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ALEXANDER WILSON.

VII. BIOGRAPHIES, PORTRAITS AND A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE  
VARIOUS EDITIONS OF HIS WORKS.

BY FRANK L. BURNS.

The reluctant conviction that a complete and unbiased biography of Alexander Wilson will in all probability never be written, has inspired the present series of papers. A combination of circumstances, of which his early demise, the dazzling lustre of his successor's artistic genius, the apparent difficulty of interpreting his diffident personality and the dearth of material, are factors in a task at no time easy.

The city of Philadelphia was not only the scene of Wilson's labors, but at that time the literary center of the country, and its libraries are peculiarly rich in the material of the period, some of which perhaps, I have the pleasure of rescuing from oblivion. If it is at all possible for a man to be so, Wilson was emphatically and absolutely self-made! While he did not discover his true vocation until within the last ten years of his life and the work, in which must rest his claim to distinction, was crowded in those few years, yet no other ornithologist in America has accomplished anything approaching it in so brief a time. Lacking almost everything at the beginning but determination, he brought the undertaking to a successful issue. Audubon's labors, with almost all the acces-

sories at his command, extended over half a century. De Wit Clinton, President of the Literary and Philosophical Society of New York, said in 1814: "The life of Alexander Wilson — a man whom we esteem and an author whose work will always occupy an important rank among the writings on natural history — exhibits the complete triumph of genius over the want of education, and of persevering industry over the evils of poverty. Without any other reliance than on his own faculties, and with a force of exertion which nothing could check or retard, he has obtained a celebrity in science to which few men in this country can aspire; although many may be more highly favored with the endowments of genius, and more extensively gifted with the advantages of early education and the bounties of fortune. The life of Wilson shows, conclusively, that the temple of fame is open to the most humble individual in the community, if he only attempts it with zeal and industry and with judicious selection of the part which he intends to act on the theatre of the world."<sup>1</sup>

It is impossible to estimate the great services of Wilson to the public. The literary and the nature student find in his ornithological writing the same charming simplicity and truthfulness so keenly enjoyed in the classical works of Izaak Walton and Gilbert White; his classification and nomenclature may become obsolete, but his delightful life histories of the birds never become old and uninteresting. Space will not permit an extended bibliography of his biographies, but brief mention will be made of the most important ones.

Cromek's brief sketch of Wilson's life, appearing in *Select Scottish Songs*, 1810, is probably the only one published during his life. Directly after his decease, in bringing out his final volume of ornithology in 1814, George Ord published his life, which also appeared the same year in the *Portfolio* preceded by a lengthy memorial by the editor, Oliver Goodfellow; and later in *Ree's Cyclopædia*, Vol. XL. Ord subsequently extended it by adding much of Wilson's correspondence for the second edition of the ninth volume, the title of

<sup>1</sup> *American Medical and Philosophical Register*, 1814, Vol. IV. p. 514.

which he altered in 1825. It also appeared separately in a thin 8vo. book dated 1828 and published by Harrison Hall; a reprint or separate of the 1828-1829, "Ord," or "Collins" edition of Wilson's Ornithology — of which the 1817 and 1878 Porter and Coates' editions are fac-simile. Despite its many faults, Ord's "Sketch of the Life of Alexander Wilson" is the chief source of American data for later biographies; and with the modest prefix to an 1816 edition of his early poems, now exceedingly rare, ascribed to Thomas Crichton; and separately at greater length in 1819, originally appearing in the Weaver's Magazine and Literary Companion of the same year; formed almost all the knowledge of subsequent writers. "Good old Thomas Crichton," as some of Wilson's biographers called him, was an old Paisley schoolmaster friend, honest and true. His first paper was entitled "Account of Life and Writings," and his second "Biographical Sketches of the Late Alexander Wilson." The Belfast edition of 1844 informs us that the 1816 edition was published by Hugh Crichton, bookseller, Paisley, and edited by Dr. Whyte, who, dying before the work was far advanced in the press, it was completed by Dr. Robert Watt, his partner in business.

