Bowdler Sharpe Collection

for food, taking plantains & Indian corn almost from hand. The only representatives of the Duck-tribe I have come across out here are the White-bodied Goose-Teal (Nettapus Coromandelianus) & the Whistling Teal (Dendrocygna arcuata I think) & after the many species I have been accustomed to see while shooting in Spain, Sicily & South Europe the difference is very noticeable.

Apologizing for troubling you

Believe me

Yours truly

L. R. Kelham Lieut,

74th Highlanders

Singapore

1 August 1877

Dear Mr Sharpe

I enclose a letter from my friend Mr Low, H. M.'s Resident in Perak, which will explain my object in writing to you.

For the last six months I have been with a detachment of my men 140 miles up the Perak River, at a place called Kwala Kangsar & have made as good a collection of the birds of the country as I could in the time, having obtained about ~~100~~ 110 different species. I could have got more but had no assistant having to hunt for, shoot, and preserve all the specimens myself which was almost more than I could manage, as the great heat soon destroyed birds, causing them

to decay very quickly, also the ants & rats were most troublesome, it was exceedingly difficult to keep anything from their ravages. Besides the birds from Perak, I have about 30 others, which I have got from Malacca & Singapore. Now, I may not return to England for another 2½ years & of course my collection would get ruined out here in the East, so at Mr Lowe's suggestion, I take the liberty of asking if you will allow me to send it to you, as at the Museum I know it would be safe. Of course I shall be only too happy if you care to make use of the specimens for Ornithological purposes, & shall be very glad to give you any information you may like to have about the birds, as, with scarcely an exception, I have observed & obtained them myself. Next December I purpose (unless anything unforseen happens) passing three months in the native States of the Malay Peninsular & hope to add considerably to my knowledge & collection of the Malayan birds, as I intend visiting parts of the country at present almost unexplored. While at Kwala Kangsar I had a large aviary containing Pigeons, Doves, etc. & several Pheasants, both Fire-backed & Argus. I have always heard that it is impossible to tame the Argus Pheasant (A. giganteus), but one of mine, a hen, used to come to me