

PHOTOGRAPHING BRITISH COLUMBIA'S SEABIRDS, 1981 & 1984

Many bird photographers are going to glance through this collection and wonder why anyone would read about photography dating back 50 to 100 years. It's simple. We take time to learn about our past mistakes so as not to repeat them.

When bird nest hunter Glenn Ryder walked into my Maple Ridge camera store in the spring of 1974 looking for a long lens for his camera system, I had no way of knowing this chance meeting would result in a profound change in my life. He had been hired by the provincial government to assist in the production of a four volume set of books about the 'Birds of British Columbia' being planned by R. Wayne Campbell, the Curator of Birds and Mammals at the British Columbia Provincial Museum in Victoria. Glenn was leaving shortly for a few months of bird nest searching in the Okanagan Valley with a photographer who was not remotely aware of the challenges of bird nest photography. It was Glenn's job to find nests for the photographer. Glenn showed me several of the shooter's slides and I recall thinking, with a little practice, I should be able to do as well at bird photography. His images never made it into the book series simply because he knew so little about his subjects. He groomed nests by removing vegetation thereby exposing baby birds for long periods of time without proper shade from the sun.

About this time, an employee loaned me a copy of Eliot F. Porter's book, 'Birds of North America, A Personal Selection' and many a night I studied Eliot's beautiful bird portraits. His incredible images appeared in North America's two volume National Geographic's 'Songs and Garden Birds' and 'Water, Prey and Game Birds' in 1964. Eliot used high-speed strobes to capture flight photographs of parent birds coming in to brood, feed and do janitorial duties with their young. Elliot's photographs contributed half of the books' image content while Canada's Sir Allan C. Brooks', a much decorated sniper in the First World War, paintings made up the rest of the content for the two volumes. Allan's home had been in Vernon, a city in the Okanagan. It must have been providence that I met Arthur M. Peake at the local coffee shop and learned years earlier he had been an assistant to Brooks. Art used a shotgun to shoot the birds to be used as specimens for Allan to paint.

The following spring, I photographed some birds at nests but they almost always ended in failure due to my ignorance. In the beginning, my attempt to photograph several nests in a single day was sheer stupidity. Art gave me access to his many shelves of books on ornithology and I slowly began to understand the habits of my feathered friends and how to find nests. Eventually, I began to photograph a single family of birds over several days. After locating a nest with eggs or young, I'd always wait until the babies' eyes opened and then take photographs until the young fledged. The last day was always best because the parents and babies were used to my strobes, my blind and me. If the nest was exposed with the use of tiebacks, it was imperative to put everything back to normal and even add cover to further conceal the nest. Exposure to the sun is the biggest challenge to successful bird nest photography making it absolutely imperative to rig a shield to protect the nest from the sun.

When first beginning to photograph birds, I was far too impatient and my subjects suffered as a consequence. In most cases the entire session lasted only one day and the birds were not given the opportunity to adjust to my presence. As a novice bird photographer, I was unable to find anyone with whom to apprentice and authors of books on the subject, although all emphasized the welfare of the birds must be first and foremost, never went into any details about their mistakes and how to avoid them. All of them stressed any photography at a



Anne Vallée (1958-1982)



Tufted Puffin - *Fratercula cirrhata*
M.J. Anne Vallée

July 1982, Anne Vallée Ecological Reserve, Triangle Island, British Columbia, Canada

nest attracted predators such as rats, squirrels, weasels, snakes, hawks and owls. Predators have to eat meat to stay alive. It's the circle of life.

By 1977, I was averaging 40 hours a week in the forest during the months of April through July. During this trial and error period, I met Stan Pavlov who said he could find more nests in a day for me to possibly photograph in a week. He was managing an estate of 160 acres nestled under the peaks of the Golden Ears Mountains north of Maple Ridge. Discovering the truth of his claim, we soon became good friends. Stan became my assistant and we began spending more and more time exploring his property in search of birds.

My notebook for 16 May 1978 shows how little I knew about the length of time Varied Thrush young stayed in the nest, 'contained three week old young.' 15 April 1979, 'Found dipper nest under bridge over Blaney Creek at UBC (University of British Columbia) Research Forest. It was found within a yard of where Stan Jr. found one last year. Looked like a miniature-sized moss igloo and was built on top of a rock.' 19 April, 'Up to UBC to photograph a dipper but the creek had come up two feet due to rains making the task difficult and dangerous.' 28 April, 'Checked chickadee nest. Bumblebees had taken over.' 11 June 1980: (Marsh Hawk) 'Left at 8:15. Coming home, I found the tide had come in and had to wade through water almost to my armpits. A beaver swam up behind me and hit the water with its tail causing me to genuflect the knees & take in water at both armpits. I could have drowned.' 16 June: 'No luck, drizzle turned into a downpour. Young (Nighthawks) became lethargic so I warmed them by cupping hands and breathing on them for 10 minutes. They recovered.' 10 June 1981: Saw crow clean out a robin's nest. Flew up into the nearest tree and literally beat the life out of the young bird with its powerful beak. 11 June: Spent entire day photographing crows. The adults regurgitated food for the young. They spent the day sleeping, preening, stretching, yawning and dumping. The ready to fledge babies would rise up out of the nest with pink mouths fully agape each time a parent came near the nest.' I was unknowledgeable about my subjects; my actions were unconscionable.