In 1831, Rev. Dr. W. M. Hetherington contributed a "Memoir" for Jameson's edition of Wilson's American Ornithology; and a year later Sir William Jardine's edition contained "a life," the facts of which were mainly if not wholly derived from earlier writers, and superior in many ways to most of the later productions.

William Peabody's "Life of Wilson," published in 1839, can be had for a trifle — my copy cost me twenty cents. He comments specifically and at length on the ornithological writings of Wilson, but offers no new material. Of the shorter sketches, William Anderson's brief notice in *The Popular Scottish Biography*, 1842, is one of the best. In 1844, John Henderson brought out "The Political Works of Alexander Wilson: also his Miscellaneous Prose Writings, Journals, Letters, Essays, etc.," with an extended memoir of his life and writings said to be by Thomas Smith Hutchinson, though the

editor does not reveal his identity in the work. This is known as the Belfast edition, priced at 6s. 6d., and now quite rare. A cheaper edition was apparently issued by the same publisher at about the same date, and a larger edition in 1853.

Jardine's "Memoir" appearing in the fourth volume of the Naturalist's Library, 1843, priced at 4s. 6d., was taken from the material incorporated in his 1832 edition. Duyckinek's Cyclopædia of American Literature, Vol. I., 1856, contains an excellent short life in which appears some new material, notably evidence of the blamelessness of President Jefferson in relation to the Pike expedition application, though we are sorry that the writer should give countenance to the discredited blackmailing story alleged to have occurred before Wilson departed for America.

Seymour's "Self Made Men," 1858, contains an excellent short biography; and Mrs. C. Lucy Brightwell's "Difficulties Overcome, Scenes in the Life of Alexander Wilson," 1861, would be very readable were it not disfigured by an antiquated type, though it contains nothing new. This little book was long a desiderata with Jos. M. Wade, the Wilson bibliomaniac, twice catalogued in Europe and both times lost to him. In 1863, Allen Park Paton contributed some most excellent new material in a pamphlet of 32 pages, priced at one shilling, entitled "Wilson the Ornithologist, a New Chapter in His Life." Sir Rom de Camden's "Memorable Facts in the Lives of Memorable Americans," appeared in Potter's American Monthly and Illustrated Magazine for 1875; and in 1876, inspired by the interests of the publishers of the latest edition of Wilson's Ornithology, Dorsey Gardener gave an admirable sketch of "Wilson, the Ornithologist," in Scribner's Monthly. The same year appeared the Rev. Alexander B. Grosart's two stout little volumes of "Poems and Literary Prose," with a "Memorial-Introduction," quoted at 7s. 6d. Although it neglects the ornithological for the literary side, following the unjustly condemned Belfast edition, which it much resembles, the make-up is admirable, despite frequent errors of judgment and the partiality of a Paisley resident. Also mention must be made

of James Grant Wilson's "Poets and Poetry of Scotland," which contains some original matter from Horace Binney, an eminent lawyer of Philadelphia.

Some years prior to this, the later Joseph M. Wade, editor at one time or another of *Familiar Science and Fanciers' Journal*, *Truths of Nature*, *Ornithologist and Oologist*, *Fibre and Fabric*, and the *Boston Journal of Commerce*, began the accumulation of an astonishing amount of published and unpublished matter relating to our pioneer ornithologists. He not only possessed practically all editions of Wilson's poetical and ornithological works, biographies, etc., but the author's own set of the *American Ornithology*—unbound sheets interleaved with the original manuscript; also a large part of the original drawings, of which some show the rubbing process by which they were transferred to the engraver's block; many unpublished letters, a few unpublished poems, receipt book, manuscript prospectus for a proposed edition of his *Ornithology* in octavo, and other matter, including drawings of that famous old Grey's Ferry schoolhouse, the adjoining old blacksmith shop, and portrait of the lady with whom he boarded. He had even acquired Wilson's collecting gun! Dr. Coues attests to the wealth of this collection in his "Behind the Veil," *Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club*, 1880. This persistent search and steady accumulation of material was avowedly for a definite purpose. It had long been a hobby, and, indeed, a mania, with Wade, and he was so intensely interested in anything appertaining to Wilson that he once declared him to be without an equal! From time to time—1880 to 1893—there appeared first in the old *Oologist*, and afterward in the *Ornithologist and Oologist*, a few lines, a paragraph or a column, as an earnest of something better; yet the true life of Alexander Wilson seemed indefinitely delayed.

