

6075 BROWN'S LAKE ROAD
JACKSON, MICHIGAN

21 December
THE SHORTEST

Dear Eliot:

It's gorgeous! It's
informative! It's treasured!
It's refreshing! The were
surprised! The thank you!

I could go on and
on - for we are enjoying
Summer Island immensely
even tho neither of us has
feasted enough on it.

The are happily surprised
to find color plates - The last
we knew it was to be black
and white. And your biography
is so well done - simple -
interesting - and fits so well
into the Island. We expect
to spend a lot of time with
it during the holidays and

will no doubt have favorite
portions shifting as the
mood changes. Of course
Powell had a seizure over
the S. B. Greene — the Tiers
Ospreys etc. and of this world.

Lew Bates was here last
Thursday and he was de-
lighted with it — he kept it
on his lap most of the after-
noon and went into quite
a dissertation about why
your pictures have such
power. The Kalamazoo Nature
Center sells the Sierra Club
books but don't have this
one yet — they will put it in
at once. Lew is director of
that fabulous enterprise —
you must see it to believe
it. Daily average is 200
school kids — a nature
program year 'round by
qualified personnel.

6075 BROWN'S LAKE ROAD
JACKSON, MICHIGAN

The lake is still open but we have snow - it is quite Christmasy. The Red Amer. Wrens out front the other day - a Kingfisher yet - a Sapsucker chasing the daylights out of our Red-bellied. Creepers, Juncos - lots of P. Finches & Goldfinches - Tree Sparrows - and this is the turning point of importance - to-day we face East and North!

Powell will be home over Christmas starting Friday noon. He will go back to the office Tues. and I'm going to see Helen Van Dyke and hear all about her experiences in the flood in Italy. She was headed for Florence and made a hasty detour & escape. Pat comes Wed. and head will call for a few days - I want

to get this to you before the
avalanche - Heaven knows
when I'll get back to writing
after the New Year's festivities.

Will think of you having
a wonderful holiday season -
everyone well and happy.

We are humbled to be the
proud possessors of another
of your beautiful books -
you are too, too generous
with us but we love it.
We feel a particular attachment
and know what they mean
to you in your progress -
One can't say thank you for
beauty but tries to earn and
measure up - so I go on
and on trying to fit words
where they just don't.

Our very best wishes
to you and Olive for the
best year in your lives so far -

Sincerely,
Betty.