



1902-12-14

Letter from author unknown to [Florence Merriam] Bailey, 1902 Dec 14.

Unidentified

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(Original in possession of Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey)

Martinez, California,
Dec. 14, 1902.

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

Many thanks for your magnificent bird-book.

I had already ordered a copy from your publishers, but the copy with your card came first. I have been reading it, tasting it here and there, and like it better far than I expected, which in your case, with so much experience in writing and first hand knowledge from long loving wanderings afield with such a brother and such a husband, is saying a great deal. Any naturalist might well be proud of carrying such an undertaking to so full and happy a conclusion. It is well proportioned, scientific but not too technical, and delightfully readable all through. It is easily the best book not only of the birds of the west, but we might almost say of The West in general; for the ground and the sky,- all the vast wild country is vividly pictured and described in it,-its weird deserts and cañons and wide flowery valleys, mountains and forests, lakes and streams.

I have not heard a word from your brother since he left us for home. I sent some nuts, raisins, etc. by Southern Pacific about ten days ago, hoping they would arrive in time for your Christmas dinner. Please hand him this shipping receipt so that he may know where to look for them.

With best wishes for you all and grand success of every kind for the new book, I am,

Sincerely yours,

P.S. The illustrations in general are superb, but that Mearns Quail with the head of an ancient Aztec in war paint or soap-root lather can hardly be a good likeness.

(Above is copy of a typewritten, unsigned letter)