

239 Linden Avenue,
Ithaca, N. Y.
April 18, 1921

My dear Professor Ridgway,

I am writing to you as Audubon Advisory Councillor for southern Illinois for some information about the status and victims of the Cowbird in your region. I am a graduate student in ornithology at Cornell University, and am working on the parasitic habits of the Cowbird for a doctor's degree.

The points I am chiefly interested in are the following:

1. The status of the Cowbird (abundance, etc.)
2. As complete a list of its victims as possible with data as to which birds rear the cowbirds, which desert the nests, etc.
3. The relative frequency with which the different species are victimized.

Among the breeding birds of your region are the following for which I have little or no data

Trail's Flycatcher

Southern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna argulata*)

Lark Sparrow

Bachman's Sparrow

Blue Grosbeak

Vick's Cissel

Swallows & Shrikes

Long-tailed Chat

Mockingbird

Any information on any of the above will be greatly appreciated and valued. If you have not the time to give to this matter, would you please let me know of some other local authority on the birds of your region? Please accept my thanks in advance.

Respectfully,

Herbert Friedmann

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
LABORATORY OF ORNITHOLOGY
MCGRAW HALL, ITHACA, N. Y.

Nov. 17, 1921.

Professor Robert Ridgway,

My dear sir;

In looking over my letter files I find that I never acknowledged receipt of your letter of May 2nd, last, and apologize most sincerely for this inexcusable delay. Just how it happened is more than I know, but I want to express my thanks and appreciation for the data you were kind enough to send me on the Cowbird, and hope you will excuse my negligence.

In view of the above I hesitate to ask you any more questions, but would greatly appreciate it if you would inform me on the following.

In the second volume of your great work on "The Birds of North and Middle America", P. 206, you say that, "Molothrus badius and its near relative Molothrus fringillarius*****are said to be non-parasitic, building their own nest and rearing their young in the usual fashion*****." I have not been able to find any reference in the literature as to whether M. fringillarius is or is not parasitic, and wonder if you could conveniently put your hand on the source of your statement. Please do not go to any trouble on this account.

Please accept my thanks in advance and also my regrets and apologies for the unpardonable delay in acknowledging your letter.

Respectfully,

Herbert Friedmann

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
LABORATORY OF ORNITHOLOGY
MCGRAW HALL, ITHACA, N. Y.

Nov. 23, 1921.

Prof. Robert Ridgway,
1030 South Morgan St.,
Olney, Ill.,
Dear sir,

Your letter of the 21st just received, and I wish to thank you for the information conveyed. I knew that *Molothrus badius* was normally non-parasitic from the account of Hudson's in Argentine Ornithology but thought you might have had some field or other notes on *M. fringillarius* on which you based your statement, rather than be guided entirely by taxonomic relationships. In all probability *M. fringillarius* will prove to be very similar to *M. badius* in its habits, but of course, direct evidence is needed to prove it. I think this is especially true in the case of *M. fringillarius* as Leo E. Miller in his paper "Field Notes on *Molothrus bonariensis* and *M. badius*", Bull. A.M.N.H. XXXVII, Art. XXII, PP. 579-592. gives several instances of *M. badius* parasitizing other species of birds. So it seems that whatever nesting habits it may have must be certainly not deeply seated; consequently there is no definite telling what its near relatives may do. The whole problem is one of great complexity and therefore of great interest.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Friedmann

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 20, 1930.

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
C/o American Express Co.,
38, Piazza di Spagna,
Rome, Italy.

Dear Dr. Wood:-

I greatly appreciated your writing me and take this opportunity of expressing my thanks for your good wishes. Since coming to the National Museum, I have heard Richmond and others speak of you a good deal and have hoped to meet you some day and make your acquaintance in person. So far I know you only through your writings.

I am glad to hear that you have recovered from your recent illness and hope that your work will progress rapidly and satisfactorily.

With best wishes and kind regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Herbert Friedman

Curator, Division of Birds.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 11, 1931.

Mr. H. Mousley,
4073 Tupper Street,
Montreal, Canada.

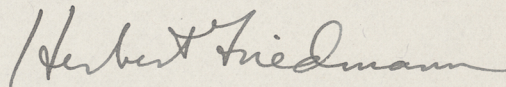
Dear Mr. Mousley:

Your note of October 31 with reference to Dr. Casey A. Wood's book on the "Literature of Vertebrate Zoology" awaited my return to Washington from Chicago.

I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness in this matter and have received a copy of the book which I am pleased to have.

I was disappointed not to see you in Detroit.

