

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2006

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VOL. CLV . . . No. 53,684

Letters

Humboldt's Travels

To the Editor:

Candice Millard, in her review of Aaron Sachs's "Humboldt Current" (Aug. 13), mistakenly wrote that Alexander von Humboldt "felt a deep

connection to the United States, where ... he spent five years, from 1799 until 1804, traveling through the country, and 30 years writing about it." In fact, Humboldt and his companion Aimé Bonpland spent most of those years in Latin America and only six weeks in the United States. And most of Humboldt's travel writing was about Latin America. Although he influenced American naturalists, they were not the exception but the rule: Humboldt had a tremendous impact on all naturalists of his and subsequent generations, from Charles Darwin down.

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The writer is the chairman of the department of biological sciences at Arkansas State University.

A letter to the editor on Aug. 27 about the German naturalist Alexander von Humboldt misspelled the writer's given name. He is Aldemaro Romero, not Aldemoro.