



GENTLING PUBLICATIONS

7 April 1988

S. Dillon Ripley
The Secretary Emeritus
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560

Dear Sir,

Robert Maloy suggested that I write you as soon as possible to inform you about a book which my brother and I published in 1986. The book is entitled Of Birds and Texas, and I think the accompanying prospectus will explain it sufficiently and give you some sense of its size and format.

We did not intend to do a scientific work in any sense but to give vent to our personal artistic vision of American birds and perhaps bring back to contemporary bird painting some of the beauty and elegance and artistry which characterize the best of John James Audubon's paintings. My brother Scott and I are not wildlife artists. Of Birds and Texas will be our only book on this subject. We are very proud of what we have done. I really think it is a beautiful American bird book.

The Bridwell Library at Southern Methodist University owns a copy as do most important Texas libraries, and I recommend that you talk to Dr. Maloy if you would like to get an objective opinion about our book. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call. My home (and studio) number is 817-738-4427. Feel free to call me at any time.

P.S. Should you favor us by purchasing a copy, we would like to add as a gift an original watercolor study of a Texas bird of your choice. I am a great admirer of a Texas bird on a rail, and the paintings I have done are perhaps my most delicate watercolor. A rail.

Very truly yours,
Hed Gentling