

May 18, 1937.

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My dear Thompson:

I believe that I have not had the good grace to write to you this spring, to thank you most cordially for the wonderful series of separates which you sent me sometime ago. When I looked them over I wondered how in the world you could find the time to do all the work involved, check the references, and then write up your findings. Your labours certainly seem to be varied.

As usual this letter seems to take the form of an apology. I have been frantically busy this spring and have not had the time to check over my material and to get it in shape for mailing. I owe several long-promised series of insects to men in different parts of this continent and to three places in Europe, and now, on the eve of going out into the field for my summer work, I find these separate parcels not yet sorted out for mailing. I beg of you to bear with me a few months longer.

To my great joy and for the first time in the eleven years that I have been in this Province, I am to have a part-time assistant next autumn. This will enable me to get my material sorted out and to send you the long-promised series of Mallophaga. On looking through my collections the other day I find that I have quite a long series taken from marine birds; this I shall send you as soon as I can get the material relaxed and transferred to labelled vials. I shall be glad of the identifications and of a return of a just amount of my material. You are at liberty to make use of the material for any publication.

I am just going into the field on my usual work on grasshoppers and I expect to be entirely alone most of the summer, sixteen miles from anywhere on the edge of timber and the open range, and -- without the services of a car -- therefore, for the first two months at least, since any moving about that I shall do will have to be done on foot, I expect to get a great deal of writing done. However, in the evenings I shall have time to collect some more ectoparasites and next autumn as soon as I can get organized I shall send you material in relays.

With kind regards and best wishes for a successful summer, I am

Yours very sincerely,