On November 2nd, 1890, Henry D. Minot, the talented ornithological writer and ardent admirer of Wilson, made arrangements with his venerable friend whereby this valuable material was to come into his possession as soon as the transfer could be made; it being Minot's desire and intention to

write a biography that would do justice to his subject whenever he could have more leisure for study. The transfer never took place, as Mr. Minot was killed in a collision on the Pennsylvania railroad at New Florence, Pa., less than a fortnight later. The collection, formerly hoarded with the jealous care of a bibliomania, remained unexamined for twelve or fourteen years, now more than ever exposed to the danger of damage and obliteration. Mr. Wade informed me in 1898 that the matter had passed out of his life and was no longer fresh in his mind. Any one might have purchased these priceless relics at about this period; the owner suggested that the collection could be broken up and sold piecemeal at an advantage to the purchaser — a chance of a lifetime, but an eventuality not at all pleasing. Harvard University would have secured it for the nominal sum of \$1,000 but for the fact of its desire for an inventory, which the one-time enthusiast now found too exacting in the midst of a very busy life and fullness of years to give. Mr. Wade passed away at a ripe old age about five years ago, and the bulk of the *Wilsonia* is temporarily in the hands of a young ornithological friend, who thoroughly appreciates the trust; and the most of the *Audubonia*, of which he claimed to have more perhaps than any descendant of John James Audubon, is held by his executor. I am informed that the estate may not be settled for years to come. It is the earnest wish of some of the late Joseph M. Wade's friends that the entire collection should finally rest in the museum at Cambridge, and that the unpublished matter, so long buried, be given to the public, if it proves of sufficient interest or merit.

Henry Coyle's "Alexander Wilson, the Great Naturalist," appeared in the "Chautauquan," 1893, but contained nothing new.

In a series of papers published in the *Oologist* for 1893-1894, entitled "Scenes from the Life of Alexander Wilson," G. Vrooman Smith has given an excellent resume of his life and work. William Jay Youman's "Pioneers of Science in America," 1896, is a reprint from the *Popular Science Monthly* of 1890, and Witmer Stone's "Some Early American Or-

nithologists, IV. Alexander Wilson," appeared in *Bird Lore*, 1905. Many other excellent short sketches have appeared from time to time; in fact, they are too numerous to admit mention in this paper. The only American biography of any real pretention since the time of Ord has recently appeared from the pen of Prof. James Southall Wilson, of William and Mary College. It is entitled "Alexander Wilson, Poet-Naturalist," 1906, published by the Neale Publishing Company, New York and Washington, at \$2.00; and approaches more nearly the ideal than anything heretofore, though it treats almost exclusively the literary side of the subject. An exposition of the immorality and wretchedness of the times in Scotland, and some new material, notably the correspondence of Jefferson in reference to the imputation of neglecting to act upon Wilson's application to accompany the Pike expedition, have been inserted. While much relevant material has been neglected, and Wilson, the ornithologist, has received less attention than seems consistent with the fact that his fame rests on his scientific pursuits alone; on the whole, it is far the best biography of Wilson extant, and well deserves a place in every library.