I read an article in a 'Photographic Society of America' (PSA) magazine about bird photographer Isidor Jeklin of Don Mills, Ontario. He specialized in the photography of birds at the nest with high-speed strobes. I wrote to Isidor and a short time later visited him in his Toronto apartment. One bedroom had been turned into a shrine for the displaying of his 300 medals from the PSA along with many enlarged prints. We talked and he agreed to work with me to publish a book. Upon leaving, he entrusted me with 50 of his best medium format transparencies. Our mission was to produce a book on bird photography. The die was cast.

In January, 1981, I flew to Edmonton to meet well-known bird photographer Thomas J. Webb. His razor-sharp competition prints made me realize I was not filling the frame tightly enough and my flash equipment was not capable of stopping the quick movements of birds resulting in blurred pictures and on returning home most of my pics went into a trash can. Tom suggested purchasing an extremely powerful high-speed custom strobe system to photograph birds in flight. Tom's unit was similar in many ways to the lighting system I used in my portrait and wedding studio utilizing front, side and back lighting. I contacted the manufacturer and ordered one of his flash units. Both Isidor and Tom were at the top of their game in winning first or second medals from the PSA for wildlife photography.

In August, I had a rare opportunity to visit Triangle Island, a seabird reserve, located in the Pacific Ocean north of Vancouver Island. It is world-renowned to ornithologists since it has an enormous bird population comprised of Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, Tufted Puffins, Pelagic Cormorants, Glaucous-winged Gulls, Pigeon Guillemots and Common Murres. Richard J. Cannings, Assistant Curator of the Vertebrate Museum at the University of British Columbia, and I flew by helicopter to the remote island. Anne Vallée, a doctoral student, was collecting data for her thesis on 'The Breeding success of the Tufted Puffin' on the seabird reserve. Upon reaching the island, we were greeted by Robin Cohen, Anne's assistant. The two young women were staying at the base camp in a trailer they had named the Triangle Hilton. Almost immediately, we left

Common Murre - *Uria aalge*
Donald E. Waite
August 15, 1981, Anne Vallée Ecological Reserve,
Triangle Island, British Columbia, Canada
500 Murres incubate eggs and brood chicks on a rocky ledge over the Pacific Ocean.





Author installing the photo-electric triggering device to photograph Ancient Murrelets on Reef Island, May 1984.

camp to climb Puffin Rock, a steep 700-foot ascent. The bird I especially hoped to photograph on Triangle Island was the Rhinoceros Auklet, a most challenging task since the parent rhinos exchanged brooding duties at night and only for a couple of days before the two babies make their dash to the ocean. One night, I set up a flashlight with an infrared acetate over the lens and directed its narrow beam to a gizmo that in theory fired the camera any time an adult broke the faint red glow of light when going into its burrow. I took up a position on a cliff face in the pitch darkness and heard a number of birds crash land in the tufted hairgrass and salmonberries. After landing, the adult would begin making a mewling call which was answered by a chick. When I turned on my headlamp, I saw a most attractive bird with an orange-brown bill with horn—hence the name rhinoceros—and white plumes behind its eye and bill. It made sense that if I was able to see the faint red glow from 50 feet away, there wasn't a snowball's chance in Hell of any pictures.

When a rhino took off from a cliff and hit me squarely on the back of the head, I decided to come down and call it quits. All I had managed to photograph was a deer mouse. The only worthwhile photograph of a seabird I managed to obtain on the entire trip was of a colony of Common Murres nesting on the ledges of the precipitous cliffs. The spot where I set up the camera and tripod had to be one of the smelliest places on earth. Murres are highly sociable seabirds and live in large colonies. One cliff shelf, quickly estimated, contained at least 500 birds. For survival against marauding crows and gulls, murres breed synchronously incubating their eggs and brooding their young at the same time. When the chicks finally leave their rock shelves all at once and plunge 200 to 300 feet into the sea, the bonanza for predators is short-lived because of the brief time the young birds are exposed.

