

USAR Center, Louisiana Hall
Fort Myer, Arlington 8, Virginia
14 July 1961

Dear Lee:

I have a request to make today, that is a little out of my normal Mammals field, the realm of birds. However I do have some rudimentary knowledge of the Birds and their identification, based primarily on years of zoo travelling and museum identifications.

Lately I have been challenged on several species, even though some rather good reference works seem to bear me out. Today I find myself in a rather embarrassing position, one that threatens my present standing locally.

While I fully realise that you are quite busy (as is evident by your recent letters) however I would sincerely appreciate very much if you, or perhaps Bill Conway could send me the information requested below.

Can you send to me, written in a manner understandable to a layman, the physical differences between the species of birds listed below, as would pertain to a living bird.

Necrosyrtes monachus from a Pseudogyps africanus
Polyborus (Caracara) plancus from a Daptrius americanus
Milvago chimachima from a Milvago chimango
Tockus alboterminatus from a Tockus erythrorhynchus
Otis tetrax from a Eupodotis senegalensis
Mycteria americana from a Tantalus loculator (is there a synonym?)
Coereba flaveola from a Cyanerpes cyanea
Himantopus h. melanurus from a Himantopus h. mexicanus

^{with collar}
Any information, no matter how slight, will pull me out of a situation into which I have found myself, one of great importance to me.

I have written to Anghi over the Platypus, and as soon as I receive a reply will send you news.

I now plan to visit the zoo for several days at the first of October, immediately after the Rochester meetings, and will attempt at that time to go over all of the Mammal cards.

Washington Zoo recently received a good looking pair of young Siamang Gibbons, which completes the collection of Great Apes. Baby Gorilla is looked for at any time. Keeper on constant watch, and all attempts will be made to let the female raise it herself.

Best regards to all

