
**AUDUBON AND HIS
JOURNALS**

By

Maria R. Audubon

With Zoölogical And Other Notes

By

Elliott Coues

Illustrated

Volume I.

New York – 1899

In Loving Memory

Of My Father,

John Woodhouse Audubon,

And Of

His Love And Admiration For His Father,

John James Audubon,

This Book Was Written.

PREFACE

IT is customary at the close of a Preface to make some acknowledgment of the services rendered by others in the preparation of a volume; but in my case this aid has been so generous, so abundant, and so helpful, that I must reverse the order of things and begin by saying that my heartiest thanks are due to the many who AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated have assisted me in a work which for many years has been my dream.

Without the very material aid, both by pen and advice, of Dr. Elliott Coues, these pages would have lost more than I care to contemplate. All the zoölogical notes are his, and many of the geographical, besides suggestions too AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated numerous to mention; moreover, all this assistance was most liberally given at a time when he personally was more than busy; and AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated yet my wishes and convenience have always been consulted.

Next to the memory of my father, Mr. Ruthven Deane has been the motive power which has caused these volumes AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated to be written. For many years he has urged me to attempt it, and has supplied me with some valuable material, especially regarding Henderson. During the months that I have been working on much AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated that I have felt incompetent to deal with, his encouragement has helped me over many a difficulty.

To my sisters Harriet and Florence, and my cousin M. Eliza Audubon, I am especially indebted. The first and last have lent me of their choicest treasures; letters, journals, and other manuscripts they have placed unconditionally in my hands, besides supplying many details from other sources; and my sister Florence has been my almost hourly assistant in more ways than I can specify.

The arrangement of the papers and journals was AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated suggested by the late Dr. G. Brown Goode; and AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS

(Volume I) - Illustrated many names come to mind of friends who have helped me in other ways. Among them are those of Mr. W. H. Wetherill, Messrs. Richard R. and William Rathbone, my aunt, Mrs. James Hall, Dr. Arthur T. Lincoln, Mr. Morris F. Tyler, Mr. Joseph Coolidge, AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated Rev. A. Gordon Bakewell, and Mr. George Bird Grinnell.

I wish also to say that without the loving generosity of my friend the late Miss M. Louise Comstock, I should never have had the time at my command which I have needed for this work; and last, but AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated by no means least, I thank my mother for her many memories, and for her wise criticisms.

There came into my hands about twelve years ago some of these journals,—those of the Missouri and Labrador journeys; and since then others have been AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated added, all of which had been virtually lost for years. The story of how I heard of some, and traced others, is too long to tell here, so I will only say AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated that these journals have formed my chief sources of information. So far as has been possible I have verified and supplemented them by every means. Researches have AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated been made in San Domingo, New Orleans, and France; letters and journals have been consulted which prove this or that statement ; and from the mass of papers I have accumulated, I have used perhaps one fifth.

AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated

"The Life of Audubon the Naturalist, edited by Mr. AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated Robert Buchanan from material supplied by his widow," covers, or is supposed to cover, the same ground I have gone over. That the same journals were used is obvious; and besides these, others, destroyed by fire in Shelbyville, Ky., were at my grandmother's command, and more than all, her own recollections and voluminous diaries. Her manuscript, which I never saw, was sent to the English publishers, and was not returned to the author by them or by Mr. Buchanan. How much of it was AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated valuable, it is impossible to say; but the fact remains that Mr. Buchanan's book is so mixed AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated up, so interspersed with anecdotes and episodes, and so interlarded with derogatory remarks of his own, as to be practically useless to the world, and very unpleasant to the Audubon family. Moreover, with few exceptions everything about birds has been left out. Many errors in dates and names are apparent, especially the date of the Missouri River journey, which is ten years later than he states. However, if Mr. Buchanan had done his work better, there would have been no need for mine; so I forgive him, even though he dwells at unnecessary length on Audubon's vanity and selfishness, of which I find no traces.

In these journals, nine in all, and AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated in the hundred or so of letters, written under many skies, and in many conditions of life, by a man whose education was wholly French, one of the journals dating as far back as 1822, and some of the letters even earlier,—there is not one sentence, one expression, that is other than that of a refined and cultured gentleman. More than that, there is not one utterance of "anger, hatred or malice." Mr. George Ord and Mr. Charles Waterton were both my grandfather's bitter enemies, yet AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated one he rarely mentions, and of the latter, AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated when he says, "I had a scrubby letter from Waterton," he has said his worst.

But the journals will speak for themselves better than I can, and so AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated I send them forth, believing that to many they will be of absorbing interest, as they have AUDUBON AND HIS JOURNALS (Volume I) - Illustrated been to me.

M. R. A.

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