

28 May
~~August~~ 1959

Dear Shannon,

Mea Culpa! Mea Culpa!
for not talking to you for - what is it -
a month or more! Truth to tell, I've
done nothing, kind book since then & last
talked to you. And that was the last
day I ~~then~~ talked to Catriona. I've had
a very annoying case of the Spring ^{completely}
flu which ~~has~~ ^{has} may be due to ~~my~~ ^{my}
last Boss Hall musical behind delivery
time. I've kept my phone turned off
so I could ^{catch up on my mail} work, and also there are
three construction jobs going on in my
neighborhood so that my electricity gets
shut off about twice a week abolishing
my phone message machine. Catriona
has complained that she has left three
messages that I apparently never got.

With that said, I am enclosing a
copy of Catherine's letter of May 26th which
has left me somewhat puzzled about how
to proceed.

10 proceed. written
In response to my last communication
with her (a copy of which I forwarded to you) Catharine
has suggested that I go with her to N.Y.
City and talk with National Audubon
officials about involving them in some
way with the publication and promotion
of our first book on a more national level.

Her letter of May 26th repeats this suggestion.
Frankly I don't know what that means.

Does she envision some sort of partnership
with National Audubon to help get the
book published - and presumably share
in any revenues?

Don't
All I originally requested from
Citriona was that she (a TXRS) use
~~their~~ influence with National Audubon
to get a major article published on us
and our book in their National Audubon
magazine - the publishing of which would
be of great help in selling a book that
you and I would get published primarily
with ^{private funds to TXRS} donor support. The impression I got
with C's May 26th letter suggests the
possibility that National Audubon might
contribute all or part of the needed publication
expenses. Am I wrong here? And if this
is true, is this a good thing? I'm
not sure. ~~But~~ I do not want to
lose any possible support at the National
Audubon level - especially verbal sponsorship
and publicity or the support of TXRS whose
non-profit organization would be needed to
make donor support Tax-deductible.

Shannon, you have been with
me since the beginning of my interest
in regulating ^{amendment} or fish additives of our

Original bird book. I have really relied
on your knowledge of the publishing business,
the intricacies of which I never had the
experience when I resorted to my own vanity
press. I have no idea what might be proposed
to me in New York by the National Audubonists
or whether I can expect them to follow through
in a timely fashion if we do agree on
something. I want you to be involved with
this project, because I need your experience
both on the business end of the new book and
for any negotiations with book people. Catronia
seems to assume that you are acting as my
agent as well as editor - and that is probably
~~what~~ ^{how} our relationship has evolved. I am
beginning to feel that tin walking, as they say
here which makes me somewhat ill at
last, ^{and} I want to be candid with everyone,
~~and~~ I firmly see that now is probably the
best chance our two trade editions will
ever be published and I'd hate to let the
opportunity to pass without at least making
one last effort.

When did you know what you think
^{now} and if you would like to participate. Nearly
three months have passed since the Gale
opening and our Green Jay print was
published to help raise money for the book
project. Not having a specific program in

place with TXAS has kept me from
seriously approaching potential donors and
we have subsequently lost momentum.
Catskill interest does seem to have been
rekindled. Their ^{forthcoming} Newsletter does feature
a reproduction of our green jumps on the
front page and a cover story ~~does~~ mentions
that funds ^{plans} will go to the Bird book
project. Perhaps this and a joint
meeting with Audubon officials in New York
will put the project back on track or at
least give you and me a better idea of
~~a strategy we might~~ what to do. That
I do want you to be involved. We still
might get the book published (in a format
that we could accept) without the help
of the Audubon Society, but I do believe
that their support on almost any level
^{is} ~~to~~ be extremely important.

Sincerely yours