There are at least five different portraits of Wilson—two Scottish and three American. The earliest is a painting by James Craw, and it is said to have been an excellent likeness of him in his twentieth year. It is a half length, sitting, with left elbow on the table and hand to cheek, right hand holding quill, three-quarter right face. Dressed in the large-buttoned, double-breasted coat, full waistcoat, frilled shirt, tie and stock of the period, with the long, flowing, straight cut hair, delicate hands, mild eye and face of the æsthetic dreamer, the resemblance to later portraits is nevertheless noticeable. The second is a painting by Sir John Watson Gordon "after the original picture in the possession of Wilson's sister." This, too, is a youthful, three-quarters right face, almost full length figure standing, with long coat, powder flask, gun resting in crook of left arm, and a brace of dead birds on stand at his elbow. The Paisley statue, full length, erected in 1876, was

most probably modeled after the above. The statue is of bronze, by John Mossman, the Glasgow sculpture, and rests on a pedestal of Aberdeen granite, nine feet in height. The figure is a little larger than life, in long coat, boots, gun slung across back, a pencil is held in his right hand, and the head is slightly bowed to examine a dead bird in his left, and the elbow rests on a stump, at the foot of which lies his open portfolio, in which an inquisitive paroquet is peeping. This originated with George Ord, when on a visit to Wilson's birthplace. He subscribed liberally and afterwards sent funds from Philadelphia for the same purpose. Cf. Allibone's Crit. Dict. of Eng. Lit. and Brit. and Am. Authors.

The most popular, and by many acknowledged as the best, American likeness, was drawn and engraved by John James Barralet, an Irishman of French descent, of whom David Edwin, the engraver, remarked: "He was the most eccentric man I ever knew — he was lame from a dislocation of the head of the thigh bone; when he walked it was 'dot and go one,' and the surtout coat he constantly wore in bad weather was dipt in mud on the lame side, at every step he took. He took large quantities of snuff — was extremely irritable, passionate, and very dirty in his general appearance; he was also very poor." He represents Wilson in left profile, half length, gun to shoulder, scroll and gun-barrel grasped by left hand, and the usual high stock, tie and shirt ruff. Many engravers have thrown the profile to the right in copying. The Rev. Grosart sees little good in this American production, and characterizes it "as a wretched daub, self-condemned," and Jos. M. Wade avers that "it is too much dressed — too stiff for a naturalist," asserting that the inventory of Wilson's wardrobe would indicate that he never owned so much clothing at one time. A coarse woodcut, showing the subject clothed in a pea jacket buttoned to the chin, appearing in Webber's Romance of Sporting; or, Wild Scenes and Wild Hunters, is doubtless a crude caricature of the above, and, moreover, this unspeakably repulsive representation was so greatly admired by Wade that he reproduced it in the Ornithologist and Oolo-



gist, though somewhat puzzled as to its origin. I am unable to state the date of Barralet's production. He died about 1812. A copy of his engraving of Wilson is inserted in Brewer's edition of Wilson, in the library of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.

The fourth is an oil painting by Rembrant Peale, painted some time between 1809 and 1813. It is now in the rooms of the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia, having formerly been the property of Governor Samuel Bradford. It exhibits head and bust, a three-quarter left face, high cheek bones, deep eye socket, prominent eye and high, sloping forehead. The dress is plain and inconspicuous. We see here the experienced, eagle-eyed man of action of Ord's description. David Edwin's engraving originally appeared in the Portfolio. It is now much sought after by collectors of his stipple work and readily brings \$5.00. Edwin has the distinction of being the first good engraver of the human countenance appearing in this country, and he engraved many of Gilbert Stuart's paintings.

The last is a vignette pencil drawing, probably somewhat idealized. Artist unknown. It was formerly the property of George Ord, now in the possession of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. Full left profile, hair brushed forward to brow.

Another crude illustration, appearing as a supplement to the Oologist's Exchange for 1889, representing Wilson drawing a mouse by candle light and the characteristic disordered surroundings of the naturalist, is worthy of remark on account of the facial resemblance.

I append an incomplete, though by far the longest list I have seen, of engravings, etchings, etc., of Wilson portraits.

After James Craw's original painting:

Jameson's ed. Wilson's Am. Orn. (1831) 1: frontispiece, engraved by W. H. Lizars.

Henderson's ed. of Poetical Works of Alex. Wilson (1844): front., eng. by Maclure & Macdonald, Glasgow.

