

## BIRDS OF PREY: PAINTINGS BY LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES

For the past fifty years, some of the most beautiful watercolors by the noted bird painter, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, lay locked in a vault. Now, for the first time in over half a century, these paintings are being put on exhibition. The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service is pleased to announce the national tour of BIRDS OF PREY: PAINTINGS BY LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES.

Regarded by many experts as one of the foremost illustrators of all time, in the tradition of Audubon, Louis Fuertes was commissioned by the company of Church & Dwight, the makers of Arm & Hammer baking soda, to do a series of bird portraits to me made into small cards which could be included in packages of baking soda. Fuertes painted a series of song birds, game birds, and a series of birds of prey. The song birds and game birds were made into cards in the 1920's. But the birds of prey were not widely seen until recently. Because the originals have remained locked away from light and subject to little handling, their colors are as bright and vibrant as when Fuertes first laid his brush strokes.

Included in this exhibition are 30 delicate watercolors of various species of birds of prey--hawks, ospreys, owls and eagles. It is an especially timely exhibition because many of these species are endangered. Accompanying label copy describes the bird's range, migration patterns, feeding habits, habitat and information regarding its survival status. An introductory text panel gives details on the life and artistic importance of Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

After skinning and stuffing each specimen himself, he would follow with sketch after sketch in which he would attempt to portray just the right attitude and characteristics of the bird. Fuertes' life's work was not only to draw birds with faithful accuracy, but to capture the personal look of each bird.

This exhibit will be at the Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy, Massachusetts.

May 1 through May 27

Monday - Friday, 9 A.M. to 9 P.M.

Saturday, 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Free Admission

Sponsored by the

South Shore Natural Science Center, Inc., Jacobs Lane, Norwell, Massachusetts.

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National Audubon Society reports that birdwatchers spend about a half-billion dollars annually on their hobby. Of this, \$170 million goes for bird seed, \$7 million for field guides and bird books, \$3 million for dues to conservation organizations, \$109 million for cameras and photo equipment, and \$155 million for binoculars and scopes. All this activity and expenditure is focused primarily on nongame birds.