

The last baby wren flew from the nest early yesterday morning. A robin has a nestful of wobbly-headed babies in the liquidambar tree.

That *Danthornia* is puzzling. I am used to the smaller form (short-toothed) around here in abundance and I thought this red jointed, long toothed form was distinct when I saw it growing in Delaware and New Long Island. There is another case of one species or two on the Pacific coast. The only difference between *D. californica* Boland and *D. americana* Scribn. is that in the

Grass Herbarium, Aug. 8, 1921

Mr. Walter Deane,

Rhelburne, N. H.

Dear Mr. Deane,

recd  
Aug 10.

Thank you ever and ever so much for the delightful picture of yourself and the humming bird which came in the last mail. The letter and the two beautiful postals came this morning. Miss Brown is a wonderfully good photographer. I never knew before what a humming bird did with its feet while it hovered. The wings give ex-

actly the impression of locust wings that they do in life. Is it red clover that is in the glass with the water? I am delighted to have this picture and shall certainly frame it - I should have done so any way.

I do not know whether or not humming birds have come to the glasses outside the back porch, but wasps did - Big black wasps with white rings around the end of the abdomen (like the possum's tail.) I had put out a saucer of jilly

skimmings with water covering it for bees - they eat up all my skimmings every year. When I got home the other evening I beheld a rough and tumble fight going on among dozens of wasps around the nearly empty saucer. The glass, some distance away was licked dry. Three wasps were dead. The cement top of the post was completely covered with little <sup>footprints</sup> ~~footsteps~~ a few inches about saucer and glass, thinning out beyond.



first the sheaths are glabrous,  
in the second pubescent. Both  
vary greatly in size. The  
pubescence is all the way from  
a very few scattered hairs to  
a conspicuous covering. The  
two are given as distinct in  
the western botanies - but I  
have my doubts. To add to  
the difficulty *D. grandiflora*  
Phil. of Chile (not Hachet earlier)  
the basis of *D. americana* is  
described as having sheaths  
pilose on the margin only,  
so that the type is in the  
middle instead of at the  
extreme.

I should think with Harvard

to draw upon Dr. Robinson  
ought to have a fine lot of  
understudied - "apprentices" Dr.  
Veblen (Higher Learning in Amer-  
ica) calls post graduate students.  
He certainly developed young  
Harley Barthlett - but Michigan  
gets the benefit. My own  
idea is that the arranging  
of a herbarium, distributing  
critically, revising groups  
as revisions appear and  
identifying material that  
comes in is just the best  
apprenticeship a systematist  
can have - with field work  
of course. When youth escapes  
a systematic revision fresh

from college "the revision does  
not stand. We have several  
such done by the young  
men under Prof. Scribner. As  
Dr. Merrill said a few years  
ago "I was too young when I  
did Spartina."

I am going to make  
jelly again tonight - I wonder  
what tomorrow will bring  
forth about the skinomings.

Thanking you most  
heartily for the photograph.

Yours sincerely  
Agnes Chase



Chase, Agnes. 1921. "Chase, Agnes (née Merrill) Aug. 8, 1921." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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