

ferrets are getting on all right. I had a fight with a fellow the other day, because he hit me in the eye during dinner, and I licked him easily. He was hardly as tall as me, but a good bit heavier and stronger. We are having rare jolly weather now. I went to Start Point on the whole holiday, and did not go on the boating expedition after all, as I particularly wanted to go to Start Point to get some more gulls' eggs. I will send you a list of the eggs I have got this term. The two seagulls' were very hard set, and so were the chaff-chaffs'. I am going to hard-boil the seagulls' and try and make the chin-chaffs' rot away, as if I boiled them they would crack, because the shell is so thin. I got the five bob you sent me. Thank you very much indeed for it, as I was afraid when I wrote that I should get it too late.—Your loving son,

EDWARD A. BAIRD.

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XVII.

H.M.S. *Britannia*.

13th July 1884.

MY DEAR MOTHER,—Will you ask Kitty whether she is quite sure that they are young bullfinches that she knows, as the ones we got last year were not bullfinches at all, but linnets? Tell her a bullfinch makes its nest entirely of sticks, and the young birds have got huge great ugly-shaped beaks, and if you put your finger in them they bite awfully hard. I am glad to hear that six young ferrets have been born, and I hope that they will all live.