

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY

AT HARVARD COLLEGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

January 2, 1934.

Mr. Philip A. DuMont,
306 51st,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Mr. DuMont:

I have been meaning to answer your letter regarding Savanna and Grasshopper Sparrows but I haven't as yet finished with the former and so have delayed replying. As far as the former go I am still going to delay replying until Griscom and I get through and finally make up our mind what to call the bird in the Middle West.

Now for the Grasshopper Sparrows. In the first place I assembled a small series of our own birds which would have to be typical australis and another series which on geographic occurrence were undoubtedly bimaculatus. I then tabulated the measurements of these series, after which I measured up your birds. I might remark that the comparative series in the M.C.Z. was in comparable plumage with your specimens. After carefully comparing the birds in series together with the tables of measurements I am convinced that one of your birds from Winnebago County is certainly referable to bimaculatus; the other bird is more or less intermediate between the two forms. The bird from Johnson County and the series from Polk County are certainly australis and nothing else.

Your Herschell Island Savanna Sparrows are the same as those found throughout Alaska, but I am very glad to have seen them. One of your Savanna Sparrows is without doubt labradorius and about half the remainder nevadensis; the other half represent a plumage found rather commonly in the Middle Western States on the fall migration. I don't know just what this bird is yet.

I will return your birds all together when Griscom and I have finished with the Savanna Sparrows.

Very sincerely yours,

James L. Peters

Sat.

Dear Phil.

The stamp was off this letter so I opened it and this envelope I am mailing in, in order to write you.

Dad found the enclosed from the "Playhouse". There were two copies before Christmas, one I threw in the waste basket, after a hasty glance.

Your letter came yesterday, so glad you are getting a type writer, have wished for so long that we could be able to give you one.

Have not been out to start my bird list this year, except what comes here to feed, hope to walk out tomorrow. Walked over to Regies the day of the snow storm but she was not home, and no birds were out that day.

Think you did an interesting thing when you sent your specimens to Mr. Peters.

Long letter from Ethel yesterday, she spent 5 hours Christmas day picking 2 ducks.

Love.

Thorn.