clock, that we may have  
some time before dinner to look  
over the collection.

Yours

Wm Brewster

P. S. Baird has not yet sent me  
on the Moor's eggs. I have dum-  
bled him for them and they may  
come any time or he may keep  
them until I go to Washington in  
January

Boston Jan 1st 1871

My dear Sir

I have only just been able to compare carefully your list of eggs and those of which you had duplicates. I expect to leave on Tuesday and to be in Washington before I return. When I am at home again I hope you will be able to make me a longer visit. In the meanwhile I thought that perhaps you would like to know which of your eggs would be the most valuable for foreign exchanges. I have added a list of such of so regard, marking with a \* the most important ones.

Yours very truly

J. M. Brewer

P.S. The Murre's eggs have not yet been sent & I shall have to bring them on with me from W.

Brewer J. M.  
Jan. 1871

*[Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

- 17
- 49
- 69
- 70
- 76
- 109
- 137 +
- 167
- 168
- 183
- 189
- 220
- 281
- 236
- 237
- 252
- 277
- 290
- 349
- 380
- 448 +
- 517
- 578
- 582
- 611

*[Faint handwritten notes or scribbles on the right side of the page.]*

"BIRTHPLACE OF FRANKLIN."

17 Milk Street.

BREWER & TILESTON,  
Educational Publishers.

Boston, *June - 24th* 1871

WORCESTER'S QUARTO  
DICTIONARY.



THE STANDARD.

Dear Sir

Your egg of batman of  
Bennett is at my horse all  
safe and sound for you whenever  
convenient for you to call and  
get it. I have some new and  
very nice things to show you  
my afternoon exercise at 5 o'clock  
when I shall come to meet with  
the trustees of Mt Auburn. I shall  
probably be able to be at home at  
4 p.m. if not I will endeavor  
to have the egg ready for you.  
Send me word if you can afford  
any.

Yrs  
J. M. [unclear]

Brewer J. M.

Jan, 24- 71-

Brewer G. M.

Feb. 21 - 91

Boston Feb 21st

1871

Dear Sir

If it would be perfectly convenient for you to meet me at my house next Friday afternoon I would be glad to have you come. If you can spare the time, have you stay with me to dine. I have the list I spoke to you of birds and eggs from Wisconsin. I would like to confer with you as to their value and the expediency of purchasing for them. A few of the eggs I want myself, some of the skins I will for on Mr Dresser's account and a number for the Society. He offers the whole for a quite moderate sum and the more I have looked into the matter the more

I am inclined to think I  
had better send for them. I  
would like to get your view as  
to their probable value.

Then too I would like to see you  
to know how many of our dresses  
desires are in skins you  
would like to let me have  
and exchange them with me or  
rather with the Society for  
eggs, fixing some fair basis  
of valuation for both. I inclose  
a copy of his desiderata which  
you will please preserve.

If you will drop me a line  
that you can come I will  
be at my house by 8 1/2 p. m.

Yours  
Wm Brewster

Brewer Co. A.

April 1, 71-

*[Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

Handwritten notes, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is extremely faint and illegible.

S. p. 100

27. 20  
1-  
8. 6

- My. acuminatus
- Ac. Cooperi
- " "
- T. Bubo Vir. - 4
- Geop. Asia -
- Co. erythrogastr.
- " "
- M. varius
- P. - 1 - var. Can. 1
- Ty. Canadensis
- My. cinereus
- My. calurus
- My. cinereus
- Prot. notata
- Prot. notata
- " purpurina
- " "
- Leuc. ...
- " caerulea
- " coronata
- " castanea
- " Pennsylv.
- " ...
- My. ...
- Co. ...
- " "
- My. ...
- My. ...
- My. ...
- My. ...

pe



Brewer & M.

April 14-71-

Boston 71

Dear Sir

I will endeavor to  
get the same amount of the  
3rd volume after we get it  
say you or to your  
and the my name. I have  
not examined the  
we can spare for  
some of the  
I am  
I am  
I am

BREWER & TILESTON,  
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS,

17 MILK STREET,

[Birthplace of Franklin.]

Boston, *etc.* 1871

Dear Sir

I have just after all, got the  
a number of your books  
which are much in your order.  
Please send me their names  
as I wish to keep an exact  
record of the distribution, and I

will

Yours truly

Wm Brewer

Brewer G. A.,  
April 17-91-

ADDRESS ALL BUSINESS LETTERS TO THE FIRM.

# WORCESTER'S QUARTO DICTIONARY.

Publishers of Hillard's Readers, New Series; Worcester's Spelling Books, Walton's  
Arithmetics and Table, Walton & Cogswell's Arithmetical Charts, &c., &c.



## BREWER & TILESTON,

Educational Publishers.

THE STANDARD.

17 Milk St., Boston,

1872

Dear Sir

Received your letter  
of the 10th and under circumstances  
that make us suspicious of your  
plea. After consulting your father  
I send the swan to you to make  
a skin of. I presume you would  
like it and will let the B. N. H.  
8. have something in ex. for  
it? If you see any thing wrong  
in the account of the swan  
will you ask some one near  
you, at the college or elsewhere  
to see if there is any point?

Yours  
Wm. Brewer

Brewer J. A.

May 13 - '42

# WORCESTER'S QUARTO DICTIONARY.



THE STANDARD.

Publishers of Hillard's Readers, Franklin Series; Worcester's Spelling Books and Dictionaries, Walton's Arithmetics and Table, Walton & Cogswell's Arithmetical Charts, &c., &c.

BREWER & TILESTON,

Educational Publishers,

CHAMBERS, NO. 114 WASHINGTON STREET.

Boston, Nov. 30th 1873

Dear Brewster

Can you come and spend the afternoon and evening with me Tuesday - Come if you can to lunch at 1 1/2 and let us have a good long afternoon. You will wish to look at my collection and I to write down your experiences. The drive at 5 1/2 of the East Berkeley Street car goes by the base to the Rucere House at 1/4 before eight. You will know the car by it being one of the Fremont St cars - the only one that goes to the Eastern depot - that is the only one of the Fremont Street cars, and it has Berkeley St on its side.

Said me word by your father, I will see him Tuesday morning, if you can come.

Yours truly  
M. Brewer

Brewer H. M.

Nov. 30 - 73 -



# WORCESTER'S DICTIONARIES.

“Vienna, Austria, August 2, 1873.

“It gives me great pleasure to report that the

## Medal of Merit

has been awarded to your firm in consideration of the publication of the series of Worcester's Dictionaries, and in my judgment it is an honor well deserved.”

BREWER & TILESTON, Publishers,  
47 Franklin Street.

JOHN D. PHILBRICK,  
U. S. Commissioner to the Vienna Exhibition.

Boston, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 1875.

My dear Brewster

I find among my men-  
venda that a specimen of the  
Podiceps grisegera was shot by  
you at Plymouth. Can you and if  
so, with you be so good as to write  
me or bring me the particulars  
of the capture: season, sex and  
whether you may have observed of  
its habits. I see that I am credited  
by Chardon with having procured for  
him specimens in our market, but  
it has escaped my memory. Have you  
met with others than the Plymouth  
one. Where do you keep yourself.  
Do you or not let me see more of  
you? I called out to see you one  
day last November, I think it was

but I found a note on your door and  
I did not ring. I learned that it was  
from that it was your mother.