Some notes from my trip: 19 August: 'From 10:00 p.m. to 3:45 a.m. spent curled up on the side of a cliff hoping to photograph a Rhino Auklet coming to its nest. Attire consisted of wool socks, hiking boots, blue jeans, 2-T shirts, cotton shirts, wool sweater, cotton vest, nylon coated rain pants and jacket, wool gloves & headlamp and two scarves across my face. From 10:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. quite a number of birds came in. Their landings were very rough in the salmonberry and tufted hair grass. Saw one adult with six inch long skinny fish hanging from its mouth. Saw a brown rabbit feeding on hair grass. Saw mice. Once I heard the whir of wings and instinctively brought my hands up to cover my face. One bird upon taking off immediately above me hit me on the side of the head. Heard the crashing of the waves. As it became darker, it also became much windier and colder. At one two hour stretch from 12:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. it was extremely dark. The birds communicated by adults making mewling or moaning sounds. The adults walked to the burrows from wherever they landed. Their arrival in the pre-dawn light seemed to be the smoothest. Gave up at 3:45 a.m.' 20 Aug: 'Took shots of Robin weighing puffin chicks & taking wing measurements. She took ticks off 1 puffin chick. It occurred to me. Why was she interfering with Anne's study by removing the ticks?'

Anne returned to Triangle Island the following year to continue her research, but unfortunately lost her footing while climbing Puffin Rock and fell to her death. Two years later, in 1984, Anne's father came to British Columbia from Quebec for the purpose of presenting a cheque to a graduate student at Simon Fraser University to study seabirds. We met with an associate professor and over lunch, I casually mentioned exchanging correspondence with the Victor Hasselblad Foundation's research and development department about the possibility of placing a movie or video camera on top of their still camera so a photographer could study the activities of birds on a monitor from a distance and fire the camera remotely when the subject struck the right pose. The university's ornithologist became quite excited and suggested supplying him with copies of our correspondence to make an application to the foundation for a grant. He explained the money would be earmarked to purchase a camera-video system for me to test on seabirds. Instead, the \$25,000 was used to purchase two inflatable boats.

That fall, I interviewed Dr. Patrick Moore, President of Greenpeace International, about the impact of man's

activities on nesting areas of seabirds. The most obvious concern was for a major oil spill from super tanker traffic coming from Valdez in Alaska, at the northern terminus of the Alaskan Pipeline, which comes down along the whole coast of British Columbia and then southward all the way down to the Panama Canal. He said an oil spill given the types of winters and the fact machinery always sooner or later breaks down would inevitably result in a major disaster to seabirds and if it occurred off the north end of Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii, or off the Alaskan Panhandle, it could mean the destruction of millions of seabirds from one tanker spill. Another real serious problem was the depletion of the food supply for large nesting colonies of seabirds up and down the west coast shoreline and on the many islands. There are tremendous fleets of foreign ships operating just off the coast dwarfing the types of fishing boats used by Canadian fishermen. Their nets are scooping everything off the sea bottom leaving it barren. Deep sea gill net fishing has a tremendous bycatch of seabirds with nine mile long nets. The 300 boats in their fleets operate close to the islands and diving birds are getting caught by the thousands. Supertankers are more likely to get into trouble when just offshore due to rocks, the build up of currents, cross eddies and waves bouncing off the rocky coastline resulting in a much more confused and dangerous sea. Canadian laws demand these seven and eight hundred foot long super oil tankers stay outside the 200 mile limit. If one of these ships broke up off the coast of Vancouver Island, half of the shoreline could be inundated with oil depending on the weather, currents and location of the spill. Another serious problem was the habitat destruction caused by intensive logging operations along the BC coast reducing the available area for birds nesting in old growth timber. He mentioned overfishing on the east coast of Canada resulted in the starvation of large numbers of seabirds.

Pat suggested I return to Vancouver's Greenpeace Headquarters in a week's time and interview an expert on fishery concerns on the west coast of North America. I arrived for the meeting and moments later the teletype started banging away saying the Rainbow Warrior, Greenpeace's flagship, had just been sunk killing the ship's photographer. The vessel had been docked at Auckland, Australia, protesting against nuclear testing and the dumping of its waste into the ocean killing whales, seals and dolphins. A subsequent investigation revealed the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior was carried out by the French government in response to Greenpeace's attempt to stop them from doing nuclear testing. Two French divers were charged with manslaughter and sentenced to 10 years in prison. They served two. Thirty years later, pockets of crude oil remained in some locations. The corporate owners of the ship returned it to service under a different name as an ore carrier. It took four years for Pat's prediction to come true when in 1989 the worst oil tanker disaster occurred dumping 11,000,000 gallons of crude oil into Alaska's Prime William Sound and its oil slick covered 1,300 miles of coastline killing hundreds of thousands of seabirds, otters, seals and whales.

