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ORNITHOLOGY, 1930- 1930

FILE 517

ORNITHOLOGY

34 Grosvenor Avenue,
Ottawa, Ontario,
September 10, 1930.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.,
Principal of McGill University,
Montreal, Quebec.

Dear Sir:

There is a very real need at the present time for a chair of Ornithology in some Canadian university. Birds are a large and important class of living creatures, which enter into the personal experience of every one and are of great economic and aesthetic interest. The relations between birds and our cultivated crops, our forests, and our fisheries are of prime importance, and the continued maintenance of an adequate stock of wild game birds is a pressing and difficult task. It is estimated that insect-eating birds save Canadian farmers at least \$100,000,000 annually, and figures recently compiled place the annual turn-over in Canadian business based on the sport of hunting game birds at not less than \$7,000,000.

A multitude of economic research problems relating to our valuable stock of wild birds require investigation, while bird life also offers a rich field for inquiries of a purely scientific character. Yet ornithological research is neglected in all Canadian universities and the Canadian government maintains no corps of scientists, such as the United States has in its Bureau of Biological Survey, to deal with economic questions relating to birds as they affect this country.

The education of every Canadian should include reliable elementary instruction concerning our native birds, which are an important part of his environment, but this condition will not come into existence until, among our universities, there are provided academic recognition of the value of the subject, leadership in its development, and facilities for advanced instruction and training.

In the United States, Ornithology is now an elective undergraduate subject in a large number of universities and degree-granting colleges. Facilities for graduate research and instruction in Ornithology, leading to the Ph.D. degree, are provided by Cornell, Harvard, University of Michigan, University of Chicago, and University of California, at least. At Cornell, the annual elementary course in Ornithology enrolls forty to sixty students, the advanced courses, which alternate with each other, enroll ten or twelve students, and the number of graduate students in Ornithology in residence at one time is eight or ten. Canadians wishing to obtain academic instruction, either elementary or advanced, in this subject must still leave the country to do so.

McGill University is the most suitably situated of any Canadian university for including Ornithology in its curriculum, not only because of its large size and its central position in the region of dense population, but especially because it is already the fortunate possessor of the Emma Shearer Wood Library of Ornithology, which is much the finest

ornithological library in this country. This library, however, although of great potential value, is now seldom used, and must be a treasure undeveloped until ornithological instruction and research become established at McGill.

These facts lead me to suggest respectfully the establishment of a chair of Ornithology at McGill University. In this, if it meet with your approval, I shall be happy to co-operate, particularly in an endeavor to obtain the necessary endowment. As I visit Montreal from time to time, I shall appreciate it if you can grant me the privilege of an interview, when this subject can be examined more closely.

Sincerely yours,

Harrison F. Lewis

Harrison F. Lewis, Ph.D.

September 16th, 1930.

Br. Harrison F. Lewis,
34 Grosvenor Avenue,
O t t a w a.

Dear Br. Lewis:-

Your letter addressed to Sir Arthur Currie concerning the establishment of a chair of Ornithology has been received during his absence in the west. I am sure that Sir Arthur will be much interested and that he will write you concerning your proposal as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Wilfrid Bovey,
Director.

34 Grosvenor Ave., Ottawa, Ontario,

October 20, 1930.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.,
Principal of McGill University,
Montreal, Quebec.

Dear Sir:

With reference to my letter of September 10th, concerning the desirability of the establishment of a chair of Ornithology at McGill University, I may say that I now find that I shall be in Montreal on the afternoon of Monday, October 27, and I shall be pleased to know if you can give me an interview that afternoon, for discussion of this matter, and, if so, at what hour you can see me.

Sincerely yours,

Harrison F. Lewis

34 Grosvenor Avenue,
Ottawa, Ontario,
November 8, 1930.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.,
Principal of McGill University,
Montreal, Quebec.

Dear Sir:

With reference to our recent conversation concerning the desirability of establishing a chair of Ornithology at McGill University, I wish to submit, as you requested, a tentative statement of probable expenses for the first fifteen years. It should be emphasized, however, that every item in this statement is necessarily uncertain and subject to revision. I do not know just what income the proposed endowment of \$100,000 may be expected to yield, but have assumed it to be \$6,000 annually. I do not know the usual salary rates of Professors and Assistants on the Faculty of the University, and have had to follow the best information available. Of course I shall be very glad to receive your comments on any of the points involved in the statement.

1st year	Salary of Incumbent	\$3,500
	Salary of Assistant	750
	Expenses	1,750
		<u>\$6,000</u>
2nd year	Salary of Incumbent	\$3,750
	Salary of Assistant	750
	Expenses	1,500
		<u>\$6,000</u>
3rd year	Salary of Incumbent	\$4,000
	Salary of Assistant	750
	Expenses	1,250
		<u>\$6,000</u>
4th year	Salary of Incumbent	\$4,250
	Salary of Assistant	750
	Expenses	1,000
		<u>\$6,000</u>
5th year	Salary of Incumbent	\$4,500
	Salary of Assistant	750
	Expenses	750
		<u>\$6,000</u>
6th year	Salary of Incumbent	\$4,750
	Salary of Assistant	750
	Expenses	500
		<u>\$6,000</u>
7th year	Salary of Incumbent	\$5,000
	Salary of Assistant	750
	Expenses	250
		<u>\$6,000</u>

8th and subsequent years as the 7th.

Expenses at first will consist of purchase of equipment for laboratory and class-room use, such as anatomical models, bird-skins, skeletal material, collecting and preserving tools and materials, glass jars, photographic materials, trays, etc. Possibly there will also be included costs related to fitting up of necessary laboratory space.

When necessary capital expenditures have been made, running expenses will be comparatively light. This makes it possible for expenses to decrease as salary costs increase.

It is not practicable to forecast what laboratory space will be required, as size of classes is so uncertain at this time. Such elaborate equipment as is required by physics and chemistry laboratories, for example, is not necessary, the chief requirements being furniture sufficient to seat all students at tables, at least one sink, a blackboard, moderate storage space for materials enumerated in the second paragraph above, and space and desks for graduate students.

Arrangements for use of a lecture-room are, of course, also necessary.

Sincerely yours,

Harrison F. Lewis

November 12th, 1930.

Dr. Harrison F. Lewis,
34 Grosvenor Avenue,
O t t a w a , Ontario.

Dear Dr. Lewis,

Let me thank you for your letter of November 8th in which you set forth a tentative statement of probable expenses in connection with the establishment of a Chair of Ornithology at McGill University.

I think you may fairly assume that the income on \$100,000 would be at least \$5500 a year and possibly \$6000. I agree with the principle of an annual increase in salary and that the annual outlay for expenses might be expected to decrease.

Let me confirm what I intended to convey to you before: that we would gladly welcome the establishment of such a Department if the necessary endowment were secured, though I must tell you that there is no prospect at present of any university funds available for such a purpose.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.