I have very much written through my  
notes of the water and but there are  
a good many questions I would like  
to ask of you and one or two good skins,  
I think you would like to have.

I am now at No 47 Franklin Street  
as well as 133 83rd St. either  
of which places I would be very glad  
to see you.

Yours truly

M. Brewer

P.S. I called with Captain Bendire  
last July to try to find you but  
your father told us that you  
were away. Capt B. is now sta-  
tioned in South eastern Oregon  
near Lake Oregon where he will  
be pretty sure to get some choice  
things.

Brewer  
Jan. 14-75



like to hold a session with you. I am  
suspicious that some birds do not  
deserve a place in our fauna at  
all. Thomas's classification I suspect is  
only a city-billed M. - ancting - Puffi-  
nus an glorum, if it has ever come  
here is an accident, and so on.  
I am glad you are getting up such  
a museum only beware of moths  
and the whole race of destructives.  
It is the first step that counts.

Yrs J. M. Brewer

Brewer D. S. M.  
Jan. 19-75

Boston Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 1875

My dear Brewster

I have prepared and mean to publish a new list of the birds of New England. I have 28 names not included in any printed list, actually taken in New England & inclose a list of 24 names given by Goues, of which I can find no reliable evidence of their occurrence. With you look up your references & see if you can confirm the claims of any of them? I go to Wash'ton on Tuesday, and shall much require your answer before the 25<sup>th</sup>, but would like your answer in full, very much, at your leisure. I have numbered the list, for brevity's sake. Nos 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23 & 24 are given by Goues on guess-work & rest on no evidence whatever. No refers to Allen who admits that his *E. acadicus* is *E. traillii* - & may be so, southern Goues, if any. where 9 refers to a New Brunswick specimen, Boardman never found it in our limits. The same is one of no 11. Boardman only obtained

three, all of them in New Brunswick.  
12 rest on Dr Cobbs evidence was now  
disclaiming it.

17 Mr Boardman, with all the pains he  
has taken has never been able to find

20 is possible but unsupported.

22 is undoubtedly a mistake of  
Samuel.

Besides this list I give another, the  
occurrence of which I deem possible,  
just barely so of some. What is the  
name of your new Helminthofoya?  
is it not a New England bird? where  
obtained?

If you wish to write to me between  
this and the 20th write me care  
of Prof. Baird 918 New York Avenue  
Washington. Yrs J. M. Brewer

P.S. We have just secured a large  
pair of cygnus americanus  
Mr Auburn.

Brewer  
Apr. 1875

Mr. Brewer  
Boston May 12<sup>th</sup> 1875

My dear Sir

I trust that I have not left the impression that I took any exception to your esteemed favor or that I misunderstood your meaning, for it was not so at all - I only thought it a good opportunity to explain in full my whole design and plan, and also that you might, if you made any mention of the matter to your colleagues, be able to explain exactly and without any doubts as to the exact nature of my intended request.

It is very ambitious to lay the foundation of a collection in a comparatively new and very interesting department of science, one that I hope to make better with your acceptance and one that I also hope may

in the lapse of time grow into the best collection of its kind in the world. I feel grateful to the memory of your father for founding an institution to which I can bequeath my collection with such full reliance of its care, and to its being a source of knowledge by its judicious use. I feel also a high appreciation of the liberal and judicious zeal you have shown in carrying on your father's work - I take a pride in being able to contribute my mite to such a work which I do so with added pleasure that my alma mater will share in what little credit may attach to the collection hereafter.

I am very glad to hear that you have the prospect of receiving so many type collections in other departments for I feel assured that with your experience as to the needs of such collections, their dangers, and the nature of their requirements that you will lay foundations broad and deep to stand so far as any

the main way, against these  
perils and ensure a permanent  
and enduring future

I have also to thank you for the  
additional card of instruction  
which I forgot to acknowledge.

Yours very sincerely  
Wm Brewster

233 Beacon St. Jan. 10/76

My dear Brewster

I have been in the hope of meeting with you since my return and hearing of your experiences, since we last met but three months have passed and I will not await the chance any longer. I would have accepted the invitation to meet with the Nuttalls at your father's house but during November and a part of Dec. I suffered from a severe attack of Bronchitis and could not venture out so far in the evening.

I shall be very happy to have you call to see me any time and examine the additions to my collection, if you care to do so I brought with me from Europe over eleven hundred eggs of

Brewster D. D. M.  
Jan 10-76

five hundred species, more than  
half of them entirely new to  
me. I have also some interesting  
things from Texas, Oregon &c  
&c to show you.

Some my collection is at  
present in some confusion,  
but you can find enough to  
occupy a long session and  
leave much to be seen the  
next time!

We lunch at one and dine  
at the other and always have  
an extra plate, only let me  
know of your coming so as  
to be at home.

No 233 is half way between  
Hopewell and Dartmouth and  
the Beacon St car takes you  
to the corner of Marlboro and  
either C. or D. Sts

Yrs J. M. Brewer

J. M.  
Brewer  
July 1877

233 Beacon St

Monday evening

My dear Brewster

My friend Mr Howard  
Saunders is desirous of procuring  
skins of various gulls and terns  
especially the latter. He would par-  
ticularly like to see the supposed  
same portlandica and all our  
american forms of gulls and terns  
in their juvenile dress. Have you  
any duplicates of these to spare?  
If not of the portlandica, would  
you lend him one. In the course of  
the early spring I shot and had  
a box of one thing and another.  
If you are willing to contribute  
anything you can spare the better  
way would be to have them go on  
your own account and receive  
from Mr Saunders in return whatever  
you may indicate to him of your  
desires etc?

Please let me know if you can do

anything? As soon as I can see  
what Allen and our Society can do  
I will know better; only if this I  
feel assured, we have few or  
no immature birds.

Yours very truly

Wm Brewster

P.S. When are you coming to  
inspect my eggs? I have now  
all the nests to show you, viz

Scops Mc Gilli

Columba flavirostris (not as described)

Picus scalaris

Certhia aurifrons

Myiodynastes albicollis new

Chordeiles texensis

Empidonax rufifringata new

Yantrina luxuriosa

New I have some very nice

things from Bendire lately

Melospiza guttata &c &c

Brewer J. H.  
May 21 - 77

90.10.1

233 Beacon St. Mass. 21st

Mr Wm Brewster

Dear Sir

The specimen which Mr Welch insists is *Rallus* is a *Rallus* but which has been spoken of in the Bulletin as *R. elegans* has been loaned me by my nephew for your inspection. It is not in my house, but in my sister's where it can be seen any time you can make it convenient to go with me. I think you will find it the *elegans*, however.