Gleason's Pictorial (1853) 4: 352.

Grosart's Memoir and Remains of Alex. Wilson (1876) 1: front.,

head and bust, engraved on steel by W. J. Alais.

Popular Science Monthly (Jan. 1890) 36: opposite 289, same enlarged.

Youman's Pioneer's of Science (1896): 90, same.

Plate print, D. Fabrin, sc.

National Cycl. Am. Lit. (1897) 7: 44.

Chamber's Cycl. Eng. Lit. 2: 106. reverse.

After painting by Sir John Watson Gordon:

Jardine's ed. Wilson's Am. Orn. (1832) 1: front., eng. by W. H.

Lizards.

Jardine's Memoir of Alex. Wilson, The Naturalist's Library (1843) Ornithology 14: front. Lizards, sc., from original picture in sister's possession.

After statue erected in Paisley, Scotland:

J. Mossman, sc. wd ct.

Illustrated London News (1874) 65: 373, eng.

Scribner's Magazine (1876) 12: 147.

After portrait drawn and engraved by J. J. Barralet:

Smith and Watson's Am. Historical and Literary Curiosities (1847) 2: eng. 22.

Duyckinck's Cyclopedia of Am. (1856) 1: 546, Roberts, sc.

Smith and Watson's Am. Historical and Lit. Curiosities (1861) 1: pl. 59, eng. 33.

Wilson Bulletin (1908) 20: front., etching after Roberts engraving.

Left profile:

Seymour's Self-made Men (1858): 215.

Potter's Am. Monthly and Illustrated Mag. (1875): 263.

Duyckinck's Cyclopedia Am. (1875) 1: 567, Roberts, sc.

Scribner's Monthly (1876) 11: 697, eng.

Harper's Magazine (1876) 52: 708, eng.

Mitchell's Am. Lands and Letters (1897): 201, after eng. in Smith and Watson's Hist. and Lit. Curiosities.

King's Philadelphia and Notable Philadelphians (1902): 107, vignette,

Crude wood cut, left profile:

Webber's Romance of Sporting; or, Wild Scenes and Wild Hunters (1852): 122.

Ornithologist and Oologist (1883) 8: 76, above reproduced.

After Peale Painting:

Portfolio (1814) 3rd series, 4: 435, 8vo. oval, D. Edwin sc.

Appleton's Cycl. Am. Biog. (1889) 6: 545.

James Southall Wilson's Alexander Wilson, Poet Naturalist (1906): front.

Charles Dudley Warner's Library of the World's Best Literature (1897) : 1607, vignette.

After pencil drawing at Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences:

Stone's Birds of Eastern Pa. and N. J. (1894) : front.

Bird Lore (1905) 7 : 266, same.

Philadelphia Sunday Press (May 3, 1896) : 8, reduced.

The Grey's Ferry, or Union School, has long since ceased to exist. It is described by Wilson as:

"A neat stone school-house on a sloping green,  
There, tufted cedars scattered round are seen,  
And stripling poplars planted in a row ;  
Some old grey white-oaks overhang the scene,  
Pleased to look down upon the youths below,  
Whose noisy noontide sports no care or sorrow know."

—*The Solitary Tutor.*

The earliest representation is doubtless in the Wade collection, drawn by Wilson himself in 1806, and never published. Wade mentions the frame porch<sup>1</sup> unfigured in later pictures. A drawing by M. S. Weaver, October 22, 1841, showing an inartistic little stone box of a building, with bracketed cornice in front, meant to be ornamental, stone steps and landing, flanked by a row of scrubby Lombardy poplars and the branches of a couple of white oaks shading the front, was received by Dr. Elliott Coues, February, 1879, indirectly from Miss Malvenia, daughter of Alexander Lawson. It was first engraved on wood and published in Gardener's Monthly and Horticulturist, August, 1880, by Thomas Meehan, and afterwards electrotyped from the woodcut and published by Dr. Coues in the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club in October of the same year. It was used subsequently in the several editions of Coues' "Key to North American Birds." The author writes: "It is believed to be more satisfactory and reliable than any one of the several hitherto published." Miss Lawson, in her communication to Prof. Haldeman, says: "I have a sketch in colors by Helen, taken from the other side of

<sup>1</sup> Oologist, Aug. 1880.

the building, which is more picturesque, but the building is the same."