Anne's parents gave grant money to me and in May 1985, I accompanied Dr. Anthony J. Gaston, Co-ordinator of Seabird Research, Migratory Birds Branch, Canadian Wildlife Service, and Ian L. Jones, a graduate student from the University of Toronto, to Camp Impossible on tiny Reef Island located just south of Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands) to photograph seabirds. Ian was doing his thesis on the vocalizations between parents and the young of Ancient Murrelets. The night of my arrival, I accompanied Tony and Ian up a switch-back trail beneath mature stands of Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock. It was raining and my outer garments consisted of hip waders and a rain slicker as protection against the weather. We used headlamps as we followed along safety ropes running from tree to tree along the course to a banding station. When the lamps were turned off, it was impossible to



Female Ancient Murrelet - *Synthliboramphus intiquus*
Donald E. Waite

August 6, 1984, Reef Island, Haida Gwaii, British Columbia, Canada

A murrelet steps on a triggering device to take its own portrait in the pitch black understory of first growth Sitka Spruce.

see one's hand before their face. I observed the burrows had been numbered and plastic knock-down tabs placed at the entrance to each burrow to monitor the comings and goings of the parents. Tabs knocked inward or outward indicated an entry or an exit. Untouched tabs signified a burrow was inactive. A night or two later, I tagged along with the scientists to a banding station below one of the study areas. We sat in the dark with our headlamps off and heard murrelets fly in from the ocean and make heavy crash landings. Instantly a scientist's headlamp went on and the expert, with the aid of a fish net, would make a zig-zag dash down the slope in pursuit of a dazzled murrelet. Breeding murrelets were measured, weighed, banded, and data recorded. The work involved high risk and the previous year Ian tumbled down a slope resulting in the use of a helicopter to get him to the nearest hospital. The scientists, with their headlamps, were able to see non-breeding adults perched in the treetops singing. At the study area, one of Ian's experiments involved watching the parents coming and going to the burrows using a magnification night scope and a parabolic microphone to listen to the chirruping calls between the chicks and their parents.

The female Ancient Murrelet, scarcely larger than a robin in size, lays a clutch of two hen-sized eggs at the end of a burrow. Twenty percent or more of the body weight of the bird is taken up in developing the eggs over almost a month. After the second egg is laid, both parents share in incubation duties. Small circular incubation patches, which lie on each side of the breast bone, are underlain with heavy vascularized skin supplying the necessary heat for the eggs' development. As one parent occupies the nest, the other feeds on plankton coming with the cold upwellings of the North Pacific Ocean. Parent birds alternate nest duties in three night intervals during the 35 days of incubation. Both chicks hatch at the same time and for a day or two are brooded by a parent. While in the burrow the chicks are not fed. Shortly after darkness, two nights after the chicks have hatched, the parents vacate the burrow but remain nearby, vocalizing strongly to encourage the young birds to emerge. When the chicks are out of the burrow, the parents fly to the sea and remain calling from offshore. Like wind-up toys the chicks are all but non-stoppable as they flounder down the slope and tumble into the sea in response to their parents' calls. The chicks swim all night and by dawn are far out to sea. They mature rapidly as they perfect their diving skills and soon become independent of parental care. Ian's dedication to his thesis brought this new information to scientists wanting to know more about the life history of seabirds.

From my notes: Night 15-16 May, 1985: 'Spent 2 ½ hours laying on hillside staring up into the huge primeval rain forest of Sitka Spruce so dark I was unable to see my hand six inches in front of my face. Could see the stars through the odd opening in the trees. Slightly robin-like chirrup coming from birds sitting in trees. Night 16-17, 'Up hill at 12 midnight. Few birds were landing as it was windy and the surf rough. Could it be the birds decided to defer the fledge for better ocean conditions? Young would have been bashed on the rocky shoreline last night. If so, would the parents feed their young during the prolonged stay in the nest? Caught two birds on hill - one a breeder - other a prospecting non-breeder. Breeders quickly measured and weighed & banded and then released where captured so they could carry on with parental responsibilities. The non-breeder was given to me and brought down hill but the camera battery failed and the system would not fire. Noted the iris was quick to dilate or contract when I removed light source'. 17 May: 'Spent most of day trying to revive the rechargeable battery to no avail and the battery after several hours hooked up to a generator remained on the 'replace' position when checked on the voltmeter. Decided to try wiring the camera to operate off a 6-volt heavy duty lantern battery. It worked. 26 May: About 2:30 a.m. had one hell of a chase to catch a bird. It was a Cassin's Auklet. Much smaller bird with pale blue yellow iris'. 23 May: 'Although Reef Island has never been logged, the hum of distant saws could be heard from neighbouring islands. Is civilization moving in?'

I moved down to a lower site within a five minute walk of base camp. Now when bad weather set in, I could box my gear and quickly carry it to my tent. 'First bird placed in burrow and made exit moments later at a dead run. Tripped mechanism but the short delay - a few microseconds - results in only the back half of the bird in flight on Polaroid film. As a result, I dug up the box containing the micro-switch and reburied it further back in the burrow. With a bit of trial and error, an adult took its own picture.' A few years later, Living Bird Magazine, the most prestigious ornithology publication in North America, ran a story about the Ancient Murrelet and used two images from my trip to Reef island.