Yrs J. H. Brewer

Boston May 27<sup>th</sup> 1877

My dear Brewster

In the last number of  
the Bulletin, p. 38. you mention, or au-  
thority of Mr Allen that a nest satis-  
factorily determined as that of the Pencee  
rupiceps has been discovered by Capt. Ben-  
dise &c. This is entirely a mistake. Capt.  
G. B. is publishing a list of the birds of S. E.  
Oregon in the proceedings of the Society  
and omits this species as not found by  
him. The parentage of a nest found  
by him was conjecturally attributed  
to this bird, but as no trace of the exis-  
tence of the species in Oregon has been  
observed he thinks the nest ~~must~~  
be that of some other species, and with-  
hold the name from his list. I  
have mentioned this to no one because  
I know you would naturally prefer  
to be the one to make any correc-  
tion you may wish for yourself rather  
than by another, and that before Capt.  
Bendires list is published in which  
the absence of this name will be referred

to.

you in List  
Mr Brewer

Brewer G. W.  
May 21-17

Brewer J. M.  
June 12 - 11

Tuesday evening June 12<sup>th</sup>

My dear Brewster

Don't let me interfere with your collecting, but take some moment when you cannot work out doors to advantage. About the Micropalan - being found along our coast, my investigations do not confirm, but in the weight of their testimony contradict it. Mr Boardman for fifteen years has been on the sharp look out and has never taken it. A wading bird that neither in spring or fall can be found in the marshes of Point Seafrey or those of St Andrews can hardly be a regular migrant thence along the coast of Maine. More than that no one that I can find has ever seen a flock of this bird, nor even a family group, none have ever been seen in the spring. In every instance or record on record, they were either single or in pairs, never more than two, except in one instance and that second-hand.

- always in company with Yellow-legs. One  
man writes me of nine <sup>of which he made note</sup> instances where  
he shot individual, in two of these there  
were two birds, in all the rest only one  
and all in flocks of yellow legs. As far  
they are known either as the "cross"  
or as the "bastard yellow-leg"  
the Society List <sup>took up</sup> the present of one shot  
in 1860 at Swampscott. He <sup>the young</sup> shot  
over the same ground every summer  
since, except 1871, and has never seen  
another specimen. And so on. I be-  
lieve that all that come to our coast  
are stragglers, that the main migration  
is inland, wholly so in spring and as  
a general rule, in fall. But these  
stragglers wander off with the Gannette  
going due south, never east of us  
crossing the western point of Cape Cod  
along Long-Island and the Jersey  
shore. Frank Ticester who guns both  
spring and fall in eastern Cape Cod  
has never taken one, has of course  
I do not mean to theorise, but I  
want facts. What you have seen  
yourself I shall be very glad to  
have. But it seems to me hardly

possible to believe that a regular  
migrant should be so universally unknown  
to our oldest and best gunners, in cer-  
tain localities if they are really regu-  
lar migrants there. Before I publish  
anything I intend to follow up this  
matter a great deal farther. Have  
you, by chance, ever met with it in its  
own independent flocks, or you meet with  
other regularly migrating waders?

Yrs in haste  
J. M. Brewer

233 Beacon St June 6th  
1877

My Dear Sir

Can you without too much  
trouble refer me to the vol. and page  
of the files where you have referred  
to *Micropela* - *linearis* topus. I had the  
impression you had published some-  
thing in reference to it in the *Natu-  
ralist*, but I cannot find it in my  
file. I find that it was shot in *Wassa-  
chussetts*, Swampscott as long ago as Aug.  
1858. I am getting together some very  
interesting facts. In one year a large  
number were shot, 200 or more, but in no other  
instance more than two. None have been  
taken in any part of Maine though  
*Boondrac* and others have been on the  
lookout for them and none in R.I. or Conn.  
I shall be glad to have any date you  
can supply me with throwing any light upon  
the mysterious history. What is the largest num-  
ber you have ever seen at once? Swift River  
Spauld, Swampscott, Needham and Cape Cod, have  
you found it anywhere?

My nephew's *Relics* ? awaits your in-  
spection. It is at my sister's house, no  
30 Commonwealt. I will convenient

Beacon St. N.  
June 16 - 1877

For you to hunt me up you can call  
at any time and my sisters will give  
you an opportunity to inspect it. My nephew  
does not wish it removed from the house  
for fear of injury or I would try to get it  
over here. Welch still insists it is R. capitata  
and not elegans.

Yours very truly  
J. M. Brewer

233 Beacon St. July 8<sup>th</sup>

My dear Brewster

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> which I received a few days ago. It is just such information as you send me that I want to receive in reference to the Stalk-sawfeather. As yet I have no opinions, only the negative experience of others. I am only sorry that your own observations are not more exact and positive. I only know that so far the drift of the evidence seems to be all one way. About Point Lee, however I do not know anything and Mr Boardman, I believe not much more, from his own observations. Eastport I well know is of such account, but I think different of St Andrews. There the beaches and marshes are extensive swarms with Shorebirds and it just the place where if this sawfeather follows the coast or occurs there at all it would be sure to be found. It seems very strange that two such experienced gunners as Mr Everett and Mr Freston, during so many years of constant gunning should never have

Brewster J. M.  
July 8<sup>th</sup> 1877

heard of it in Blitham, though Mr E. has  
shot, and knows the bird elsewhere.

When I came back from Mr Desert I  
mean to follow the matter up further, and  
if the bird does even come to N-E. in un-  
mixed and homogeneous flocks, it will be  
very hard if I can find it out by  
positive proof. No one, that I know, has  
found them with any other bird than plovers  
- only one with the solitary sand-piper.

- I will note, unfortunately it is at least  
said, the younger Mr Phillips of Swan-  
scott told Mr Geo. H. Mackay, that in 1860  
there was an enormous flight of this  
bird about Ramen Pond in S. and that  
his family bagged about 200 birds. Mr P.  
is not living and this story cannot be con-  
firmed. Mackay rather believes it, but others  
ridicule it.

But you have pleasant  
topics to think of now, and  
better things to occupy your waking  
hours than this summer bird or the  
log must give way to other  
interests. Please present my best  
wishes to Miss Kettle, and express to  
her my own desire and hint of

my daughter, to make her a visit.  
I will, I trust let us know  
if her being in the city or where  
we can give ourselves the privilege  
of calling upon her.

Yrs very sincerely

Thomas H. Brewer

P.S. Dr Merrill has taken in Texas the  
eggs of what must be *Hypobryonia*  
*ferro-chloris*. He shot the ♀ but unfortunately  
could not recover her. He has also shot  
a ♀ and found the nest of what must  
either be a new *Peucaea* or *P. carpalis*.  
He has found a new, parasitic bird, for  
our fauna a *Molothrus aeneus*, which has  
white eggs. He has taken 19 all alike. In  
one nest of the Hooded Oriole there were two  
eggs of *Molothrus obscurus*, three of *M. aeneus*  
and several of the owner. It would be in-  
teresting to watch the bringing up of  
that happy family!

222

Dear Mr. ...

I am very glad to hear that you have no recollection of your own name, and that you may yet be able to learn it for some time. It would be a rare privilege to see your active habits and love of investigation. I shall give myself the pleasure of coming out to see you at the first opportunity I can find to get so far as ... to the Museum ... there ...

