Bowdler Sharpe Collection

Efulen, 18 June 1903

(Address Batanga, Kamerun)

Dear Dr. Sharpe,

A letter from you dated April 20 last informs me that you wish a few words about myself. I feel flattered by the request, & in any case I should try to comply with a request from you. But my answer must be extremely brief, for there is little to tell.

I came to this country from the United States, of which I am a native, eight years ago. When I first came I made some collections of plants; I had been interested in studying botany at home. But it was necessary for me to get a support out of my collecting, & I found that the plants did not

furnish that, while mammals & birds did. Since I have been collecting mammals and birds, I have not been energetic enough to take in the plants also, tho I have often wanted to do so again. I do not wish to be thought of as collecting merely to make money, for it is to me a large part of my compensation to feel that I am helping you workers in science; and I am very glad my collections have gone to the British Museum, where they are of greater use to science than if sent to a dealer. I am also much gratified that you have generously treated me as interested in scientific work by naming new species after me, while paying for my specimens.

This is all I have to say, & perhaps even this little is not just what you want. But I am sure more is not necessary for your notes on collectors.

I shall be extremely interested to see the account of your bird collection, when it is published. I am still waiting anxiously for your paper on my birds in "Ibis"

Yours respectfully,

Geo. L. Bates.