

Felch wants to send Marsh some probable bird bones found by McGuin who is currently working for Lucas who is not working for Cope at this time.

Canon City, Colorado
Sept. 11th, 1881

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

A friend of mine, Mr Geo. B. McGuin who is in the employ of Lucas and Cope digging fossils from the beds you visited while here – on the hills west of my place – recently found some small bones not far from the point where Baldwin procured the specimen he sent you.

The bones are mostly only fragments – but there are among them several vertebrae bi-concave well preserved with the exception of the processes having mostly crumbled away - and he has also several articulations that are quite perfect – and I think they answer the description so well that Williston gave me of bird bones that I have prevailed on him to send them to you for examination – on condition that if they should be of any special value you would satisfy him – and if they were not they should be safely returned to him. I cannot give any accurate description – but am satisfied in a general way they are of a higher order than any that have been found here yet. The joints are more symmetrical – clearer cut and sharper defined than any bones large or small than have ever been found here in the Saurian beds – one in particular I compared with the metatarsal joint of a chickens leg – and the fossil seemed to me as nearly perfect as the chicken bone.

If you would like to examine them while he prospects for more – on the conditions mentioned please write and he will forward them by mail. I would say on behalf of McGuin - he violates no compact with Cope – in letting you have them as he is only employed for month by Lucas

Respectfully
M. P. Felch

A telegram from Marsh in answer to Felch's letter of September 11th, 1881.

September 18th, 1881

To M.P. Felch, Cañon City, Colorado

~~Many thanks.~~ Please have specimens sent by mail in tin can. Registered.