

It is one of the commonest
songs here, and I want to
know if it is general.

Do you recollect that I
have to come to you with
descriptions as these!

I know their defects, however,
which is more than can be
said in behalf of some types.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Florence A. Merriam

Mr. Wm. Brewster,
Cambridge, Mass

Florence Merriam
Locust Grove, N. Y.

July 20, 1887

July 20, 1887.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

You are so witty for your
ornithological sake that I
am going to you with some of
the questions that other
'wise men' can not answer.

What is it that says
kick-ah-kick-kee-ougli
in the woods in spring?

Do you know a sparrow
that would be likely to be
found in a swamp
corresponding to the description

that I copy from my note
book, under date of May 19th.

Sat very still on small tree in
the middle of swamp singing

q q q q q q q
whee he' he' he' he' he' he'

for some time; then flew onto the
ground. Dark brown above,

small spots below, Dark
through eyelid, light around.

The bird was in the same
place singing loudly for
several days and then
disappeared.

The two following songs I
was forced to attribute
to the Fox Sparrow - do
you recognize them as his? -

whee' whee' whee' tee tee' he whee' tee

q q q q q q q

and

oh he o-h-o-h oh-oh

q q q q q q q

Are you familiar with a
bleating ba-ah-ah in the
form of a rapid run, from
the Wilson Thrush?

Miss F. Merriam
Jan. 15, 1888

Dear Mr. Allen
about the Central Park
list, and I hope to brow-
beat Hart into producing a
list for Washington.

My mother and I expect
to start for California in a
few weeks, and I am
anticipating some delightful
field work there.

With cordial remembrance
and many thanks for
your notes and suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Florence A. Merriam
William Brewster,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Locust Grove, N. Y.,

Jan. 15, 1888.

My dear Mr. Brewster;

Although I have
neglected thanking you
for the letter you wrote
me last summer, I think
I sent you a copy of
the Dreamer Audubon to
show you the help you
wrote for me.

As to your suggestion
about collecting Thoreau's
bird-love, I can only
say that my ignorance
is too great and my courage

too small. It would
be more than presumptuous
for me to comment on
his notes, for many of the
birds he speaks of, I have
never seen at all. And
while the process of collecting
and arranging the notes
would undoubtedly teach
me a great deal, I
could not undertake it
now. And when the work
is done, it should be
with comments and
corrections.

I am at work now
revising the series of

Audubon Sketches - Hints
to Audubon Workers; that
I have sent you one or
two copies of; and I
am very anxious to get a
list - of the birds - migrant
and residents - found on
Boston Common, to put in
with one for Central Park
and some others to show
people what birds they
are overlooking every day.

Now, do you know of
any such list, and if so,
can you tell me where
I can get it? I

Homer A. Merriam

brain from puzzling July 30, 1890
for

baby warblers, alone.

With cordial remembrances

My truly yours,

Homer A. Merriam.


Locust Wood, New York.

July 30, '90.

Dear Mr. Brewster;

Hart has sent you two
nests I wanted him to
identify, as he has none for
comparison, and asks me to
write you about them.

The small one, made of
birch bark, was in the wood in a
cove, I believe - about
four feet from the ground

in a crotch made by the
branching of the stem -not!

The other was only a foot
or so from the ground, by the
side of one of our woods roads.

We did not discern them
until they were decanted.

The birch nest we suppose
must be a chestnut-sided
warbler, but we do not know.

Mrs is the best
authority on birds just

out of the nest - on their
plumage, I mean?

Mrs. Miller and I
have had a delightful
two months in our woods,
but she leaves this week
just at the most
exciting time of all -
when the young migrants
are coming down - and
I expect to bring on

Flourence A. Merriam.

Sept. 6. 1890.

a gray squirrel that
comes out of the woods
and, not only onto the
piazza, but into the
house for nuts, codkins,
and whatever else her
marked taste permits.

Thanking you cordially
for your help about the
nests. Sincerely yours,
Flourence A. Merriam.

Loewitson, N. Y.,

Sept. 6, 1890.

Dear Mr. Brewster;

I am mortified at
my laziness. Such
negligence is deplorable.
I pity myself for being
capable of it!

You have revolutionized
my ideas of redstarts' nests.
I had taken it for granted

that they always built
compact solid nests
because, forsooth, Stom 3
had known had done so!
Such is the folly of
generalization.

I am delighted that
you have given up
shooting. Now if you
will only write what
you see, Mrs. Miller

and I will have
nothing more to ask.
It seems a pity that any
of your kind of material
should be lost.

The paper you spoke of
sending has not reached
me, but perhaps it may
still, if it was misrouted.

We have been enjoying
a new pet, this summer—

Merriam - F. A.
Dec. 26, 1895.

1919 - 16th St. Washington, D.C.
Dec. 26, '95.

Dear Mr. Brewster;

It is astonishing what
rest for the soul may lie in a
big white snowdrift at the
foot of a rock! I suppose
such consolations come only to
the favored mortals whose
youth has been spent snowshoeing
on pine tops; threading hemlock
swamps where snow showers
blew from the white weighted

boughs; and when deer-thong
snow has made music on
the crisp crust by moon-
light - mercury - 22° !

So many 'Honeywood'
pictures refresh me as I look
at your beautiful still
Concord woods. I can't keep
my mind on - California birds.

It will be a genuine rest
to have this picture on my
table this winter when my
mind is on my western pictures

and I thank you heartily
for giving this northern
snuff to my horizon.

Sincerely,

Horace A. Merriam

Locust Grove, U. S.

Dec. 4, '97.

My dear Mr. Brewster;

I thank you very much for your careful account of the cat-proof juice. I wish I had asked you about it a year ago. I trusted to my memory of what you told us in Washington, and so have not all the details, and now can correct only the mis-statements.

My father, I am sorry to say, is not gaining as we had hoped. He is still very ill.

If he is able to get away and

Merriam - Florence A.
Dec. 4, 1897.

will enough for me to leave him,
 Mrs. Miller and I plan to go west
 in January. She will be with me
 two months, in Arizona and California,
 and then return, while I go on to
 Oregon to do field work. If all
 comes out as we hope, I shall be
 with Hart on Shasta next summer.
 Is it that a glorious prospect!

With cordial remembrances to
 Mr. Brewster and Miss Lyman,
 Sincerely,
 Florence A. Merriam.