

**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. 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 1881.**

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1881  
To M.P. Felch, Cañon City, Colorado

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