

Route 4, Box 33
Santa Fe, N. M.

22 December 1960

Mr. Crawford H. Greenewalt
Du Pont Building
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Mr. Greenewalt:

I have recently acquired your beautiful and amazing book on Hummingbirds. Everybody I know, and I too, consider it a great contribution to ornithology and to the art of bird photography. You have certainly mastered in an extraordinarily short period of time the technique of photographing this very interesting group of birds.

As a bird photographer myself I was especially interested in the last chapter of the book. Being one of the few people who is willing to go to the trouble to carry around great quantities of heavy equipment I would appreciate very much your sending me the detailed information on circuits and specifications which was inappropriate for inclusion in that chapter.

My equipment is similar to yours but even heavier. I use three battery driven power packs of 167 watt-second output each which operate FT 220 flask tubes. The voltage is lower than yours so that the flash duration is only 1/3500 sec. - short enough for many kinds of flight pictures, even some hummingbirds, but not always. The advantage I have, however, is in more light output. I am able to use two lamps for side lighting and still make exposures at $f/32$ to $f/45$ on 4x5 daylight Ektachrome. I also use an electric eye device for tripping the shutter.

What interests me in your equipment is its apparent compactness and automatic features; the transistorized circuits, the tripping device and the film changing mechanism and coupling. Also your power supply: what voltage is it and from what type of battery?

I have been working for years, off and on, on photographing the warblers of the United States and Canada of which there are approximately 55 species. I have photographed 33 so far. When and if I finish the remaining 22 I shall probably start thinking about Mexico. They are all photographed perched or in flight at their nests which is the only way I know of doing it, and means a lot of work hunting them out.

To make this work a little surer and less arduous I am appealing to you by one of your own methods: namely, begging for help. I hope you will forgive this imposition on your time and patience, and you may be sure that whatever assistance you care to give me will be greatly valued and appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Eliot Porter