I am sorry I did not know you were completing the article on the ... since east ...

Answer Dr. ...  
Oct. 10. 1877

seen as the true nature of the thing  
being the same as of the bird in  
any case the "phantom" nest at one time  
the nests were taken and the post  
of the bird was found to be the same.  
The words which were given to be used with  
of these nests on eggs, not to use eggs  
previously seen in the nest. The  
nest or bird but still position. The  
my article had been visited and  
seen in "The Bird" the left section a-  
bandant in the same section of this  
identification. I found the nests and  
found them to be those of the "MOS" to  
be at the end of the nest, collec-  
tion, and has been accurately compared  
in the same "Bioscience" but "nests  
of birds".

You must have overlooked my supple-  
mentary article - with the "Birds"  
III, page 508, in which I speak of these  
nests as subsequent to my first article  
and to Mr. Ridgway's previous but their  
situation is not constant.

Mr. Gales is a perfectly reliable  
good naturalist and in written case  
less than almost worthy

727

Dear Sir,  
I, G. G. Gales

233 Dec 5 - Oct. 19

My dear Brewster

I presume you fully understand that I was in earnest in assuring you that I leave you the field open in reference to your own self-correcting in the matter of the Des. dominica. It is your wish to amend, there is no occasion for my saying anything in the Bulletin. The work of what I had written I can see in our proceedings in a different way and with only a very slight reference to your paper, or rather only so far as it establishes a remarkable variation in the building of this bird. So go ahead make your own statement and count me as out of the way.

I have at last seen our bird still on Lake God, as far east as Orleans. I am not surprised in fact I was rather surprised to find how rare it was, it had been met with by parties who knew the bird well and had even swum on the Cape.

Yrs. J. J. Brewer

J. B. Brown, J. M.  
Oct. 19-1877

233 Beacon St. Oct. 29th

My dear Brewster,

I was not forced  
as to your last meeting or possibly I  
might have ventured out I think the  
storm was all over by dark? Still you  
must not count on me too confidently at  
any time unless the weather be favorable.  
Between two enemies always watching their  
chance to catch me off my guard, scintilla  
and bronchitis, I have to be cautious as winter  
comes on.

What do you think has turned up as a messen-  
sachusetts bird? Peck's Egret Heron. I saw  
the creature yesterday, shot twenty five years  
ago and have the plumage of it for our  
New England collection. By the way we are  
sadly deficient and I am having a list of  
some of our most common wants. When printed  
I will send you one. Smallest favor gratefully  
received!

I have a note of a single example of *Micropod.*  
*lanceolus* on the southern coast of Orleans. Of course it may  
be that they are more frequent than their  
solitary appearance would seem to show. But so far  
this bird seems rather an irregular visitor  
than a regular migrant. It is known only  
in the Mississippi Valley in the spring. With us

unknown. I hear of several cases near Portland,  
all this side of it, so far.

I was very sorry to meet Henshaw, I had only  
gone to market and came home just as he  
had gone. He concluded I would be sure to be in  
and did not take your advice to call home.  
I was very much disappointed at missing  
him for H. is one of the few I hold very  
dear, he is a first rate good fellow as well as a  
good ornithologist. I hope still that he will get  
the weather-gauge of Elliot on the hammer, though  
it looks as if E. may be right.

I am expecting from the S. I. some nests  
of *Petrochelidon* etc. etc., some abnormal built in  
Atlantic moss and others typical. Although  
your nest is a unique, I am inclined to the opinion  
that it is the typical form and the others owing  
to the convenience of the mosses and abnormal  
I shall prepare a paper on the subject with-  
only a passing reference to Gibb's identifications  
referring to the curious variations in style & form  
in these two birds and also in the *Emp. acadica*.

Yours M. Brewster

Brewster  
Oct. 29. 75

433 Beacon St. Boston Nov. 30th

Dear Brewster

<sup>4</sup> Yours of the 2nd. I only received to day, this p. m. and I will answer it as well. It looks too much like a sign to venture out to S. to night, and even if it were pleasant I fear my behind-lands - if you will pardon so Germanic an expression, would have made it impossible.

In regard to the Merganser, so far as I know there is no published record of its breeding anywhere south of latitude 42°. It is known to breed in Oregon - Maine but I have no positive date for any where else. It undoubtedly breeds in Wisconsin as young have been taken in the southern part of the State, and in Massachusetts, for the same reason. But in Florida certainly not. It occurs there in summer, but I always supposed such cases were of immatures or banded individuals.

So by all means bring out your feet, for they must be of exceeding interest, quite as much so the breeding habits of the Dusky Duck, or of the breeding in Danville of the Cape May Warbler.

The laws that control commerce seem  
to be loosely enforced in islands and  
Florida is insular to all intents and  
purposes. Her dwarfed and strap of marked  
quail, her bannock oaks, the breeding there  
of the White Pelican the White Oriole &c &c  
all attest an irregularity quite insular.

Yrs very truly  
Wm Brewster

P.S. I hope you are gaining  
as to your lameness? I suppose your  
Dr sees to it that you get rest and  
exercise enough to prevent another illness,  
like that of last winter. It is a good thing  
to have you go to full place at Fla.  
but the occasion should be avoided.

733 Beacon St Nov 2/54

My dear Brewster

The beaver, shot at Colchester twenty five years ago has been sent to me and turned out to be something not new to the list but an interesting specimen to have. It is a very white specimen of the small Blue beaver. As soon as I saw it, it was at once evident that there was no 32 inches in its length and besides the bluish slate told its story. It barely measured 22 inches.

I nearly got out to see you Monday to consult you about some skins but your father discouraged me about finding you in and then the weather was so blustering, dusty and cold I gave it up for the day. I have a curious amusement from S. H. Andrew's Bay which I can't make out what it is, whether it is scriptural or a young man's amusement probably the latter.

Yours very truly  
J. M. Brewer

J. M. Brown  
Nov. 21-1877

My dear Brewster

I have just received your kind favor of the 29th. Much obliged to you for the proposed donation. I will see Mr Hyatt on Monday and see if he cannot send out Mr Cole, our porter with a large box and get your specimens. I will send a boy, but I think I will answer. The specimens are very acceptable, as my appropriation for filling the gap is \$20. all told! In case, I presume the localities?

The skin of the hummer was sent to Washburn and found to be a young one. It is in the plumage of the obscure says Audubon's the Gillivray's finch. I was at Lynn on Wednesday to have some bird was photographed, and returned it to Mr Melch. It is to be mounted and I have purchased it. Otherwise I would bring it out to you. I have another curious one which Miller thinks is a very young condacatus.

This I will be happy to show you  
and I will try next week to give you  
a call, and talk over a few matters.

I have written a paper on the matter  
of variations in the nests of the same  
species, in which I make mention of  
your interesting contribution to our knowl-  
edge of the nest of the dominica as  
another remarkable instance. It is to ap-  
pear in the Naturalist.

Yours very truly

J. W. Brewer

Brewer J. W.  
Dec. 1872

Brewer J. M.

