

and Mamma join me in those wishes and I remain for ever Your affectionate Friend & Father —

John J Audubon.

Tell our Friend Children that I shall soon make a Shipment of Insects to him.

MORE LIGHT ON AUDUBON'S FOLIO 'BIRDS OF AMERICA.'

BY SAMUEL N. RHOADS.

THE following transcript of a clipping, which, from the character of what is printed on the reverse side, appears to have been cut from a New York City newspaper of January, 1838, I recently found laid within the leaves of an old book. It confirms my belief, long entertained, that the estimates placed by bibliographers and historians on the number of published copies of the first (Elephant Folio) edition of Audubon's 'Birds of America' were much too small.

Mr. Ruthven Deane, whose researches in Auduboniana cover a long period, writes me that "it was believed from creditable information that the number of copies published was *seventy-five*," and that "the Audubon family [descendants] believe that was about the number."

My experience in the old-book business during the last fourteen years, in which time I have examined or personally known of the sales of forty or fifty copies of this folio edition in America alone, was sufficient reason for placing the probable number of copies issued at considerably above one hundred. In the past twenty years it is probable that one New England print-dealer has broken up thirty or forty volumes of this magnificent work, selling the plates separately for framing and other illustrative purposes. The newspaper clipping is as follows:



GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.

FROM AN ORIGINAL WATERCOLOR BY JOHN JAMES AUDUBON.

"THE BIRDS OF AMERICA. BY J. J. AUDUBON, F. R. S., &c.

When only a few numbers of this Work had been published, Mr. Audubon was informed that many gentlemen, as well as a considerable number of Natural History and other Societies, Libraries, &c. were desirous of possessing it, but that the time to be occupied in the publication, (16 years) was so great, the casualties of life so many, and the probability of its ever being finished, therefore, so remote, they determined to wait its completion before they subscribed.

With respect to many Societies, moreover, the rules preclude them for the above reason, from subscribing to any work of this kind published periodically.

Mr. Audubon, therefore, feels desirous, for the information of such persons or Societies, to announce that seventy-eight numbers have now appeared, and that with seven more it will be completed. He confidently expects to present the last number to his subscribers on the 1st of April or May next.

As a comparatively small number of persons only are acquainted with this work, for the information of others, it may be well to observe that the whole of the Birds (about 470 Species) known to inhabit North America with the exception of those of Mexico and Texas, are exhibited.

The figures are all of the size of life, after drawings made from nature, during the last thirty-five years; and the Birds are accompanied by a very large number of Botanical Specimens, some of them not figured in any other work.

This Publication was commenced in 1826, and the Prospectus then issued anticipated a period of sixteen years as necessary for its completion; of that term only twelve years have elapsed, and in six months more it will be terminated.

In addition to the fidelity with which every Bird and Plant is represented, this work has another great attraction, from the circumstance that it forms a complete history of the Birds of America, and will in after times be a point from which to institute a comparison for the purpose of ascertaining what changes civilization produces in the Fauna of our great continent.

It was contemplated that eighty numbers would finish the Work; but in consequence of new and rare species having been recently discovered by the author, and also received, from the Prince of Musignano, Thos. Nuttall, Esq. Dr. John Townsend, and others, eighty five numbers will be required (in which will be included the Eggs of many of the Species).

The particulars of the plan of the work may be reduced to the following heads:

The size is whole sheet double elephant, the paper being of the finest quality.

The Work appears in Numbers — each consisting of five Plates.

The price of each Number is \$10, payable on delivery.

The number of perfect copies at present subscribed for does not exceed 190, of which upwards of 80 are subscribed for in America; and the expense of getting them up is so great, that not more than ten or fifteen copies above the number subscribed for, will be prepared,

The Establishment necessary for its publication will be broken up when the last Number is colored; and any application for the Work must be made to N. Berthoud, Esq., New-York; Dr. Geo. Parkman, Boston; Rev. Jno. Bachman, Charlestown, S. C.; James Grimshaw, Esq. New-Orleans, or W. G. Bakewell, Esq., Louisville; before the 1st of May next, as after that time no subscription can be received. New York, Jan. 11, 1838. jall eed8w”

THE CALL-NOTES OF SOME NOCTURNAL MIGRATING BIRDS.¹

BY WINSOR M. TYLER, M.D.

No matter how carefully we watch the land birds in our vicinity during the latter part of the summer with a view of ascertaining when they leave their breeding-ground to begin their southward journey, we rarely see any evidence of migration in Eastern Massachusetts before the middle of August. Our first intimation, perhaps, that a species has left us is within a few days of August 15. The Yellow Warbler's song then drops from the summer chorus. This species is common and sings freely until a certain day,—generally between the 10th and 15th of August; after this date we no longer hear the song and we no longer find the bird in the vicinity until weeks later, when a few migrants pass through this region in September. Although the Least Flycatcher's song period is over some time before that of the Yellow Warbler, this bird (the Flycatcher) lingers on its breeding-ground apparently, for it is not uncommon to find a silent Chebec on any day in August, and, like the Yellow Warbler, Chebecs, as migrants, occur occasionally in September. But before even the Yellow Warbler has left our garden shrubbery, the autumnal migratory flight has been long

¹ Read on Jan. 17, 1916, at a meeting of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.