

1
Vireo Solitarius sings
as I write.

* F. SCHUYLER MATHEWS *

* EL FVREIDIS *

* BLAIR N. H. *



P. O. PLYMOUTH, N. H.

July 23rd/24

Dear Mr. Druce

I am quite late in reporting
"All's well" at this end of the line! But, as usual
time inexorably goes on irrespective of human
activity, tides, and river currents! We came here
May 27th - began almost immediately on renovations
etc., on this much-neglected cottage; almost
2 mos have passed, & yet I can see no end
of "jobs" crying out for the doing! We had
carpenter, painter & paperer at work, yet in no
one particular has the "job" of each been
absolutely completed. I always say my "job"
of the handy man about the house is like New
York city! It is never finished! Yet we have a
new window pushed thru the roof in our small
bath-room, 2 rooms have been covered with nice
looking linoleum, 3 rooms are freshly papered,
the piazza painted & the steps renewed, & many
little ordinary repairs are completed, includ-
ing the painting of walls & ceiling in the kitchen
& best of all, a very satisfactory linoleum,
(Congoleum so-called) over the floor. Full Miss
Brown Mrs Mathews is delighted with that
innovation, & when she must of necessity
spend much time in the kitchen, the new

and attractive "setting" is really her pride -
We have an efficient & satisfactory colored
woman this summer, for which, the Lord be
thanked - it is an unequalled blessing, in spite
of the — melaniferous variety, from the
Barbadoes. But she is of the good old
"Maumey" type, gentle, kind & very respectful.
Gwenie came about the latter end of June
with all the family. Frank had to return
the Sunday night after (they arrived Saturday)
2½ days, en route, & he couldn't spare more
time. All are well & the pictures of health.
About a week ago we went up to Cherry Mt.,
there met Margaret Allen Hubbard, her 2
children, & a Mrs. Bates with her 2 little
ones — 6 children in all, our Edwin the eld-
est, scarcely 7 yet! Quite a "kiddery" & all as
good as could be. It was 53 miles run for
Gwenie at the wheel. 106 m^s in all. We
returned about 7.35 (Dayl. Sat^y) Carrie did
not go, but they insisted that I should — so I
obeyed. You see, our circumstances are such
that someone, must stay home, or of Nellie.
Don't like to leave her alone even with Sarah
the colored maid!

However, we plan in next week, to get undecided
date, to go to Randolph & bring Katherine
back. (She left us at Cherry Mt., & went on
to Randolph with Margaret to spend a week

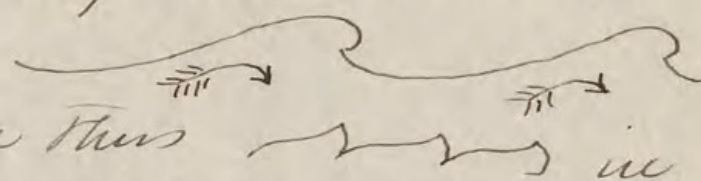
at the Mt. New home).² We shall take 2 days
to do it & G. the children & Carrie & I will
stay over night in Randolph, This is as
much as we can do. This I greatly regret
we can not go on to Shelburne & see you
& Miss Brown for a few minutes.

Prof. Moore, & Alfred & his wife, stopped
a while here en route for Randolph, on
July 3rd Mr. Moore looked better than
I expected, but older. He lost his wife, you
know shortly after we left Cambridge.

In all this confusion of work about the
collage in June, I had to keep close as
possible at my easel. There were yet 15
more drawings of Viola to do, 2 of which
had to be copies of "cuts" in the "For. Bull."
drawings of Philip Dowell. You will probably
recollect Dowell's work on Viola. These I trans-
lated into my own style of technique copy-
ing only the exact form & diagnostic points
shown in the Dowell drawings - which, by the
way, were most excellently done. I have now
completed 90 separate drawings for Dr.
Brauer's Bulletin (or I should properly
say, book), all of which are exact copies
from life, from my copies from Dowell
& Miss Eaton - perhaps 6 of them, are not

really copies, but interpretations with models of actual Viola leaves before me.

The "toothing" of Viola, it is well to remember, is founded upon an "O.G." error with the "Greek scroll" Thus =

nothing like serration thus  in any respect whatever: The line of growth of "cells" is indicated by my arrows! One has lots to learn in botany aside from "Systems" and "physical" character.

