

469 Maple St.
Winnetka, Illinois

January 6, 1946

Mr. Henry Allen Moe
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation
551 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Moe:

I am sending you herewith a copy of a report which, I believe, I sent you early in 1942. It is a statement of the work I accomplished during the period of my Guggenheim Fellowship.

In the subsequent period and up to the present time I have been occupied in a variety of ways. In February 1942 I went to Washington seeking a position in the Armed Services wherein I hoped to be able to use my photographic abilities. Nothing came of these efforts and after two weeks I returned to Illinois to apply for a commission in the Air Corps, which I had been strongly advised was in great need of photographers. While waiting to hear from my application I received a polite letter of rejection from Rear Admiral H. W. Smith, MC, USN Chief of Research Division of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery with whom I had discussed the possibility of obtaining a position in photographic aspects of medical research.

Since I did not hear from my Air Corps application I continued to photograph birds in Illinois and in Maine during the spring and summer months of 1942. I made Kodachrome and black and white photographs of the following species:

yellow-billed cuckoo
yellow-bellied flycatcher
blue jay
bobolink
red-winged blackbird
meadowlark
cardinal
slate-colored junco
red-eyed towhee
barn swallow

red-eyed vireo
yellow-breasted chat
catbird
brown thrasher
house wren
short-billed marsh wren
white-breasted nuthatch
olive-backed thrush
robin
bluebird

During the summer it became apparent that no action was to be expected on the Air Corps application. With the help of a friend, however, I obtained a position at the Radiation Laboratory at M. I. T. in Cambridge, where I remained from September 1942 until the middle of July 1944. I left the Radiation Laboratory and returned to Illinois to continue photography becoming associated with The National Audubon Society as a photographer on a non-salary basis. The chief advantage of this arrangement is that I have access to the Societies sanctuaries and receive aid from its wardens.

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Last spring and summer I had hoped to be able to make a southern photographic trip for the Audubon Society, but the continued gasoline shortage ruled it out. Fortunately, however, a trip to Maine did become possible and I was able to do a considerable amount of photography there last summer. Pictures of the following species of birds were made, some of which I had photographed before, but of which I obtained better pictures than previously:

downy woodpecker
black-capped chickadee
Acadian chickadee
white-throated sparrow
song sparrow
chipping sparrow
spotted sandpiper
alder flycatcher
slate-colored junco

myrtle warbler
black-throated green warbler
northern parula warbler
redstart
magnolia warbler
yellow warbler
northern yellow-throat
red-eyed vireo
cedar waxwing

The National Audubon Society neither pays me a salary nor does it contribute towards my photographic or living expenses.

Owing to the shortage of materials I have made no color prints since the winter of 1942.

On an invitation from the American Photographic Publishing Company I wrote an article last winter entitled A Preface to Bird Photography, which was published with illustrations in the 1946 American Annual of Photography.

This brings upringdang theisaccant of my activities.

Sincerely yours,

Eliot F. Porter