The one appearing in Rev. Grosart's book is less formal and more sylvan in setting. The poplars have disappeared, and the wide, spreading branches of the squirrel-haunted oaks extend toward the building, the gable window frame is out of plumb, the stone landing is lacking, and a figure of a man faces the door; the building shows dissolution and the surroundings neglect. Dorsey Gardener's article in Scribner's Monthly, March, 1876, is accompanied by an engraving from a photograph of about the same time. A female figure appears between the entrance and window, the same old tree droops a branch protectingly over the roof, a trifle wilder setting than any other view. One month later a much clearer engraving appeared in Harper's Magazine, in illustration of Rebecca Harding Davis' article on Old Philadelphia. It lacks the cloud effects and distant willow, a fringe of unsupported branchlets intrudes to the left, and the female figure is more distinct, otherwise the two are identical. In Scharf and Westcott's History of Philadelphia, Vol. III., 1884, Scribner's cut of this historic little building is used without change.

(a) American Ornithology: | or, | the Natural History of the | Birds of the United States: | Illustrated with Plates | Engraved and Colored from Original Drawings taken from Nature. | By Alexander Wilson. | Vol. I. [-IX]. Philadelphia: | Published by Bradford and Inskeep. | Printed by Robert Carr [-Vols. I. and II., R. & W. Carr-Vols. III. and IV., Robert and William Carr-Vols. V.-IX.] | . . . | 1808 [-1814]. 9 vols., imp. 4 to.

Vol. I, 1808, pp. i-vi introduction, 1-158 Am. orn., pll. 1-9. Vol. II, 1810, pp. iii-xii preface, 13-167 Am. orn., pll. 10-18. Vol. III, 1811, pp. iii-xvi preface and index, 17-120 Am. orn., pll. 19-27. Vol. IV, 1811, pp. iii-xii preface, 13-100 Am. orn., pll. 28-36. Vol. V, 1812, pp. iii-xii preface, 13-122 Am. orn., pll. 37-45. Vol. VI, 1812, pp. iii-xxi preface and index, 13-102 Am. orn., pll. 46-54. Vol. VII, 1813, pp. v-xii preface and index, 13-132 Am. orn., pll. 55-63. Vol. VIII, 1814, pp. v-xi preface and index, 13-146 Am. orn., pll. 64-72. Vol. IX, 1814, p. iv entered ac. act Congress fifth of June, 1812, by Alex-

ander Wilson, etc., pp. v-xi preface by Ord. xiii-xlviii biog. sketch of Alex. Wilson, xlix-lviii list of the water birds of the U. S. with their generic characters according to the arrangements of Latham, xlix-lviii. [lix] index, 61-133 Am. orn., pll. 73-76, 13 pp. general index, 7 p. list of subscribers.

An edition of two hundred copies of the first, and five hundred copies of each of the eight succeeding volumes. (b) Three hundred additional copies of initial volume with the original imprint of 1808 appeared after Wilson's return from his successful canvass through the Southern States in 1809, and explains the long break between the publication of the first and second volumes. This is not merely a reprint, for the type was reset, errors corrected, and the author made the following changes in the text under the head of the Wood Thrush, page 33. (Cf. Faxon's Early Editions of Wilson's Ornithology, Auk XVIII, 1901, pp. 216-217.)

## ORIGINAL EDITION

"Tho' it is believed that some of our birds of passage, and among them the present species, winter in the Carolinas, yet they rarely breed there; and when they do they are certainly vocal."

## SECOND EDITION

"I have myself searched the woods of Carolina and Georgia, in winter, for this bird, in vain, nor do I believe that it ever winters in these states."

