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BALTIMORE, Dec 21 1901.

Mr Robt Ridgway
Ornithologist

Dear Sir

I wish to thank you for copy of Vol I Birds of North & Middle America, even if I am a table late, I sent acceptance card at once but have been so busy lately that it is only now that I have time to write you personally

The item in the preface, regarding nomenclature I endorse most thoroughly, it may be all very well for a thorough classical scholar to give a bird (for instance) a thoroughly classical name, but an ornithologist is not always a classical scholar and I can see no reason why his name should be discarded & the credit given to some one else who merely corrected his work, Accepting Dr Coues definition "that a name is only a name" & dont have to be any else, is the only salvation I can see in the premises

Is there anything new from Md or D.C. I will not have the opportunities I enjoyed in the past of calling on you so often

Resp yours J C Kirkwood