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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### Albatross Specimens.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK:'

During the past few years, I have been studying the comparative anatomy of the Tubinares with considerations of bird anatomy in general. I am in great need of specimens of *Diomedea nigripes*, the Black-footed Albatross, and I could use five or six specimens to advantage. This bird is stated to be common on the North Pacific Ocean. I would also be glad to have specimens of any other albatrosses. Any suggestions as to how I may obtain the desired material will be very gratefully received. I shall be glad to pay a reasonable price for the material.

Specimens collected should be placed in either formalin or alcohol but I prefer formalin which is also cheaper and easier to carry on a collecting trip. The formalin may be made up as a 10% solution, i. e., 9 parts of water with 1 part of formalin or formol as it is often called. A solution of

even only half this strength will do fairly well for a few days. One incision only which may be about three inches long, should be made in the ventral abdominal wall just to one side of the median line. The bird should then be placed in the formalin solution which should if possible be several times the bulk of the bird. If large containers are not available, a smaller amount of the solution may be used but it should be changed twice during the following week. Specimens should be kept in the formalin solution for a week or more, after which they may be wrapped for shipment with cotton which has been soaked in the same solution. Oiled paper or something equally impervious should cover this, and the package may then be packed in a box for shipment. Shipments should be addressed care of the Laboratory Supply Department, Room 10 Botany Building, University of Chicago.

Very truly yours,

R. M. STRONG.

Hull Zoölogical Laboratories, The University of Chicago.

November 3, 1913.

### 'Teaching A Bird Course.'

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK:'

In the Review of my paper on 'Teaching a Bird Course' which appeared in the January, 1913 'Auk,' the reader is led to believe that the course in Ornithology which I give at the University of Chicago is designed only for those who wish to learn to identify birds. This interpretation of my paper is probably due to the fact that most of my discussion dealt with pedagogical problems of field work and identification of specimens. As a matter of fact, the lectures which occur twice a week, cover a field almost equal in credit value to the balance of the course. Taxonomy occupies a very small place in the lectures. They are devoted primarily to bird morphology and physiology, including also such topics as migration and behavior.

Very truly yours,

R. M. STRONG.

The University of Chicago,

November 3, 1913.