



1877-08-16

Letter from A[lexander] W. Drake to John Muir, 1877 Aug 16.

Alexander W. Drake

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J. G. HOLLAND,
ROSWELL SMITH,
SCRIBNER, ARMSTRONG & CO.

NEW YORK,

Aug 16th 1877.John Muir Esq.
Dear Sir.

I have just read your article on "The Humming bird of the California water falls" and am delighted with it. It offers a fine field for illustration. I write to see if you know of any picture of the bird that has been published and if so if you will please give me the title of the book in which it appeared. Your sketches will be of great use to our artists. I look upon and if not too much trouble I would like you to make several things of which I send the following list:

- no 1 One of the bird or birds flying about in the spray

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- 2 Diving in foaming eddies.
- 3 A view under water of the three Duzels feeding at bottom of the lake! This will make a novel and striking picture.
- 4 Duzels flying under water (this is important?)
- 5 Duzel entering ^{a white} torrent
- 5- Duzel swooping down the incline of cascades.

As none of our bird artists here have seen the ~~the~~ Duzel, it would be impossible for them to give any idea of how he flies without a sketch to guide them.

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I fear I am asking a great deal of you but will try and make such good use of the different subjects that you will feel it has not been in vain. Your sketches need not be finished but simply diagrams to guide our men in putting on the wood. I can send you sketches in most cases. I think of the subject we draw so that there will be no mistake. Hoping that you may be able to find time to draw where I am
 Yours truly
 A. H. Drake.

I enclose a copy of portion of my sketch. You might want it for reference.

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