

March 28, 1938.

Gordon B. Thompson, Esq.,  
53 Arodene Road,  
London S. W. 2, England.

My dear Thompson:

I was mighty pleased to receive your letter of March 11th, this morning, and to hear a little more of your activities.

I am sorry to hear that you have left the British Museum because it is refreshing to find as keen a worker as you evidently are, associated with a big institution. If I am not asking too much, may I inquire if you are now engaged in Commerce, working on ectoparasites as a side line, or if you are engaged in biological research with some other institution?

I feel that I have a great deal of material, including Mallophaga from marine and shore birds -- if only I could find time to relax them and put them into alcohol for mailing purposes. The trouble is that I have a most mixed diet of duties at this institution and I can rarely get more than one or two consecutive hours throughout the week to put upon my own work. Moreover, the University collections take up a lot of my time and the getting out of material and putting it away again for instruction purposes is one of the most annoying things that I have to perform. It seems to me such a foul waste of time for me to have to do so much routine work which could very easily be done by an assistant. On the other hand this institution has no money to provide such an assistant and therefore I have to do this routine work myself.

Last summer I was entirely alone in my camp on the ranges, without transportation of any kind, so that though I did accomplish a fair amount of concentrated writing-up work upon grasshoppers I feel now that it was only a fraction of what I could have done, and should have done, if I had had transportation. What I shall be doing this summer I do not know.

I managed to get material last summer for at least a first note upon the Fauna of certain birds' nests in this Province, especially dealing with Protocalliphora attacking nestlings. I worked it into some sort of paper last month but it will not be published until next spring.

I shall have the pleasure of sending you a copy of a paper which was published this winter, as soon as I receive separates from the printers.

With kind regards,

Yours very sincerely,