Sept. 18, 1878

Boston Sept. 18th 1878  
9 a.m.

My dear Brewster

I lose no time  
in answering your favor of the  
15th which has only this moment  
reached me - returned from  
Danvers Colts, which I left on  
Monday. I hope it will be in  
time. I have before my my  
mess of the Band, Brewer of  
Ridgway water birds and I  
make a brief extract concerning  
your point:

"It is very rare in New England  
though it is probable that more or  
less pass over this section each year  
(as they were formerly known to do) in  
their autumnal migrations. Two  
were shot a few years since, in the  
fall, in West Barnstable, Mass.  
by Capt. Baxter of that place".  
I have under investigation now  
a rook shot in Nantucket last

fall I believe it to be the  
Americanus but the presence of  
yellow is denied and it may  
be the Trumpeter. In my younger  
days New England shot I was  
sure not uncommon but of  
what species I have unfortu-  
nately no record.

Yours in haste  
Wm Brewster

P.S. Perhaps you have got  
hold of the very specimen  
I was looking up; both post-  
poned to the fall?

233 Beacon St. Oct. 29 1878

My dear Brewster

I would like very much to have the ten for the Society's New England collection. If most convenient to you, you can send it to me or, if it unmounted, as I suppose you may send it by express to Geo. O. Wood's taxidermist, Newhall and Baltimore streets Lynn. He is mounting some other birds for us.

I am glad to hear that about the other swan. When you work up that you had better include the N. C. b. fellow. I will try to make a clearer connection in the near future.

Yours M. Brewer

P.S. Please let me know when you send it to Wood.

J. M. Brewer

Oct 29/88

233 Beacon St. Nov 9th

my dear Brewster

I received your card yesterday. I congratulate you on your new home. I will certainly come out to see you soon and Mr Brewer too will not long delay. I presume you are ready for ebbons. I received on the 3rd inst. a very curious *Macrorhamphus scolopaceus*. The bill was larger than that of a *Sinense ludovicianae* received at the same time. I want to show it to you to see if it be so very rare. Neither Mr Ticeston, who shot it, nor Welch or Jeffries ever saw its like.

About that Swan Welch has not yet looked up the date of its taking. The man who shot it is not now living, but his son is presumed to know all about it. Welch told a very straight story about its being in our collection, a young bird just put away in the mature plumage &c. and on looking I found the bird. When at Sym-

on Monday I forgot to ask W. more about  
it. I suppose you have seen them's  
paper on the birds of Texas?

Yrs

W. Brewer

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Nov 9, 1878

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Dr. J. M. Brewer

Dr. J. M. Brewer  
Dec. 6, 1878

233 Beacon St. Dec. 6th 1878

My dear Brewster

I hope you would be reminded of Franklin's severe remark that one who was good at making excuses was good for nothing else, if I have to plead a severe cold with bronchial sore throat (throwing out the weather) as my only available reason for having been out to see you. But to me, after last winter's experience, a cold is no joke and I have been fighting mine most resolutely and so far with some decided progress.

I am afraid the case of the Swan will have to remain without the complete data that once "might have been," but I have no doubt that a young America was shot at Nahant about fifteen years ago, by a Mr. Taylor, and that the bird in our society is that one. Mr. Melick is a wholly reliable person and when I was telling about the Nantucket Swan he at once said that he was knowing to the shooting of one at Nahant and, after a moment's reflection he added it was given to your society, if you still have it you will know it at once, it is a young bird with just a trace

of immature plumage on the head and neck. I went at once to our cases and there was the bird just as he described it, a gift of Denning Jarvis Esq. Mr Taylor, the man who shot it is not living and his son who would know more about it has not been seen by Mr W. W. saw it, after it had been set up, at the house of Mr Tudor, and naturally supposed that it was Mr Tudor who gave it to the Society. But it stands as having been given by Mr Jarvis who then lived at Nahant with all this cloud over its origin I think it is well worth referring to as undoubted (a valid New England) example and the facts, such as they are, ~~are~~ entering at your service. I want some time to show you a Macrorhamphus, shot on Cape Cod Nov. and it is half as large again as a gairdus and the bill is larger than that of the Limosa Hudsonica

shot on the same day. Mr Lawrence is sure that the scotopaceus is a good species and differs more even in habits than in its plumage, but ~~Cross~~ says it is not even a variety. Certainly it lays a great deal larger egg in the lone case than in the other and otherwise different. I am no judge as to questions of plumage but somewhat incline to the views of Lawrence. Can you give the dates of the coming and going of gairdus and how late, in that form it is known to linger on our coast?

J. M. Brewer

Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 1878

My dear Brewster

I am slowly getting on my feet again, though owing to the blustering nature of the weather I have only as yet, accustomed on one brief airing out of doors. But my head is clear, voice more and I can utter a few sentences without help choking, which is a good deal gained. About that term I am sorry I did so blundered. Will you notify Burgess of expenses incurred and get him to reimburse you? If I were about I would see to it in person.

Some time ago my friend Saunders notified me of a very choice collection of Indian eggs, from the seashore of Sindh &c and offers me a first selection - I do not know that I can afford to take anything, for I buy outright but little and chiefly confine myself to N. American rarities - But among them are a few very choice rarities which I mean to secure, if they are not too high.

such as *Elanus caeruleus*, *Somus hamprichii* and a few that fill important gaps. I have asked Saunders to send me a list of all there are, sets, or otherwise and their value, leaving myself at liberty to decline what I cannot afford to take. Would you like to see this list when it comes, or are you not to be thus tempted?

Yours

J. M. Brewer

J. M. Brewer

Dec. 25, 1878

Dr. J. M. Brewer

March 25/1879

233 Beacon St. March 26th

My dear Brewster

The weather yesterday though not so bad as it might have been, was not sufficiently favorable for my getting to Cambridge, and today is still worse. Although I did not really apprehend that there could be any mistake on the part of Mr. C. A. Allen, as quoted by Mr. Henshaw, I wrote to him <sup>(Mr. Allen)</sup> in regard to it and probably would have learned from him the doubt or error, and I would have had it corrected in the proof. The fact is that a good deal of the work in the part on the subject of the flycatchers has got to be gone over again with more care. In the Smithsonian is a nest and egg identified by Prof. Baird as *E. trinitensis* from Florida. I. My mind was given me that it might be caudatus when measuring it, but Ridgway & I saw how they got it from the nest - a very nice specimen - and now Mr. Osborn writes

me that neither he nor Mr. Peersell, who found the nest believe it was anything but a cadicus. I have asked Kinsgway to see if the parent be still extant at the Smithsonian.

My paper on the empidonax will be only a good starting point for future explorations of this difficult genus putting on records the facts as they seem up to date. It seems incredible that the two sets of white eggs identified by Dornes of Halifax - the set with deep purple blotches identified by Baird and verified by Baird, and Mr. Osbornes set can be eggs of one - or even two species. I have seen and compared these three kinds and they are, all three, very different. Mr. Osbornes eggs are, to my eye, unrecognizable from those of difficilis. But brighter and younger eyes than mine picked out Osbornes egg - from among five similar eggs of difficilis by the lilac spots, not mentioned by Mr. Purdie. The eyes were in the hand of Mr. A. Jeffries! He has helped me not a little by the use of these eyes.