It may seem my primary focus was on seabirds but that's not true. Richard B. Trethewey, a charter fund-raiser of Ducks Unlimited in British Columbia, lived in Maple Ridge and I sometimes photographed birds on his farm. Richard was instrumental in reintroducing the Canada Goose and Wood Duck back into the Lower Mainland and other parts of British Columbia. He created a unique fundraising idea and travelled the world to seek the generosity of many high-profile artists to donate their works for a leather-bound art folio 'The Birds of North America' with a custom container box. He arranged for the printing of 1,250 limited edition copies each selling for \$1,000. He arranged for Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, to provide the Foreword.

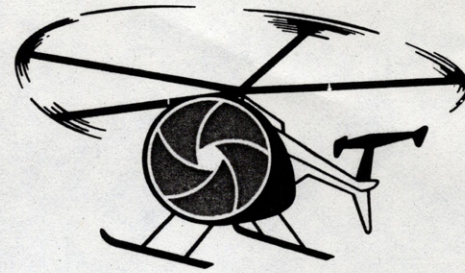
In the late summer of 1984, Isidor and I co-authored the title, "The Art of Photographing North American

Birds'. The first press run took place in Altona, Manitoba. The original publisher paid for Isidor and I to fly to the small village to oversee the printing. We talked and agreed to meet midway between our homes to photograph prairie birds. Upon receiving the first printed copies, I mailed off copies to Eliot Porter, Roger Tory Peterson and Eric Hosking. Eliot wrote back with kind comments. Roger got back to me with a testimonial. Eric was critical of my photographs. After fuming for several days, I decided to listen to a bird photographer with 50 years experience under his belt and sent my high-speed strobes back to the manufacturer to have the cords lengthened from eight to 15 feet. After all, Prince Philip and some of his buddies used to join Eric to have some fun photographing birds. According to Eric, the huge blind was capable of accommodating several men and had everything except hot and cold running water. Our book went into second, third and fourth printings and low and behold Galahad Books in New York, Eliot's publisher, took on its printing and distribution.

DONALD E. WAITE

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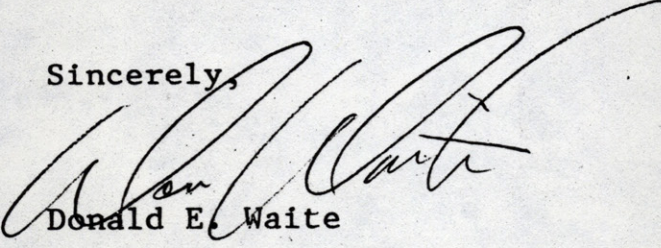
NEW ADDRESS
35 - 22374 Lougheed Hwy.,
Maple Ridge, B.C.
V2X 2T5
20 April, 1984

H.R.H. The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
Buckingham Palace,
London, England

Your Royal Highness,

The enclosed quarterbound in leather and slip cased limited edition of number 1 of 50. Because of your involvement in wildlife conservation and preservation throughout the world Isidor and I wanted you to have it.

Sincerely,


Donald E. Waite

Great Spruce Head Island
Sunset, Maine.
04683

28 July 1984

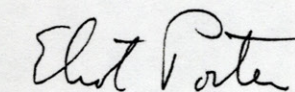
Mr. Don E. Waite
35-22374 Lougheed Hwy.
Maple Ridge, B. C. V2X 2T5

Dear Mr. Waite:

Thank you for asking me to co-author a book on the history of bird photography. Since I have several projects of my own in the works that will keep me busy for some time to come I will not be able to take on another project that would be very time consuming.

Are you aware that the first people to use flash for photographing birds were Sam Grimes of Jacksonville, Florida and myself. When foil filled flash ^{pulses} were first introduced into the photographic market he and I saw the advantage of this source of light for obtaining photographs of birds at small apertures with much greater depth of field than had been possible before. This was just the beginning. It was Edgerton who invented electronic flash and first used it to photograph hummingbirds. I built my first electronic flash outfit from schematics~~s~~ provided by Edgerton and eventually adapted it to photoelectric triggering. The ultimate in sophisticated triggering was devised by Greenewalt from whom I obtained the circuitry which I used until I finally stopped photographing birds.

Sincerely,



Great Spruce Head Island
Sunset, Maine
04683

29 June 1984

Mr. Donald E. Waite
35-22374 Lougheed Hwy.
Maple Ridge. B. C. V2X 2T5

Dear Mr. Waite:

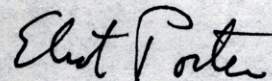
Your were very kind to send me a copy of "The Art of Photographing North American Birds" by Isidor Jeklin and yourself. It is a beautiful book and a major contribution to bird photography.