I have finished Dr. B.'s work & I hope it will be acceptable to the botanists. It seems to me his study of hybridism thru the medium of Viola is an extremely important one.

I have recently been reading Bishop Gore's most excellent books, Belief in God, Belief in Jesus Christ, Belief in the Holy Spirit. They are really wonderfully clear, Theological works of greatest importance in this recent Crisis among the Churches, in an old hand in Theological studies, & I have at least 2 scores of important works by many authors. But I always "fought shy" of German materialism, & now so late ^{as} a writer as Dr. Harnack, does not appeal to me. I much no, I am always been conservative and averse to any "A priori" argument based upon prejudice one way or the other. What we know today is only the beginning of what may be known in

the future & Dr. Harry Fosdick's liberalism
seems to me absolutely right & cannot be
justly challenged. I stand beside
Fosdick solidly.

Again, in the realm of science, I have
read Dr. Millikan, Prof. Harrow, & Alf. J.
Lotka. All three have lately published valuable
papers in Harper's Mag. Read Lotka, in May 1924
Also, there's an important paper in the May or
June number of "Scientist" read that too. I am
amazed that such deeply scientific subjects
should be acceptable to the editors of popular
Mags! They in no wise differ from the papers
I am familiar with in Scientific Journals.
And, by the way, I recently read my "July,
Cuck" and was correspondingly amazed to read
Nichols & Wheeler's article — "A systematic study
of the construction of the Song of the Song Sparrow."
This is what I found in the first ¶s. — "We
are not aware, however, that any analytical, sta-
tistical study thereof (the song sparrow's song) has been
published." Also, "Musical notation is almost
out of question in a case of this sort: Such nota-
tion does not clearly show the construction of
(^{parenthesis mine} bird, of course) the songs!"

Alas! has my more than 20 years close study
of Bird-Song construction and character come
to naught, in such sentences as the above would
imply? If, as the writer says "song" (of any
description) cannot be adequately expressed

by the essentially Scientific signs of Music
called Musical Notation, then the structure
of no song, no Symphony, orchestral or other-
wise, can be adequately rendered by the
Orchestra, or human voice, or, in the case
of bird-music—the human whistle.

Think, to sum it up in the "vergate" is
"Boke"—a most complete fallacy.

I shall modestly suggest to Mr. Nichols,
that he might refer to the numerous
notations of the Song Sparrow in my book
which are the result of more than 25
years study! Details, not necessary in sup-
port of facts are not recorded in my book,
Analytical tho they be. But surely the
"Music of the Thrushes" (pg XXXVII in my Field-
book, 1921) dealing with the musical scales is
Analytical enough to satisfy the most ex-
acting critic! Not less is the full page of
"Song variations of 4 individuals" (Song Sparrows) on
pg. 113 same book.

I lent to you, July 1915, a copy of these
records, & also one to my ornithological
friends Prof. & Mrs. Mc Gilme of Middlebury
Coll. Vt.

It is no valid excuse for the ornithologist
to plead lack of knowledge of music, if he deals

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with music — as he does with bird song. He should deal with it Scientifically. For example, pg 451 of the Auk. "Pitch" cannot be translated as quality, or, what is called "timbre." Pitch is relating high or low tone, NOTHING ELSE!

Tho. I, too, have used "seigns" in my book like those on pg 446 of the Auk. I used them because I knew some — yes, many or most of my readers would be unscientific people, and I was justified in using any or all possible means to prove my case before the layman. It is deplorable to find, therefore, unscientific methods employed in a Scientific Journal! But the writer in this case is excusable; he, with most other Scientists, fails to discover the science of Art. And music, I presume, is Art & nothing more in ^{the} popular mind! But enough. I'm fairly well, but not as strong as I'd like to be, so my own study of Color evolution in flowers is deferred for a time. Hope you & Miss Brown are very well, all of us send not less than

our lov^d - children included. I
wish you could see them. Cupid & Psy-
-che both!

Ever Cordially Yours

Wm Douglas Matthews



Mathews, F. Schuyler. 1924. "Mattews, Ferdinand Schuyler Jul. 23, 1924."
Walter Deane correspondence

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