The first really pleasant day that I

can find the chance to get out to C. I will try once again, in the afternoon.

Yrs. very truly  
J. M. Brewer

P.S. I had only partially sealed my letter to you when I picked up from the mountains of Sattle Cowline bringing me a problem to solve - an unknown empidonax breeding there. I do not think that I will open it until I show it to you lest I'd expose my own want of knowledge as necessarily!

Dr. J. M. Brewer

May 25, 1879.

233 Beacon St May 25<sup>th</sup> 1879

My dear Brewster

Just before going away Dr Merrill wished me to have one of three examples of the South-west Texas Humming-bird - *Amazilia* - ? prepared by Welch in cabinet style for you. Two were to be mounted for the Boston Society. I have just received them back from Welch, but before I send you out the specimen for you - which is a ♂, I wish to ask if you have any objection to my lending it for a short time to Mr Lawrence of New York that it may be shown to Mr Elliot. In with remember that Coles calls it *A. arizonensis*, while Ridgway considers it the same as Cabot's *Tuca canescens*. The last number of the *Ibis* raises the question and as Dr Cabot's type is still in his possession now is the chance to have it compared

with these examples. I have written to  
Lawrence about it. If he will under-  
take the investigation and Dr C,  
will trust me with his type. I would like  
to send all these examples to New  
York with the type, but I do not wish  
to send yours without your consent.

From the doctful way in which  
Prof. Baird writes me I fear that I am  
to have no copies of my paper on  
the Empidonaxes. Should this prove to be  
so it will be the occasion of not a little  
disappointment and mortification to  
me, unfeeling me to disappoint those  
who have asked for and to whom  
I have promised copies. Of course I in-  
tended to send one to you and I still  
hope something may be done to enable  
me to do so. Should you chance to see  
Mr Purdie or Mr Deane with you be  
so kind as to say to them that  
if they do not receive a copy  
it will be simply because I had  
absolutely no copy to send.

I was sorry to hear that your  
old enemy had attacked you again  
I hope that by this time you are  
on your own feet once more, and  
well.  
Yours, J. M. Brewer

233 Beacon St. June 28<sup>th</sup>. 19.

my dear Brewster

It is all right.

I sent the hummer to Lawrence & have it  
back. If it be a possible thing and if I do  
not hear from you that you will not be  
at home I will try to run out & see you on  
Monday evening and bring the skin. If not I  
may leave it at your father's office & go a-  
way finally on Wednesday.

I sent one copy of the Empidonax pa-  
per to you in Cambridge and another  
to you in Upton. If you have received  
neither I will spare you a third rather  
than that you should be without. I sent  
a copy to Purdie but I fear he did not  
appreciate the courtesy judging by  
the boorish or rather childish letter  
he sent me in lieu of a civil acknow-  
ledgment.

I am very glad you have been so very  
fortunate. I am quite anxious to see

Dr. J. M. Brewer

June 28, 1879

what you have secured. So far a set  
of eggs, nest & parent of Perisoreus capitatus  
& of Pyrrhuloxia aestiva are all my  
receipt, but I have some very nice  
things promised me on their way.

I am very well, as I generally  
am in hot weather.

Yours truly

J. M. Brewer

Dr. J. M. Brewer.

June 30, 1879.

- 33 Beacon St. June 30th

My dear Brewster

I had promised myself the pleasure of getting out to see you this evening but I have found it impossible to do so and attend to the innumerable little matters that precede a departure for the summer. When you have fully worked up all your new materials I hope you do not intend to keep it all in abeyance until the next number of the Bulletin? I have as little anxiety as most men! I hope you have among your seven new kinds Blackburnian Warbler *Empidonax*, *Myio. disco. pusillus* and others equally desirable. When you write me please do so to 233 Beacon St. for whether at Gloucester Isles of Shoals or Conway, my letters will be forwarded. Y<sup>rs</sup>  
J. M. Brewer

I note one very interesting occurrence here this summer. Last year Prof. Baird's party noted the entire absence of native birds in Gloucester - and no passer domesticus, so that it could not be laid to their door. This year P. domesticus is here in considerable numbers and with them are Chipping Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Blue-birds, White-bellies, Bay-wings, Field Sparrows and several other kinds! Did Baird overlook them or did they come in with the "D. interloper" birds? This is inter nos. I can't be kicked into any more sparrow wars; it is settling itself and life is too short for such senseless and unsatisfactory warfare, and this little incident I mention is, to be quite interesting.

Yrs M Brewer

July 16, 1879

J. M. Brewer

638  
Bass-Rock House, Gloucester  
July 16 1879

My dear Brewster

Many thanks for your kindness in writing me such a nice long and interesting letter. I am sorry that I can hardly hope in my reply to render you an equivalent for I am barren of results of interest or of moment. Neither Dr. Merrell nor G. F. Brewer refer to me as far as the way of interesting acquisitions. Plectrophenax McGowan is Merrell's best find. I am sure I think you have done splendidly even though you did not fill the gaps that I suggested as possible. There was a time when I considered, *Certhia americana*, *Seiurus naevius* - compared these new names - I suppose you mean *naevius* - *boracensis*? - *Geothlypis delphica*, *D. caerulea*, *Myio-canadensis*, or *Bucephala clangula*, each one alone worth a long journey to secure. And some of these are so common but that they are each and all worthy of description and illustration. The position of your Creeper's nest, I am interested in. Was it between the bark & the trunk of a tree as it has been in all the

instances I have known save only one? There is one thing you may be sure of, you cannot be too full for your notes of these acquisitions.

The Jeffries had the same aggravating disappointment that you underwent on the matter of the three-toed woodpecker, they found plenty nests with young birds. Your experience with the white tailed and the cat was the most aggravating of all. I hope you shot the beast! I have been so often annoyed by their depredations that at last I made constant war upon the race at Hingham, though the supply seemed inexhaustible.

I have returns to day from my collectors in northern Vermont, among other things they report three sets of nests and eggs of *Vireo gilvus*, which you will remember is one of the birds that does not breed in northern New England - according to Purdy! They also report *Des. maculosa*, *D. pennsylvanica*, *Buteo borealis*, *Emp. traillii*, *Falco*, *P. m. s. i.* yellow-bellied woodpecker, and various

others of the more common kind. They save the parents in most cases and once in a while pick up some very nice things. I let them have a set of boards. Brewer & Ridgway and the rest has been electrical in the matter of zeal & interest. They will send me their year's work in September and perhaps you may wish to look over it when it comes.

Allen and I have the promise of a few rare eggs from Colorado of Mesada but I have not heard of their coming yet. We have some Long-billed Curlews, Marbled Godwits, Broad-wing Hawks, good eggs but to me not new.

Captain Bendire is more than half inclined to present his entire collection to the Cambridge Museum. Wouldn't that be splendid? It would make such a nucleus that their collection would at once rank very high. They already have some very nice things and are ultimately to make mine.