Referring to the Hermit Thrush on page 34, he adds to the text in the second edition, that he has found this bird numerous in the myrtle swamps of Carolina in the depth of winter. All subsequent editions, with the exception of Jamison's, follow the amended text.

(c) The third edition of Vol. I. and the second of Vols. II.-IX., appeared in 1824-1825. For reasons best known to the publishers, Vols. I.-VI. retained the dates of the original edition, 1808-12, although 1824 appears to have been the actual date of publication. Strictly speaking it is not a reprint, yet Ord made little change beyond incorporating Wilson's index corrections of nomenclature, together with a few of his own, in the body of the text. This edition may be known from the original by the following changes:

"ORD'S REPRINT"	ORIGINAL EDITION
Vol. I, p. 23. <i>Oriolus baltimorus</i>	= <i>Oriolus baltimore</i>
Vol. II, p. 129. <i>Fringilla hudsonia</i>	= <i>Fringilla nivalis</i>
Vol. II, p. 135. <i>Loxia ludoviciana</i>	= <i>Loxia rosea</i>
Vol. III, p. 64. <i>Sylvia blackburniæ</i>	= <i>Sylvia blackburnia</i>
Vol. IV, p. 30. <i>Sturnus prædatorius</i>	= <i>Sturnus prædatorius</i>
Vol. V, p. 100. <i>Sylvia leucoptera</i>	= <i>Sylvia pusilla</i>
Vol. VI, p. 27. <i>Rallus carolinus</i>	= <i>Rallus virginianus</i>
Vol. VI, p. 92. <i>Falco latissimus</i>	= <i>Falco pennsylvanicus</i>

In the List of the Land Birds of the United States, Vol. VI, of the original edition, Wilson left blank spaces following the names of a number of species to be described later. In the Ord reprint, these are fully indexed to the end, with the exception of the Boat-tailed Grackle (*Gracula barita*), which was not described in any of the nine volumes. As a further mark of identification, Faxon has mentioned the printer's signatures. The signature of the sheet following Z is a double A. In the original edition, the double letter is a small capital and lower case (Aa),—in the 1824 reprint it is capital and small capital (AA).

Vols. VII and VIII of this edition were revised by Ord, and dated 1824. Samuel F. Bradford, publisher, and Thomas H. Palmer, printer. Vol. IX received an entirely new title.

Supplement | to the | American Ornithology | of | Alexander Wilson | containing | A Sketch of the Author's Life | with a | Selection from his letters; some remarks upon his writings; | and a | History of Those Birds | which were intended to comprise part of his | Ninth Volume. | Illustrated with Plates, | Engraved from Wilson's Original Drawings. |—| By George Ord, F.L.S. | Member of the Am. Phil. Soc. and of the Acad. Nat. Sciences of Philadelphia; and | Correspondent of the Philomathic Society of Paris |—| Philadelphia: | Published by J. Laval, and S. F. Bradford. |—| 1825.

Containing—p. v title, vi entered ac. act of Congress Sept. 2, 1825, vii-xi preface, xiii-cxx Biographical Sketch of Alexander Wilson, cxxi-cxxiii List of the Water Birds of the United States, with Their Generic Characters, According to the Arrangement of Lemminck, 224 index, 225-298 American ornithology, pll. 73-76, and 4 pp. general index unpagged.

(d) American Ornithology; | or | the Natural History | of the | Birds of the United States. | Illustrated with plates | engraved and coloured from original drawings taken | from nature. | By Alexander Wilson. |—| With a sketch of the author's life, | by George Ord, F. L. S. &c. |—| In three vols.—Vol. I [—III]. |—| Published by Collins & Co., New York, | and | Harrison Hall, Philadelphia. | 1828 [—1829]. 3 vols. 8vo. text, and a folio atlas of plates, entitled: American Ornithology; | or, | the Natural History | of the | Birds of the United States. |—| By Alexander Wilson. | Plates | Engraved and Coloured from Original Drawings taken from Nature. |—| Published by Collins & Co., New York, | and | Harrison Hall, Philadelphia. | 1829. No text except the title, consisting of the original 76 colored plates.

