as I went South, but one day
when I was out a bush fire came
up & destroyed, not only my Goshawks,
but some 200 skins & the only things which
we saved were the guns & blankets,
everything else was gone so I had to
return to Derby & fit out as well as
I could. I was very "down in the mouth"
about it as there were some good skins
including Falco hypoleucus. I should not
like to say if I have shot the true
A. cruentus, as I should want to see
it with A. assimilis, but I had some
beautiful birds, the young are easy to get
but adult birds are rare. I send you a
list of what I have or rather had as you
might like to look over it; as I do not
think much has been collected here, & I
hope before I return to Sydney to have
seen more of the country & if good enough
I shall return here next season as

The rains began here about December, & as one can do nothing
then I shall be off to Sydney. I have had a hard time
trip, as at first I got a bad foot & could not walk; then
the man I have as cook came off one of my horses & was
down for a week; then Bamboo (who writes to the Governor & begs)
got a bad leg & was then ill with something; as I have
not been able to cover as much country as I should have
wished. We are now about 30 miles from Derby & do I have
to be in tomorrow to get flour. I shall have this at the
same time & having a lot more letters to write I can
only I cannot give you a good description of the country

Bowdler Sharpe Collection

Fitzroy River
Kings Sound
Western Aus:
Sep. 4. 86.

Dear Mr Sharpe

I must give you a few lines just to let you know in what part of Australia I have arrived; & I expect it will also be as well to let you where to look for Kings S. for, I am sure I never heard of it in my school days, & never know of such a city as Derby; well you will see the former about Lon 123° 40' & Lat 17° 15' or there abouts; but I doubt the latter, which is our only towns, being marked at all.

I have had very bad luck: I had a fine series of Goshawks & intended to send them for you to look over as soon

or an account of the habits of some of the rarer birds. If there is anything in the bird way I can do for you out here, or any which you particularly want, let me know & I will do my best; a letter address to C/o Ramsay at the Sydney Museum will always find me to earth. How would you like to be camped with Malurus coronatus all around you?

Believe me
Sincerely Yours
Wm. H. Bowyer Bower

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down for a week, then Bamboo (who resides to the Aborigines Reserve)
got a bad leg & was then unable to move; as I have
not been able to cover as much country as I should have
wished. We are now about 30 miles from Derby & do I have
to go to Carnarvon to get flowers I shall have this at the
same time & having a lot more letters to write I can
only I commend give you a good description of the country