

Great Spruce Head Island
Sunset, Maine

12 July 1963

Mrs. Anne Dirkes Kobor
National Geographic Society
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Kobor:

The place is Great Spruce Head Island, not Shelter Island. Mail is delivered here ~~every~~ ^{once} a week by boat. There is no special delivery so you are wasting money to pay for the service.

There is no way I can have transparencies sent from Santa Fe. You will have to wait until I return there in August. For the Myrtle Warbler I could send you an alternative which I took here this summer and have with me. I have pictures showing the male and female separately and together.

I am rather puzzled by the N.G.S.'s maneuvering. Last May you were prepared to send me a check for \$9000 for my contribution. You even suggested you could deposit the money in my bank while I was east. When I asked for an additional \$1000 to cover payment for all future printings and editions you finally conditionally accepted. But the conditions were not quite clear. You said there would have to be a re-appraisal and that if none of my pictures were thrown out you would send me the \$10,000. You could have meant that if only one were eliminated I would be paid \$8900. I would have answered you at the time had I not understood that you would be writing me again soon about the decision, and I decided not to bring the matter up until I knew what the N.G.S.'s final proposal was. I want to make it very clear that I will not accept any such proposal.

Another matter that was not mentioned until recently was the decision to illustrate both males and females. In the beginning I could have sent you pictures of females as well, as of males but you did not ask for them. In a few cases the pictures of the females I did send were returned. In the case of the warblers I have pictures of both sexes of most of the species that I have photographed. They are not always at the nest together, a situation which any bird photographer will tell you is not always easy to obtain, and when together not often in the most desirable poses.

Since this book has been in the planning stage for so long and has been revised by so many committees you might be interested in the birds that I have photographed this season.

Hooded Warblers
Kentucky Warblers
Myrtle Warblers
Canada Warblers

sexes together at nest	
" " " "	
" " " "	
" " " "	

} and separately

Mrs. Anne Dirkes Kober

American Redstart	sexes separately	
Louisiana Water Thrush	" "	
Northern Parula Warblers	" "	
Yellow-breasted Chat	" "	
White-eyed Vireo	" "	
Blue-gray Gnatcatchers	sexes together at nest	and separately
Magnolia Warblers	sexes separately	
Olive-sided Flycatchers	" "	not yet returned from processor

As you must know, bird photography is a matter of never ending improvement.

Yours sincerely,

Eliot Porter