

CRAWFORD H. GREENEWALT
DU PONT BUILDING
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

January 23, 1961

Mr. Eliot Porter
Route 4, Box 33
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Porter:

Your two letters of January 19 and 20 arrived this morning. Let me first say that I would never think it an "importunity" for you to send me any of your pictures. They are beautiful and I enjoy very much having them.

Let me answer the question in your second letter first. After considerable searching I had the great majority of my color plates made at the Princeton Polychrome Press, 8 Charlton Street, Princeton, New Jersey. Mr. David O. Johnson is President. It is a small company specializing in color work. Johnson is an ex-employee of Eastman Kodak Company who was in their graphic arts department and decided to go into business for himself with Eastman's blessing. I am glad you agree that he does excellent work and against U.S. standards it is surprisingly inexpensive. He charged me \$220 for a set of four plates for each hummingbird image. The various images were combined to make about six to what is called a "flat," so that the \$220 price was an average. He charged me an additional \$100 if it was necessary, as it was in some cases, to dub in a new background. On the printing also his prices were not excessive and in fact considerably less than were charged by a much larger commercial establishment in Philadelphia. He has a small outfit and is willing to take the pains necessary to do good work.

There is only one fly in the ointment. I doubt that Princeton Polychrome is equipped to do good black and white printing. In my book the color plates were all "tipped in," so Princeton Polychrome

printed them on paper stock as a separate venture and the finished plates were tipped into the book, printed by Edward Stern & Company, after binding. I don't know whether this will fit your proposed book or not but if it does we can heartily recommend the Princeton Polychrome Press. Since Princeton, as you know, is very near New York you might find it worth while to drop by and see Johnson when you are in the east.

Now back to your letter of the 19th. I do think I can help you with respect to your photocell problem. The setup I have is extremely sensitive, so much so that when I am photographing hummingbirds or other birds in flight outdoors I simply turn the photocell to the sky and there is enough effect when the bird flies past to trigger the shutter. Indoors, of course, I must use artificial illumination, as must also be done when daylight is fading. The flashlight I use has one of the grain of wheat bulbs with a collimating lens which produces a fairly thin pencil of light. The grain of wheat bulb is driven by two pencil-type mercury batteries and the batteries last about twenty hours.

You speak of using crossed beams. I have never found such beams necessary since by a little intelligent placement of the photocell and the beam of light hitting it, a single beam usually suffices.

The photocell itself is at the end of an aluminum tube about $3/4$ " in diameter and perhaps 6" long. The photocell itself, which is very tiny, is placed at the focus of a lens which fits inside the aluminum tube. With this arrangement all of the light coming down the barrel of the tube is focused on the active surface of the photocell. The amplifier and triggering device, which I described to you previously, is driven by two 22-1/2-volt hearing aid batteries. These will last for an entire season.

Since you have plans to come east, I think it would be much better if you saw for yourself and perhaps you could experiment with my equipment to get the feel of it. Then you could decide whether you want any of it or not. If you should decide that you do, the technician who built my units would probably

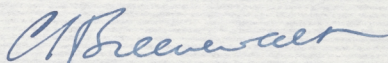
be willing to build them for you. He also is here in Wilmington and you could discuss it with him directly.

Now finally as to time. I find my month of April fairly restricted. My wife and I are planning a week's holiday in Bermuda the last week in March, from which we shall be returning on April 1 or 2. M.I.T. is having its Hundredth Anniversary celebration during the following week and I am afraid I shall have to be there for part of it since I am a member of the Corporation but perhaps can restrict my attendance to the week end of the 8th. On the evening of April 19 we depart for a two weeks' business trip in Europe. So there you are. Should your plans fit in with a trip to Wilmington during the first two weeks of April, we would be delighted to see you. Simply because I would have more time, some time during the week end of April 15 would be best for me, but I certainly don't want to tie you down. Why don't we leave it that you will let me know as soon as your plans are firm and we will try and fit in some time together.

One further thought occurs to me. I could quite easily send out to you the control box for triggering the camera plus a photocell and the necessary connecting cords. Perhaps even complete with solenoid if you could tell me which of your cameras you wish to use it on. You could then try it out to your heart's content and see for yourself how well or how badly it operates under your circumstances. If we could do it promptly before the spring nesting starts it would be no trouble to me as I have spares in any event.

I hope all of this will be of some use to you. I gather, by the way, that our sons were classmates at Harvard. Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Breuer".

CHG:mh