

Urbana, Illinois

January 20, 1913

Mr. Wells W. Cooke

Biological Survey

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Cooke:

As scientist to the Crocker Land Polar Expedition which will spend three years in scientific exploration and research in the Arctic Archipelago, beginning next summer, I am desirous of making as extensive contribution to ornithology as conditions and circumstances will permit, and consequently I am writing to ask you to advise me as to what problems in bird life I may expect to confront me, and what you consider the most promising fields for study. I shall appreciate any suggestions you may offer, and if agreeable to you I should like to speak for some of your lists for recording observations.

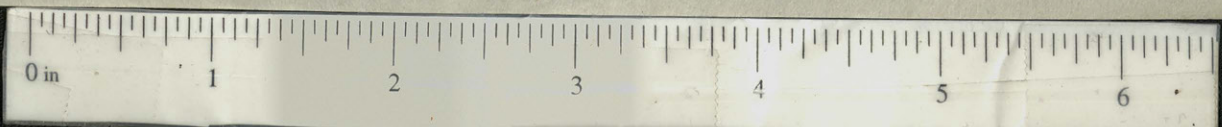
Thanking you in anticipation of your attention to this request, I remain

Yours sincerely

1103 West Springfield Avenue

Urbana, Illinois

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 3, 1913.

Mr. W. Elmer Ekblaw,
1103 W. Springfield Ave.,
Urbana, Ill.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter about ornithological observations in the Arctic, allow me to say that the number of different species of birds you will find after you reach your winter quarters will be so very limited that you ought to make a complete record of the birds of each species seen each day throughout the entire trip. Moreover, it would certainly be advisable to do this from the time you leave New York City until your return. Take a page of your notebook, put down the names of the birds on the side of the page, the date and place of observation at the top, drawing a vertical line for each date and then check off the birds seen. It ought not to take at the outset more than 15 minutes per day and you will then have an absolute record of all your bird observations. Of course this will be additional to more extended notes in another place on the habits, nests, eggs, etc. One of the special things to be looked for in that country is the egg of the Knot, but I am afraid you will be out on the ice away from land at the time in the spring when the bird ~~is~~ has eggs, i.e. the month of June. I enclose some migration schedules which I would like very much to have you fill out, using separate schedules for spring and fall observations.

Very truly yours,

Wells W. Cooke.

Assistant, Biological Survey.

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Urbana, Illinois

May 1, 1913

Mr. Wells W. Cooke

Bureau of Biological Survey

Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Cooke:

May I ask you please to send me a copy of your "Distribution and Migration of North American Shore Birds," Bulletin 35 of the Biological Survey, and another of your "Distribution and Migration of North American Ducks, Geese and Swans," Bulletin 26, Biological Survey; I shall have great need of them in my work in the North. Mr. A. C. Bent assures me I shall find them indispensable.

If it be no additional trouble to you to do so, will you please autograph them? And will you also please make any further suggestions that have occurred to you as being helpful to me?

Thanking you in anticipation of your early attention to my request, I remain

Sincerely yours

1103 West Springfield Avenue

Urbana, Illinois



