Ridgway Collection

HYGIENIC LABORATORY

Washington, D. C.

January 10, 1911.

Doctor J. A. Allen, American Museum Natural History, New York.

Doctor Ernest Hartert, Zoological Museum, Tring, England.

Doctor C. E. Hellways, Zoologische Staatssammlung, Neuhauserstrasse 51, Munich.

Mr. H. C. Oberholser, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington.

Doctor C. W. Richmond, U. S. National Museum, Washington.

Mr. Robert Ridgway, U. S. National Museum, Washington.

Doctor Leonhard Stejneger, U. S. National Museum, Washington.

Mr. Witmer Stone, Academy Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:

A copy of this letter is sent to each of the above named gentlemen.

As secretary of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, I am inviting specialists in each group to serve on special committees for the purpose indicated in this letter, and I take the liberty of asking you to serve on a committee on the nomenclature of birds, with the understanding that you are to add to your committee any colleagues whom you may wish to associate with you in this work.

As it is important that the secretary of your committee and I should be in intimate communication, I would suggest that Doctor C. W. Richmond should act as your secretary.

In an effort to establish a stable nomenclature for animals, I am taking man as the center and trying first to establish the correct names of the genera together with their genotypes, of the animals most closely associated with or most important for man,

according to the International Rules on Zoological Nomenclature. It is hoped gradually to extend the studies to other genera.

Will you kindly take up the generic names of birds with the view to seeing how many you can agree upon unanimously as beyond question valid names according to the Rules, and how many you can agree upon unanimously as undoubtedly synonyms which may be more or less eliminated from general zoological literature in the future.

I assume that you all have copies of the International Code.

It is my plan to publish the list of names upon which you agree, and to give notice to the zoological profession that I will wait six months for any zoologist to raise objection to any name contained in your report. It is then my purpose to submit your report to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature and ask for its confirmation.

As argument for your serving on this committee, I take the liberty of inviting your attention to the importance of the subject and of urging that your international reputation as a specialist in this group carries with it a duty to make a personal sacrifice involved in the study of this kind.

Hoping for a favorable reply, I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully yours,

C W Stiles

Secretary International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature.

according to the International Rules on Zoological Nomenclature.

It is hoped gradually to extend the studies to other genera.

Will you kindly take up the generic names of birds with the view to seeing how many you can agree upon unanimously as beyond question valid names according to the Rules, and how many you can agree upon unanimously as undoubtedly synonyms which may be more or less eliminated from zoological literature in the future.

I assume that you all have copies of the International Code.

It is my plan to publish the list of names upon which you agree, and to give notice to the zoological profession that I will wait six months for any zoologist to raise objection to any name contained in your report. It is then my purpose to submit your report to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature and ask for its confirmation.

As argument for your serving on this committee, I take the liberty of inviting your attention to the importance of the subject and of urging that your International reputation as a specialist in this group carries with it a duty to make a personal sacrifice involved in the study of this kind.

Hoping for a favorable reply, I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully yours,

Secretary International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature.