

34 Grosvenor Avenue,
Ottawa, Ontario,
September 10, 1930.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.,
Principal of McGill University,
Montreal, Quebec.

Dear Sir:

There is a very real need at the present time for a chair of Ornithology in some Canadian university. Birds are a large and important class of living creatures, which enter into the personal experience of every one and are of great economic and aesthetic interest. The relations between birds and our cultivated crops, our forests, and our fisheries are of prime importance, and the continued maintenance of an adequate stock of wild game birds is a pressing and difficult task. It is estimated that insect-eating birds save Canadian farmers at least \$100,000,000 annually, and figures recently compiled place the annual turn-over in Canadian business based on the sport of hunting game birds at not less than \$7,000,000.

A multitude of economic research problems relating to our valuable stock of wild birds require investigation, while bird life also offers a rich field for inquiries of a purely scientific character. Yet ornithological research is neglected in all Canadian universities and the Canadian government maintains no corps of scientists, such as the United States has in its Bureau of Biological Survey, to deal with economic questions relating to birds as they affect this country.

The education of every Canadian should include reliable elementary instruction concerning our native birds, which are an important part of his environment, but this condition will not come into existence until, among our universities, there are provided academic recognition of the value of the subject, leadership in its development, and facilities for advanced instruction and training.

In the United States, Ornithology is now an elective undergraduate subject in a large number of universities and degree-granting colleges. Facilities for graduate research and instruction in Ornithology, leading to the Ph.D. degree, are provided by Cornell, Harvard, University of Michigan, University of Chicago, and University of California, at least. At Cornell, the annual elementary course in Ornithology enrolls forty to sixty students, the advanced courses, which alternate with each other, enroll ten or twelve students, and the number of graduate students in Ornithology in residence at one time is eight or ten. Canadians wishing to obtain academic instruction, either elementary or advanced, in this subject must still leave the country to do so.

McGill University is the most suitably situated of any Canadian university for including Ornithology in its curriculum, not only because of its large size and its central position in the region of dense population, but especially because it is already the fortunate possessor of the Emma Shearer Wood Library of Ornithology, which is much the finest