Ridgway Collection
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DAILY AND WEEKLY.

The Intelligencer

CECIL M. BASKETT, Editor and Proprietor.

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Professor Robert Ridgway,
Washington, D. C.,

Dear Sir:- It is a little late to be acknowledging the receipt of "The Birds of Middle and North America" sent to me some months ago. I had hoped that I might find time to go through it with some study so that I might speak of it intelligently, but I have been so busy that I can only thank you and mention my admiration for the patience and scholarship that has produced this wonderful volume. May y you have many years of health, in which to finish your work.

Very gratefully and sincerely yours,

J. N. Baskett

Ridgway Collection

Mexico Mo. Mar 29/95

Prof. Robt. Ridgway,
Smithsonian Inst'n,

Dear Sir:

You han always been so courteous that I fear I may worry you. I found a concert of blackbirds in a neighbors lot a few days ago. They were where I could not procure a specimen. I examined them with a good glass. There were some purple grackles among them & many brownish females distinctly streaked below which I took to be fe-

males of the swamp or red-shouldered blackbird. In fact there were a few redwing males in the crowd. But what puzzled me was that there were some males with only a distinct white patch on the wings & no sign of red or yellow. Now in looking over your "manual" I could find no such intermediate stage for the young male redwing & I had to conclude that these were yellow-headed blackbirds with the brown still covering the yellow. But there were no signs of yellow about any of the birds. It

I have never seen or heard of the yellow head in my region - though there is no reason why it should not occur What is your guess? I am sure the white spot was quite pure.

I find among some indiscriminate notes of mine the statement that in the Screamers (Palamedea) the rear toe is webbed to the second by a membrane or in some shows a tendency that way. I do not know where I got it I feel sure without being able to confirm it that it is not true

I think I have made a mis copy somewhere. It has a bearing on the relation between the goose-forms & the Steganipodes. If you have specimens in the Museum will you kindly tell me if there is any hint of such union?

Our spring birds are scarce this year. We have had many warm days. (Yesterday 86 Today 80°) A strange thing is the utter absence there for around my house of the blue birds, only one having been heard some weeks

ago. They are usually abundant early and build with us.

When you get ready to revise your manual let me know & I will go over my notes in it & gladly send them to you. It may be that I have noticed some-things that have escaped you.

Hoping that you are flourishing I remain

Yours Sincerely Yours

J. N. Baskett

Box 525

Mexico, Mo.