

15 Sept 1927

Dear Mr. Bates -

many thanks

I would like in some way
~~to express my appreciation~~ to show ^{our} appreciation
for the ^{great} inconvenience you have suffered
because of your ^{large} ~~interest in~~ commitment to
our ~~project~~ book OF BIRDS AND TREES. With
the downturn in the Texas economy roughly
coinciding with our ^{own} publishing delays, we
too have faced difficult times. Although
the ~~our~~ project was originally supposed
to cost \$350,000 it has ended up costing
twice that amount, and we are still
not in the clear yet in spite of the book's
splendid critical reception and substantial
commercial success. Our book has been
very helpful in spite of the hard times that
Texas books have also had to endure, but
in order to support our project it has required
practically all ^{the book's income} ~~our~~ income and will continue
to do so for many months ahead. The light,
however, is definitely at the proverbial end of
the tunnel.

As an expression of ~~deaths~~ and my
gratitude for your patience I am sending
you a complete set of color plates from
our book. Each plate is ~~also~~ a signed
Artist's proof. ~~and~~ The value of the plates
is \$200 ^{per} ~~per~~ plate. each, and since there
are 50 plates the retail value of the

print
of the Collection is 40,000. ^{if all the plates were sold separately.} I think it would be wise to hold on to the prints for a few years, because there are only 250 individual copies of each plate which ^{will be} available for sale and as this ^{small} supply dwindles the value of each the plates will rise considerably.

I do not and I can be of any help to you in the future, please do not hesitate to call upon us. I hope things are going better with you and that someday we will get a chance to meet you to you.

Sincerely yours
F. S. Slaty

P.S. I am enclosing copies of some of the publicity the book has garnered in the last year or so. Our discovery and sale of the Audubon Brooke painting got us a lot of publicity. I only wish we were able to keep the money from the sale.