

13 September 1999

Theresa J. May
University of Texas Press
Post Office Box 7819
Austin, Texas 78713-7819

Dear Theresa:

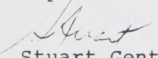
It was a pleasure to talk to you yesterday and to sense your excitement at the prospect of possibly publishing our book. I told you during that conversation that Scott and I have given a great deal of thought to all of this. As you may remember, I mentioned that the Audubon Society officials in New York are approaching a couple of major eastern publishers about our book which they regard as not simply a work of Texana but would have national appeal - especially with Audubon Society backing among their many members and promotion in their magazine. (The vast majority of the birds depicted in our book are residents of the rest of the United States, not just Texas, and a third of the species are well-known game birds.)

I have told Catriona Glazebrook that Scott and I have decided to have our book done in Texas and by UT Press if you get the go ahead to publish it from your book review committee. She likes the idea too and will support your efforts through the Texas State Audubon Society. The support of the Audubon Society, both nationally and throughout Texas, as I have said, just might by itself insure a certain measure of success for the book.

But all that lies in the future. In the meantime I shall await word from your review committee. I am also sending you a mock-up copy containing all the text - both old and new - for your deliberations. I think it would also be helpful for you to have one of our original elephant folios to show your review committee and to keep in your office to show others.

To help us with this project I have asked Shannon Davies if she would be our agent in working with UT Press, and she has accepted. You will now have somebody there in Austin if decisions have to be made on the spot.

Finally - because I did not mention it to you on the phone the other day - I want to thank you and UT Press for the copy of Bob and Vera Thornton's warbler book and the nahuatl publications. When I was in New York in July I really praised the warbler book to the National Audubon Society officials, and I urged them to do something in their magazine. The Thornton photos are truly extraordinary. Scott and I really wish we had had them to inspire us when we were painting the pictures for our own folio. I truly believe they are for the most part far superior to the photos of Eliot Porter and others.


Stuart Gentling