

15 May 1985

Dear Browns,

Please forgive me for being so late in getting the bird book information to you. Oddly enough it seems that all I do these days involves writing - letters, articles, commentaries for the bird plates. Even though we have already gone to press, Scott and I still have not finished all the necessary commentaries. It is an onerous task!

I just heard the bad news about the Dallas Museum of Natural History's loss of the Audubon books. I certainly hope that they do not give up looking for a set. Steve Runnels, the Curator of Ornithology at the museum and Walt Davis the exhibits curator there came to our gallery last week to pick up the bird prints which we donated to the museum. We gave the prints to them as an unrestricted gift so that they could use them for any reason - not just for the purchase of the Audubon books. They were very impressed with our bird paintings (most of the bird paintings are now hanging in the gallery), and they told us that the museum would like to have a show of all our birds at the museum during the Sesquicentennial State Fair in 1986. They seemed very genuine with their offer, and I think it would be wonderful if such a show could actually take place. By the way, our bird book is an official Texas Sesquicentennial project.

I am including a couple of brochures and order cards as well as a letter which explains the project in detail. I am also including a list of the birds which appear in the book. The new publication date is sometime in August though it may be early Fall before the book is actually ready to deliver. Though we are under tremendous pressure to do so, Scott and I will not rush this project for any reason, if hurrying it up means a compromise in quality. I now realize why a book of this magnitude has never been published in Texas before. This project has been enormously complicated and difficult, but when everyone sees the final product, I think that they will agree that the wait was worth it. Scott and I truly believe that our book is one of the most beautiful publications on birds ever produced.

If you have any questions, give us a call. We can best be reached in the morning. Scott and I are most anxious to show you the pictures. Every one of them has a different Texas landscape for a background. In fact the paintings could even be called landscapes with birds. It is one of the main reasons why the book has been such a hit among non-bird persons.

Scott