The reason I didn't write you sooner is because I live in New Mexico and am in Maine only in the summer having just arrived a few days ago to find your book and letter which were not forwarded.

I would certainly like to know more about your proposed book on Bird Photographers.

Again thank you for your generosity,

Sincerely,



Eliot Porter


Eric Hosking

OBE Hon FRPS FIIP

20 Crouch Hall Road
London N8 8HX

Telephone: 01-340 7703

16 July 1984



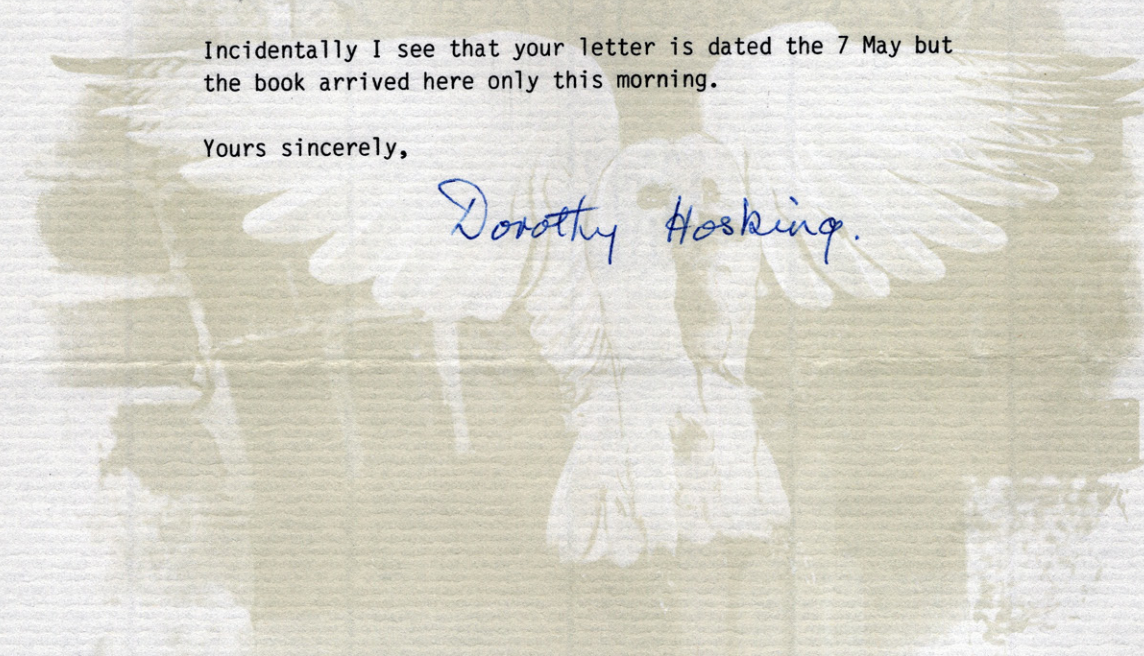
Mr Donald E. Waite
Aerial & Commercial Photograpy Co.Ltd
35 - 22374 Longheed Hwy
Maple Ridge
B.C.
V2x 2T5
Canada

Dear Mr Waite,

Mr Hosking is at present away but I know that he would wish me to write & thank you very much indeed for so kindly sending him the copy of NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS. I know that he will enjoy looking at this & reading it. The colour reproductions are excellent.

Incidentally I see that your letter is dated the 7 May but the book arrived here only this morning.

Yours sincerely,



Dorothy Hosking.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Room 4-405

October 1, 1984

Mr. Donald E. Waite
Aerial & Commercial Photography
35 - 22374 Lougheed Highway
Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 2T5

Dear Mr. Waite:

My delay in answering your August 11 letter is due to my absence from Cambridge. I am just back from Israel.

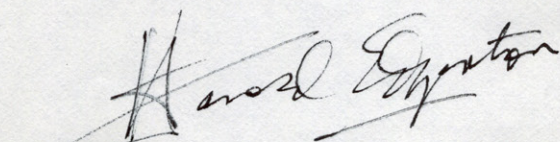
Congratulations to you and Isidor Jeklin on the beautiful book "The Art of Photographing North American Birds."

Thank you for sending a copy to me.

1. Schwenker's phone no. is 302-475-6193
2. Crawford Greenwalt's address is Greenville, Wilmington, Del. 302-652-0187. He may know about his former technician's (Schwenker) address.
3. I do not know S. Grimes.
4. I use a 4 x 5 speed Graphic and a 35-mm Nikon
5. Color negative and 35-mm positive

I enclose two articles that discuss short-flash time photography.

Sincerely yours,


Harold E. Edgerton

Encl: 2 reprints
"Improvements in electronics for nature photography"
"Exposure Time: It Can Be Important"

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November 19, 1984

Mr. Donald E. Waite
Photographer & Publisher Company Ltd.
35 - 22374 Lougheed Highway
Maple Ridge, British Columbia V2X 2T5

Dear Mr. Waite:

Your letter to Mr. Edwin Wisherd has been turned over to me to answer as he passed away in 1970.

