Ridgway Collection

P O Box 37
Albuquerque N M
Sept 23 - 1918

My Dear Mr Ridgway;

From day to day I have been hoping to write you - Yours 24th ult to came promptly, but I have been more unwell than usual; having felt unequal to the effort. The cooler weather is like soothing and invigorating draughts enabling me ~~now~~ to now do in a measure what has so repeatedly been much desired - To me it seems the chief misfortune of one sick is to have so much time and not be able to use it.

The Bulletin was also received, and I enjoyed reading and rereading Mrs Ridgways article - The publishers are due her an apology for the separation of the article. It is no wonder that one who is met at the gate by the little feathered innocents would be "homesick jes' the same".

I know the gentle soul that must be here, and would have you tender her my homage and respect.

I shall be very glad indeed to have the copies of Bird Lore. (Am sending herewith a few stamps to cover postage)

If gratefulness and enjoyment on the part of the recipient will repay you for the trouble, consider the account settled right now -

That somewhat curious bird the Roadrunner visited us yesterday. All was quiet about the place, and it made quite

an investigation about the house yard and chicken yard. The fowls were quite curious and some alarmed. The chickens however mostly sought "safety first" under the rose bushes. The young turkeys furnished the fun, craning, strutting, and "put"-"putting" around the visitor at a cautious distance. At each short forward gliding run of the stranger the turks gave good imitations of electric shock, but unabashed if not unafraid they seemingly worried their intruder away. Behind the front and side windows of my sick room I had a few minutes of unalloyed amusement and entertainment. Come again, slim friend!

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The most of my reading for the last five years has been in connection with the Holy Word of God. Next to that I feel comes the study of His creation here, and you are engaged in one of its, to me, most fascinating fields. Do you not surely see His hand in the many forms and their habits in your allotted field?

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Friend Rice wrote me that you have suffered much from impaired health this year, and that he had requested you to come with him for a rest. Quoting from his letter of July 9th ultº: "I have written him to come down here and rest. He should be made to do it, for the good of himself and the human race". It is hoped your health is not now disappointing, but I want to be allowed to add my solicitations to his

as far as propriety may permit in view of the short acquaintance with you — that you do so, and give our friend Rice that joy and comfort that will be his to have you with him for a needed rest.

I hope to again have a word from you when it is entirely convenient for you—

yours truly J N Johnson

Dr Robt Ridgway
Olney Ills

150/160/9000 3/150/240

160/80/240

Ridgway Collection

P O Box 37
Albuquerque N M

July 25 - 1918

Mr Robert Ridgway
Olney Ill

My Dear Mr Ridgway:

Yours 1st inst. It is highly appreciated - To partially compensate you for the pains and consideration it shows I wish to emphasize this appreciation and to heartfelt-ly thank you for it -

I am sorry that it is so that I am no Naturalist or Biologist, still the ~~birds~~ nature and habits of the birds and wild animals are to me always a source of keen interest and unalloyed enjoyment. I hope with return of a sufficient measure of health to resume your works, and so commune more fully with you and the birds -

As a lover of them, you can enter into the nature of my feelings when I first met with a great flock of the piñon jay in an isolated, sparsely cedared section of this state — the awe and wonder that was mine as I sat and watched them pass over and about me when at times I could have put out my hand in their path, and the music of their querulous, tremulous & weird notes heard for the first time in pleasurable deafening - Later with one of them as a pet I learned somewhat of the amazing extent of their vocabulary and of their cunning and sagacity - I lost my pet through an accident 10 years ago, but have not been relieved from grieving over the loss -

Sickness has prevented an earlier acknowledgment of your prized letter. I sincerely regret the added burden it put upon you at the time - This renders it the more valuable to me, and I shall preserve it, and let our mutual friend James Henry Rice know of it.

May God spare you to us for many, many years to come -

Yours truly, J. Nicholson Johnson