Bowdler Sharpe Collection

Medical Staff Hosp
Rawal Pindi
Punjab
July 28th 1890.

My dear Mr Sharpe

I daresay it will require an effort of memory on your part to recollect my bringing you a bird skin from the Shan States sometime last summer. You will recollect perhaps that I was anxious to go out to the same part of the world again but

which I could get in Rangoon with the help of Hardinge of the Phayre Museum) you would also have minor expenses such as ammunition arsenical soap &c which would not be much. The Government ought to give me extra carriage for the conveyance of specimens, the expense of this of course would be trivial. The great objection they may make in sending me will be the initial expense of sending me from here to Burma so if you know any of the big wigs at Simla who would help me to get what I want and would write to him, it would be good business. I have written to Seward

was unable to do it owing to my
Medical board refusing to let me
go out until the following January.
I hear from Scott who is still
out there, that an expedition on
the same lines as the Siamese
Boundary Commission will in all
probably go this cold weather across
the Salween to Kaeing Tung &
the Mekong river i.e. to the
Tongkin boundary. I have written
to the Surgeon General (my boss
out here) to ask permission to go
as doctor and at the same time
combine Natural History work.
As we shall go in the cold weather
when the time for insect & flowers
is almost over. I fancy more can
be done in the Ornithological line than
any other. I said also that I had
spoken to some of the British Museum
authorities, who took up the subject
warmly and would very possibly
give a small grant to pay for a
subordinate staff[x] (by this I mean
say two native bird skinners and a

[x This refers to expedition of last year]

Collett (now commanding in Assam)
to further my interests at head
Quarters and he tells I know do
so. I must ask you to recollect
that as I shall have to combine
doctoring and Natural history
the former must always take
precidence and if the sick list
is a large one — and it is not
the most healthy country in
the world — the results may
be small; but I think
there is a good chance of some
— thing

useful being done. In case they
ie the Big Wigs ask me for further
explanations could you send me
a letter which I could send them
stating what you & the other
authorities are willing to do in
the matter. With kind regards
to Oates

Believe me
Yours sincerely
Neville Maunders