



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

T U C S O N

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

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Dear Dr. Porter,

Is it all right to send back your transparencies now by registered mail? I haven't heard from you since my letter of August 23rd, and don't want to risk sending your photographs if you are away somewhere in the field.

What happened to them is that the publications office very carefully got some duplicates and some black-and-whites made, to be used in planning the work.

Again let me say how much I admire that shot of the Whiskered Owl. I've only tried photographing owls once, but I had really good luck. I called up a screech owl *at night* by imitating him and also by playing his calls on a tape recorder, and then photographed him when he was territorially riled up, at about four feet, in color with my Cannon. These showed how his color pattern matched the texture of the bark of the mesquites in which he sat. I have been having an awful time trying to explain the cryptic pattern and color of screech owls -- why it should be so different in different areas, and why the same trends should follow in all the species: *Otus asio*, *trichopsis*, *flammeolus*, and *guatemalae*. This above effort was the first time I became aware that possibly the effect of the coloration at night might also be of value in survival of the bird, as well as the necessity of blending on the daytime roost.

Very sincerely yours,

Joe Marshall
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