J. M. Brewer.

Nov. 20, 1879.

233 Beacon St Nov. 20th 1879

My dear Brewster

Are you at home?  
and well? and have you a set of the  
eggs of the Louisiana Water Thrush that  
I can see and compare some eggs with?  
I have two sets of unidentified eggs  
from Warren, Mass that puzzle me. I can't  
reconcile them with the eggs of *Myiarchus*  
*canadensis*, which they most resemble, or  
*mini-stilts* var. which they also approxi-  
mate and it has just occurred to  
me that they may be the Louisiana  
Thrush which their size renders more  
probable. If I mistake not you have one  
well identified set?

I read with a good deal of interest your  
exhaustive paper on the Green Creeper  
and was not a little pleased to see how  
fully your corroborative data sustained  
my theory of the prevalence of the habit  
of its mode of nesting. You however a  
little mis understood me in one thing

It was no "recent" occurrence to me of nests  
thus made. The one referred to in Green  
Merian occurred twenty nine years ago  
some of the others much more recent (it is  
true but of these two were ten or eleven years  
ago. The only very recent one was that found  
in Fannin and I began my paper on the  
Creeper now to mention its extreme southern  
occurrence than the peculiarity of its nesting  
but as I was writing it I cleared to  
notice not only this peculiarity in the nesting  
of all my notes, and then to see that it is  
given by Dresser as the general rule of the  
European form. This came to me then as a flash  
of light and a sort of guilty feeling that I  
had not thought of it as a general rule  
before! Mr Allen's example was fourteen  
years after my experience and had entirely  
escaped my notice. I assure you I did not  
ignore it. I never happened to see or to  
hear of it, and yet I ought to have done  
so for this list has always been bound up  
on my shelves and I have frequently re-  
ferred to other parts of it.

I think with you that its breeding  
in the cow lands of Bristol Co. must  
be regarded as exceptional, but then it

may not be so. There is a good deal to  
be learned yet about our birds and as  
our Creeper breeds in the state of Ver. & Gr. &  
Mexico it may have a sporadic oc-  
currence anywhere between. After the  
Collurio ludoviciana breeding by the dozen  
pairs in and about Barre, and in  
hardly less numbers among the mountains  
of central Vermont it can't safely say  
what birds may not do!

yours very truly  
J. M. Brewer

Dr. J. M. Brewer.  
Nov. 29, 1879.

233 Beacon St. Nov. 29th 1879  
11

My dear Brewster

Thanks for your favor of the 24th. It is as you state. I did not give with sufficient exactness the manner in which the Creeper nest was built in 1849 at Grand Menan. Supposing then that Creepers always built in holes in trees, as books said, I regarded the nest as an accidental variation. I now know better. I think 42° 10' may be fairly assumed as the southern line to which our certhia breeds in low land. I have known of nests actually taken in Danvers, Lynn, Lynn field, and Springfield. I used to meet with birds, evidently breeding, in Roxbury, though I never found their nests. Five nests actually found on that line from Lynn to Springfield is positive evidence and overbalances merely negative evidence, and is not exactly on a par with such anomalous instances as you cite.

Do you know of any positive instances of the occurrence of the Purple grackle in New England? All our examples are acens, and I begin to fear that purpureus ought to come out.

I am very sorry to hear of your lameness. I am afraid you are not so careful of yourself as you ought to be! You must turn over a new leaf of conduct and when you get well again be sure not to do too much at a time, but stop right off the moment you feel in the least fatigued. I did not suppose you

bring or send your set of Sings to me  
but I only desired to know whether  
you had them. I will try to give you  
a call with mine weather permitting.

Give my kind regards to Mrs Brewster  
with my friendly suggestion that her hus-  
band is not to be trusted altogether in  
matters affecting his own health! That is  
somewhat my case but so far my  
vigilant guardians have kept  
me in corpore sano.

Yours  
J. M. Brewer

Dr. J. M. Brewer

Jan. 5, 1880.

The last letter received.  
This write did <sup>from him</sup> on  
Jan'y 23, 1880.

233 Beacon St. Jan 5th 1880

My dear Brewster

I have been a good deal under the weather for the past three or four weeks and my correspondence has been getting woefully <sup>behind</sup> ahead of me. But for this my conscience would reproach me for not have written you sooner to express my sincere sympathy for your recent mishap. I heard of it accidentally meeting Mrs Kettell in the cars. When I saw her she was so swollen it could not be set, but I have since been told that it has been set and I hope so that you will recover your full use of it?

In the small cabinet of skins belonging to Mr Atkinson Mr Hyatt was informed that the catalogues giving their exact localities could not be found but that the examples from Iowa and from Atiker - of which last there were very few - were all indicated by tags - but that these from Massachusetts were unmarked. The only ground for doubt as to these last might be that they had lost their tags as in the case with the Iowa examples in a very few instances. I did not give the polyglottus as positive, I simply stated the fact. I did not need it for I had other instance entirely positive, and merely added it as possibly another instance of its occurrence. It was in a tray of birds that were

probably from Nantucket or Martha's Vine  
yard.

If its existence as of the 18th century had  
depended upon this specimen I would not  
have mentioned it so. It is so hard,  
where a false record is once positively created  
to get cancelled that an very careful  
man I make statement.

It now turns out that the Shrike men-  
tioned by Boardman as borealis and breeding  
near Colfax was probably leucophaea and  
He thinks so himself and of this is so  
we have really no authentic instance  
of the borealis breeding within the limits of  
the U.S. that are entirely free from doubt.  
Mr. Elliot Coates will therefore get have a  
chance to rise and explain the ground  
for his position on this subject.

Yours very truly  
J.M. Brewer

Boston Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> 1860

My dear Sir

I was in hopes to have seen you before going to Wash. my trip - I go to day & leave on Tuesday I had an ill turn and had to keep my bed part of the day with bilious colic.

I send with this the list of the woodpeckers. Can you get some one to go with you and assist you in handling the volumes? In this way you could take one vol. of text with the vol. of plates.

You will, of course be very careful of the herbe and not let it get out of your sight except when in my house. I hope to be back by the 23<sup>rd</sup> at the farthest.

Yours  
J. H. Brewer

P. S. Please check those  
names which do not seem  
to you to be all right.

Brewer D. M.  
Feb. 18-

Brewer J. M.

March 15-

Boston March 15

My dear Brewster

I have delayed longer than I intended attending to your matters, but I have been very busy & having to copy some notes from the Mus. I could only keep a short time I had to take all my leisure for that. I am now ready to make the exchange with you at your convenience. I shall be in town any day but next Saturday shall be there if the day is not pleasant. The value of the skins you can supply me with, with our more American came to

\$4.50, with those to 570 or 690 I would like to have four eggs of *Ectopistes migratorius*. These at 75¢ each would come to \$3 more. The eggs I can let you have as marked that p. no are as follows

30	100	<i>Arch. lagopus</i>
111	100	<i>Arctos. carolinensis</i>
<del>154</del>	50	<i>Turdus Alcinx</i>
48	50	<i>Bubo Vir.</i>
159	100	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>
221	50	<i>Pyronga aethra</i>
497	150	<i>Tantalus locustator</i>
482	75	<i>Dendrocygna Pealii</i>
484	50	" <i>ludovicianus</i>
486	50	<i>Herodias egretta</i>
496	100	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
499	50	<i>Pelecanus</i>
	<hr/>	
	925	

If you should care to have the  
 whole of yours, including the  
 more care I can easily find you  
 an equivalent.