I did know Fred Truslow from his many visits here to see Mr. Wisherd but find it difficult to recall some of the specifics you requested for your book.

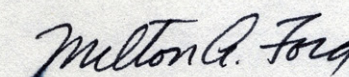
The film he used was Kodachrome, the mainstay of the National Geographic publications due to its virtual grainlessness and high acutance. It would have been the daylight type rather than those mentioned in Mr. Plumb's letter and with ASA's of 12 and/or 25 as I am uncertain of the introduction date of Kodachrome II. In reviewing Mr. Truslow's published articles in the National Geographic Magazine from January 1958 through May 1976 only two in the Osprey story were credited to Ektachrome. Mr. Truslow's book "The Nesting Season" credits all the photographs as being made on Kodachrome.

The afterword of his book written by his wife states that "Fred used two 35mm camera bodies, one with a motor drive. His standard lenses were a 200mm for hand-held and flight shots and a 400mm which he used for ninety percent of his work. Later on he added an 80 - 200mm zoom lens, which was useful when working close to a nest. He always felt it was better to have one really topnotch lens than a dozen of lesser quality, and so he obtained the finest available at that time." These cameras and lenses were Nikon.

It would be very difficult to try to state the make of strobe he used as he was always trying newer, more portable types at Mr. Wisherd's suggestion.

I hope this information may be useful in your research on Fred.

Sincerely,


Milton A. Ford

MAF:wj

Hannu Hautala, nature photographer
Kiestingintie 12
SF-93600 KUUSAMO
Finland

30th of November 1984

DONALD E. WAITE PHOTOGRAPHER &
PUBLISHER CO. LTD.
35-22374 Lougheed Hwy.,
Maple Ridge, B.C.
Canada V2X 2T5

Dear Mr. Waite,

Thank you very much for your letter of 13 November 1984.
I hereby enclose a cheque of CAD 30,65 as a payment for
your book "North-American Birds" and for the postage.
I hope you can send it to me as soon as possible.

I also enclose Kymmene International Magazine 14, where
you can find a portfolio of my photos and also read
something about my work. I am a professional nature
photographer, we are only a few here in Finland.

In september I published a new photobook, called
"Kuukkelinmaa", "Land of Siberian Jay" in English.
The book is coloured, and it tells about the nature
of North-Eastern part of Finland, where I live.
Unfortunately, the text is only in Finnish, but there
is only a little text. This book was recently elected
as a Nature Book of the Year by World Wildlife Foundation
here in Finland. The price of the book is US\$ 26,-and
postage par avion US\$ 10,-. So if you want to have
my book I ask you to send a cheque of US\$ 36,-.

I look forward to hearing from you with your comments of
the portfolio in enclosed magazine.

With best regards,



Hannu Hautala

The Cedars
125 Neck Road
Old Lyme, Conn. 06371
U.S.A.

December 7, 1984

Mr. Donald E. Waite
Aerial & Commercial Photography Co. Ltd.
35 - 22374 Lougheed Highway
Maple Ridge, British Columbia V2X 2T3
Canada

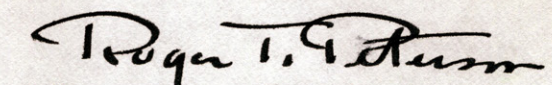
Dear Mr. Waite:

I am pleased to learn that you are planning a
companion volume to your book on Photographing
North American Birds to be titled "Photographing
North American Birds - A History of the Art." This
would be very exciting and I would be pleased to
write the foreword for it.

I believe I am correct - that I would be writing
a foreword to the book by Isidor Jeklin. It was
not quite clear from your letter whether one or two
books are involved and for which one I am to write
the foreword. I trust that there is no immediacy
in this; that the book or books will take some time
to prepare.

Keep me informed as to the deadline and how many
words you would like.

Sincerely,



Roger Tory Peterson

SF-93600 KUUSAMO
Finland

15th of January 1985

DONALD E. WAITE PHOTOGRAPHER &
PUBLISHER CO. LTD.,
35 - 22374 Lougheed Hwy.,
Maple Ridge, B.C.
V2X 2T5,
Canada

Dear Mr. Waite,

Thank you very much for your interesting book which I received some weeks ago.

Hereby I send to you in return my book "KUUKKELINMAA" in English "LAND OF SIBERIAN JAY". The book tells about a photographer's year here in Kuusamo. I also enclose a list where you can find the names of birds and mammals in English and in Latin and the pages where you can see their pictures.