Sincerely yours,



Herbert Friedmann,
Curator, Division of Birds.

EL

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 4, 1932.

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
295 Wignmore Drive,
Pasadena, California.

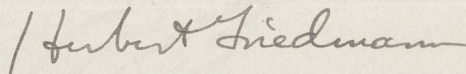
Dear Dr. Wood:

Your letter of September 6 has been awaiting an answer for some time, but I have held up the reply awaiting the return to Washington of Dr. Richmond's nephew who was away on vacation.

I have gotten in touch with him and he tells me that he is going to get estimates made very soon as to the cost of duplicating by photostats or some other duplicating method the cards in Richmond's index. Then he will let you know what the rate will be, that is, how much it would cost for a set.

If he does not get in touch with you in the next ten days or so, please let me know and I shall hurry him along.

Sincerely yours,



Herbert Friedmann,
Curator, Division of Birds.

EL

Twentieth October

1 9 3 2

Dr. Herbert Friedman,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Friedman:

Since writing you my last letter, now nearly two months ago, on the subject of the possible purchase of the late Dr. Richmond's card index of the genera of birds, I have heard nothing from his trustees or executors, and especially nothing from his nephew who promised several months ago to enquire into the possibility of disposing of the index by having copies of it made.

I am leaving Panama in a few weeks for the Far East and wish to say that unless some definite offer is made me within a week of the receipt of this letter by you either for the purchase of the index as it now stands or for a copy of it I desire to drop the matter.

I do not know the address of Dr. Richmond's nephew else I would not trouble you with this letter. I will, however, be obliged to you if you will forward it to the responsible person representing the heir or heirs, so that I may feel that I have done the best I could for the family of an old and dear friend who has passed away.

I hope you went to the A. C. U. meeting at Quebec and had an enjoyable time among the Canucks.

Sincerely yours,

CAE:DB

Sixth September
1 9 3 2

Dr. Herbert Friedmann,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Friedmann:

Has anything been arranged regarding Richmond's card index of genera of birds? As you perhaps know his nephew wrote me on the subject (as one in authority) and I replied accordingly. That was a month or two ago and I have had no definite reply from him since.

What do you think of the suggestion to have made, failing outright purchase of the index by some one person or institution, photostat or other duplication or triplication of the original so that several buyers could have not only the benefit of it, but a cheaper rate than purchasing the whole lot?

We are pretty poor out here, but would stretch a financial point to possess the index. The Pacific Coast needs it much more than the effete East.

Sincerely yours,

OW:DB

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 19, 1932.

Dr. Casey Wood,
295 Wigmore Drive,
Pasadena, California.

also wrote

Sept 6/32.

asking further info. re
card-index of genera of
birds.

Dear Dr. Wood:

I regret to have to inform you of the death of Dr. Richmond early this morning in Georgetown Hospital. He was operated on Tuesday night for an intestinal rupture and apparently was making fair recovery when the end came.

I am wondering if you know whether he had made any definite arrangements with anyone for the sale of his card index of genera of birds. If you do, I should be very glad to have any data you may be able to send me as I am trying to straighten out his effects as much as possible for the benefit of his widow. He never mentioned to me anything about this matter, but I have been told that he had some communications from you about getting copies made of the cards and that there was some obstacle due to an impending sale of the set.

I shall await your reply with interest.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Friedmann

Herbert Friedmann,
Curator, Division of Birds.

EL

~~Does Mrs. Richmond desire a pension?~~

over

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 31. 32

Dear Dr. Friedmann

many thanks for your kind ~~letter~~ ^{letter} of the 19th inst.

¶ Richmond's death was nothing short of a calamity for ornithology and a great shock to me. It will be a long time before we meet a man of his erudition and helpfulness.

¶ As I think my ^{recent} letter to ~~Richmond's~~ Richmond's nephew fully answers your query I am enclosing a copy.

With all good wishes

Sincerely yours

Casy A. Wood

Herbert Friedmann,
Director, Division of Birds.

copy

Thirty-First May
1 9 3 2

Dr. Herbert Friedmann,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

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With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

CW:DB

Dr. Herbert Friedmann
U. S. National Museum
Washington D.C.

DR. CASEY WOOD,
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM,
LONDON, S.W. 7,
ENGLAND.

DR. CASEY WOOD
295 WIGMORE DRIVE
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Sept 16/32

DR. CASEY WOOD
295 WIGMORE DRIVE
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

1 carbon

Dear Dr. Friedmann :-

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Richmond's card-index of genera of birds?

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