

**"The Coloured Figures of the Birds of Australasia."**

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE A.O.U.

*Per favour of the Editors of "The Emu."*

As it will be necessary to ask for the loan of Australian skins for working up my book, "The Coloured Figures of the Birds of Australasia," I take this opportunity of asking all those who have collections, however small, to lend them to me.

If they are sent to me, care of the British Museum, I will pay all expenses, such as insurance, carriage, &c., to and from Australia. I am also prepared to buy any or all the collections sent, if a list of birds and the price is sent.

As will be seen from the following letter from Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, of the British Museum, all care will be taken of all the collections while in England.

It is important that collections be sent from all parts of Australia. But do not let each one think that someone else is sure to send, but let all who can send.

Hoping that all who have bird-skins will help,

Yours very truly,

GREGORY M. MATHEWS.

Langley Mount, Watford, England, 5/5/08.

DEAR MR. MATHEWS,—

As you are aware, our collection of Australian birds is by no means satisfactory, for, although most of the species are represented in the Museum, there are very few specimens with the exact localities, dates, &c.

You will, therefore, require the loan of many specimens, for the purpose of your work, from museums and collectors in Australia.

I write to say that any specimens sent to you on loan may be directed to this Museum to my care, and I will take every means to protect them. I shall be very grateful to anyone who is willing to help in the improvement of the national collection as regards Australian species.

Yours sincerely,

W. BOWDLER SHARPE.

British Museum (Natural History),

Cromwell-road, London S.W., 4th May, 1908.

[The Editors of "The Emu" have much pleasure in giving publication to these letters. What is good enough for Dr. Sharpe is certainly good enough for Australian ornithologists. Moreover, it is the boast of the citizens of the Commonwealth that they are the freest nation on the face of the earth, because they enact their own laws, &c. Here is a unique opportunity of making their own "History of the Birds of Australasia" by assisting Mr. G. M. Mathews in his great national undertaking.]