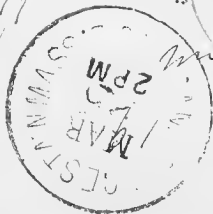
Yrs W Brewster

P.S. Perhaps you can come Friday  
 and let me know tomorrow -

Yrs  
 W Brewster



WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE - THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER



Mr Brewster Esq  
Sparks Street  
Cambridge

MAR 17 1892  
BOSTON  
MA

233 Beacon St, Hingham

Many thanks my dear Brewster for your friendly warning. It shall be attended to though the mass went out of my hands only yesterday. It spoils a strong point - no matter the truth is what I want. Knowing that C.A. Allen distinguishes well between possible and difficult, it never occurred to me that there would be any mistake about it.

If tomorrow is a very pleasant day I will try to go out to see Allen first and then to call on you by your house - unless something now unforeseen occurs to prevent -

Yours  
W. Brewster

Brewer G. M.

March 23<sup>d</sup>

Boston March 23<sup>d</sup>

My dear Sir

I have at last been able to get up to the rooms of the Nat. Hist. and have your eggs packed in a box ready for you.

They are No 30 1

48 1

497 1

482 2

484 1

486 2

496 1

499 2

685 1

I had the luck to crack No 497 but have taken one of my own from my drawer rather than delay you any longer. The box is on my cabinet ready for you, if you call when I am not in the girl will give it to you.

The by-laws of the Society con-  
stitute three as the number of a  
committee for the depth of birds. They  
are now the two Cabot Dr Sears  
and J. Elliot and myself. I have  
no doubt that Mr Elliot Cabot would  
with-draw if I were to say any-  
thing to him about it but I don't  
exactly like doing it, as I know  
that some like to have him in our  
Committee. Perhaps he will withdraw of his  
own accord. If so I know that I can  
readily have you one of our com-  
mittee, but if he should not and the  
desire should be to have the same  
committee on birds another year, would  
you be willing to take the place  
of assistant to the committee, having  
charge of the birds, with us. We  
could have the permission of the  
Committee to delegate to you this pow-  
er and the only difference would  
be that you would not be one of the

Council, but this would lead to your  
becoming one in another year.  
So that, if I can arrange it without  
asking any one to leave, I will  
propose you for one of the com-  
mittee, but if not with author-  
ity to act as our delegate.

Yours  
J. M. Brewer

133 Boylston St. Apr. 8th

My dear Brewster

I send you the list of skins Dresser wants which I am not able, at present, to supply to him. Will you look them over and see what you can send and we will make him up another box and send to him in a few weeks

Yrs  
J. M. Brewer

Brewer N. N.  
April 8

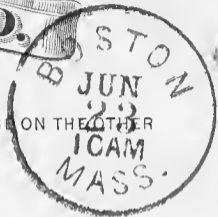
*Aquila canadensis*  
*Subia ulula* —  
*Corvus caninus*  
*Hedys egretta*  
*Botaurus lentiginosus* —  
*Agelaius vociferus*  
*Zonotrichia querula*  
*Colinus aseraria*  
*Syrn. semipalmata* —  
*Num. borealis* —  
*Anas boschas*  
     " *acuta* ♂  
     " *cyperus* —  
*Aythya americana* — ♂

*Chordeiles philadelphia*  
*Rissa tridactyla*  
*Larus californicus*  
*Sterna caspia*  
     " *fuliginosa*  
     " *macroura*  
*Anous stolidus*  
*Podiceps cornutus*  
*Alca torda*  
*Mormon glacialis*  
*Sterna aranea*

    " *americana* ♀  
*Nethurus anthracinus* ♂  
*Bonaparteus alberta* ♀  
*Pel. persicillata*  
*Sula bassana*  
*H. d. wilsoni*  
*Prof. major*  
     " *fuliginosa*  
     " *angustum*  
     " *obscurus*  
     " *curvirostris*  
*My. skuas*  
*Bonaparteus glaucus*  
     " *leucosternus*  
     " *marinus*  
     " *arcticus*

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24 skins



WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE—THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

Mr Brewster Esq  
Brattle St Apt 10  
Maine  
Cambridge Mass

233 Beacon St June 23rd

My dear Sir.

I wrote to you some  
three weeks since letting you that  
Dr. Mitchell had left with me three  
skins of *Spizella cerivina* var. *gris*  
*vel. borealensis*, one of them for you,  
and two for the society. I sent them to  
Weld to be put in order and wished to  
send them with Cabot's type to Lawrence  
& Elliot to compare, and wished to do so  
with your consent - not getting it I sent  
them without! I have yours back again  
all safe. Elliot says the species is one. I  
do not believe it nevertheless! I also  
sent you to Cambridge, my paper on  
the *Empidonax*. I send you another  
now to W. T. so if you get two you  
can punish some one with the dupli-  
cate.

I hope you are having a successful hunt  
and that Mrs Brewster enjoys rural  
life - or life in the wilderness. You  
are favored in this as I never was!  
My kind regards to her.

Yours very truly  
J. M. Brewer



WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE—THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

*Answer*

*Mr*

*Brewster*

*Cambridge*

*Mass.*

233 Beacon St Oct 10

Dear Brewster

I am on the track  
of another instance of a swan  
shot at Nahant, by a Mr Jay.  
Low, it fell into the possession  
of Mr Faxon was by him given  
to Mr Denning Davis and by  
him to the B. S. N. H. and is  
now in their collection. It is a  
young bird. My informant has  
promised to look up and as-  
ertain, if possible, exactly when  
it was secured. The man who  
killed it is not living but his  
son is alive. My informant saw  
the swan at the time, told me  
of its being given to our Society  
and there it is, a young bird  
as he said.

Yrs M. B.

There are things to write

Brewer W. M.

Nov - 19

133 Boylston St  
Saturday Nov. 19

Mr Wm Brewster

Dear Sir

I have just returned from my brief absence, recalled by illness in my family. As you might be expecting to hear from me, I write now to say that it would be better to wait a few days, when I trust we shall be all right again. I will not forget to let you know the first moment it will be convenient to ask you again.

Yours very truly  
Wm Brewster

Friday evening

Dear Sir

I intended to have shown you the inclosed, if you came, last evening & I forgot to write you about it this morning.

Do you care to buy foreign eggs? would you like to have me of those here referred to? I shall take one for myself & one for the Society. Do not hesitate to say no, if you do not wish for one.

Y<sup>r</sup> M<sup>t</sup> Brewer

P. S. Please send me back Baird's letter

Brewer L.A.