

The Cedars
125 Neck Road
Old Lyme, Conn. 06371

July 12, 1984

Mr. Henry T. Armistead
Book Review Editor
American Birding Association, Inc.
28 E. Springfield
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19118

Dear Henry:

I was pleased to receive your letter and have written to the proper people about acquisition of the Cape Charles-Kiptopeke area as part of a national refuge of the Fish and Wildlife Service. I have always been much impressed with that point of land which is probably even more strategic than Cape May because it is the apex of a much longer peninsula isolated by the Chesapeake. I do not know what the osprey population is at the present time, but it formerly had one of the densest concentrations on the mid-Atlantic Coast.

You mentioned the Publisher's Weekly Yearbook for 1983 which listed my Field Guide as ranking 32nd in a list of 80 all-time best-sellers (in hard cover). I believe it will climb even higher, crawling ahead of such old timers as The Robe. It must be remembered I have two books, one for the East and one for the West. If they were treated as one, the Field Guide would probably be No. 15 or 20 rather than No. 32. In the future it will be more difficult to assess "hardcover books" vs. "paperbacks" inasmuch as we now have the new flexible binding which is about halfway between a hardcover and a paperback. I do not know how they would categorize that.

My present task is to bring the update of the western book to the same level as the recent eastern book; and I hope a bit beyond, taking advantage of any valid criticisms I received about the recent eastern Field Guide. To do so I must drop the Hawaiian Islands and give that space to a fuller treatment of Alaska and some of the other special problems. I will leave Hawaii to Douglas Pratt.

Sincerely,



Roger Tory Peterson