I have photographed for this book during five years in this North-Eastern Finland where I live. As I am specialized in birds, there are many photos of birds, but also the marvelous lights in wintertime have fascinated me to photograph, although it sometimes has been cold more than -40°C . Then there are also some pictures taken in June, where you can see that it snows here also in summer, it happens every year.

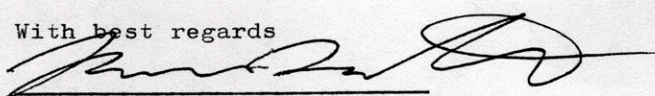
This book has had here in Finland a great succes, the edition has been twice sold out. That is why I have not been able to send this to you earlier. Now it is sure that it shall be published also in Germany and in Sweden, maybe even in France and in Denmark. This is quite exceptional for a Finnish book on this subject.

As you can see, our books are quite different. I liked very much some pictures in your book, for example the photos on pages 35, 37, 54, 62, 69, 70, 71, 85 and 125 are really very fascinating. Here in Finland the general opinion is against taking photos of birds in their nest. Maybe that is one reason for the different ways of working we have compared with each others. In Finland there has never been published a book like yours, a book which is based on separate pictures of birds which remind paintings.

I wonder if you have in Canada a book like my book, photographed by one photographer. If there is, I would like to buy one, and I am very grateful, if you could recommend me some book.

I look forward to hearing some comments of my book from you.

With best regards


Hannu Hautala

Hannu Hautala, nature photographer
Kiestingintie 12
SF-93600 KUUSAMO
Finland

27 of May 1985

Mr. Donald E. Waite

22374 Lougheed Highway
Maple Ridge

B.C. V2x 2T5

Dear Mr. Waite,

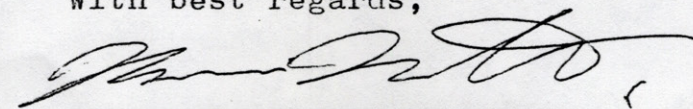
In your letter of 23 of January 1985 you told me that you have asked your friend Tim Fitzharris to send a copy of his latest book to me. I am really very interested to have the book, but he has not sent it to me. Maybe you could phone him again and ask the price of his book that I could send him a cheque, I also need his adress.

My book (which you have now in Finnish) shall be published also in English in next August. Maybe Tim Fitzharris would be interested to have it when it is ready.

I have negotiated to have my photo exhibition in Canada. Maybe I shall have it at the Ontario Science Centre in September 1986.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

With best regards,



JOHN S. DUNNING
2945 ESTERO BOULEVARD
FORT MYERS BEACH, FLA. 33931

November 11, 1985.

Mr. Donald E. Waite
22374 Lougheed Highway
Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 2T5, Canada

Dear Mr. Waite:

Thank you so much for sending me a copy of your book:
North American Birds. You certainly have been able to
get amazing sharpness in your photos.

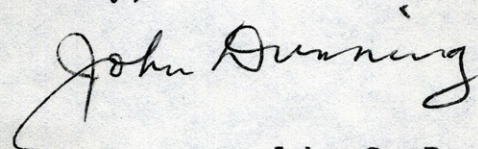
I hope you will submit more of your photos to the well-
known magazines since your objective is exactly the same
as my own -- interest in birds promotes interest in sav-
ing habitat.

My whole time and effort is now devoted to building inter-
est in Neo-tropical habitat where the need is so great.

If you ever get your high speed flash system down to ten
to fifteen pounds of weight, it would be great for my work.
It would allow me to shoot at f16-22 instead of f8-11 as now.

Congratulations and best wishes, and again thanks for the
book.

Sincerely,



John S. Dunning.

JSD/hd

HASSELBLAD

Datum/Date

Vår referens/Our reference

VICTOR HASSELBLAD AKTIEBOLAG

Gothenburg, May 5, 1986

LJ/TH

Mr. Donald E. Waite
Aerial & Commercial Photography Co. Ltd.
Suite 35 - 22374 LOUGHEED HIGHWAY
MAPLE RIDGE, B. C.
V2X 2T5 Canada

Dear Mr. Waite,

Thank you for your letter of February 21, which was passed on
to me by Mr. Ulf Sjöstedt.

Regarding your idea about the feasibility of using a video
camera in conjunction with the Hasselblad system, we have dis-
cussed it rather closely and found it very good.

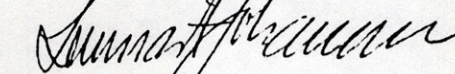
We will, most likely, start to work on a development of the
idea at our earliest convenience. As for the time being, we
are busy with other projects, we count on starting up this
very project approximately coming autumn. However, we have
already asked suppliers of video cameras about suitable
equipment.

We will revert to you with further information as soon as we
have found a fitting technical solution.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

VICTOR HASSELBLAD AKTIEBOLAG



Lennart Johansson
Sales & Technical Manager
Special Applications Dept

CC: Ulf Sjöstedt, Lennart Stålfors