Vol. I, 1828, p. i title, ii entered ac. act of Congress by Harrison Hall, proprietor, Apr. 24, 1828; iii-iv contents, v-vi editor's preface, vii-viii preface to life of Wilson, ix-cxcix sketch of the author's life, 1-11 instruction incl. table of the orders and genera of birds, 13-231 Am. orn., Vultures to Cuckoos. Vol. II, 1828, p. i title, ii entered, etc., Aug. 1, 1828; iii-vi contents, 9-446 Am. orn., Woodpeckers to Darters. Vol. III, 1829, p. i title, ii entered, etc., Apr. 27, 1829, iii-vi contents, 1-377 Am. orn., Pigeons to and incl. Waterfowl, 379-392 general index, 393-396 names of 127 subscribers.

This is often called the Ord edition, although Harrison Hall is designated as the proprietor, and the anonymous editor acknowledges his indebtedness to Charles L. Bonaparte for suggestions incorporated in *Observations on the Nomenclature of Wilson's Ornithology, and Synopsis of the Birds of the United States*, . . . but principally to George Ord, Esq., the friend and associate of Wilson, who has kindly afforded his valuable council and assistance, and has added some highly interesting notes. Mr. Ord has likewise permitted the words contained in his supplementary volume to be incorporated with, and his sketch of the life of Wilson to be prefixed to the work. The original plates, engraved under the eye of Wilson, are employed in this edition, after having been carefully examined and retouched by Mr. Alexander Lawson, by whom most of them were executed; and who as an engraver of objects of natural history, stands unrivalled."

The species are arranged in systematic order, presumably by Ord. The prospectus by Harrison Hall, preserved in the Ridgway Library, contains a beautiful life-size portrait of the Rice Bunting

(Bobolink) in colors, taken from Wilson's figure 1 of plate 12, and bearing the signature of Helen E. Lawson, sc. It is here announced that "The birds have been colored by skilful artists from beautiful preparations belonging to the Philadelphia museum, or from recent specimens procured for the purpose; and it may afford an additional claim to public favor to say it has been principally the work of *females*." The letter press is printed on a very superior paper with new type, made expressly for this purpose; and the color-work by the Lawson daughters, superior to the original edition. The price for the whole set was placed at \$50, and to-day will bring as high as \$85 if in good condition. The text alone, consisting of three volumes, is worth from \$10 to \$12.

(e) American Ornithology; | or the | Natural History | of | the Birds of the United States. | By Alexander Wilson, | and Charles Lucian Bonaparte. | Edited by | Robert Jameson, Esq., F. R. S., E. & L., F. L. S., M. W. S. | Pegasus Professor of Natural History in the University | of Edinburgh, &c. | In four volumes | Vol. I [-IV]. Edinburgh: | Printed for Constable and Co., Edinburgh; | and Hurst, Chance, and Co., London. | 1831. <Constable's Miscellany | of | Original and Selected Publications | in various departments | of | Literature, Science, & the Arts. | Vol. LXVIII [-LXXI]. | The American Ornithology [Vignette engraved by Lizars: Vol. LXVIII Bald Eagle. Vol. LXIX Nighthawk. Vol. LXX Scarlet Ibis. Vol. LXXI Wild Turkey.] | Edinburgh. | Printed for Constable & Co., Edinburgh. | and Hurst, Chance & Co., London. | 1831. 4 vols. 18mo.

Vol. I, p. ii, portrait of Alexander Wilson, engraved by Lizars after Craw's painting. [No other illustrations except vignette titles by Lizars]. iii-v titles, vi printed by Andrew Shortreed, Thistle Lane, Edinburgh; vi-viii publisher's notice, ix-xi contents of vol. first, xlii-lxxxvi memoir of Alexander Wilson by W. M. Hetherington, lxxxvii-lxxxviii Wilson's preface to first volume, lxxxviii-mcvi Wilson's introduction, 3-271 Am. orn., beginning with the *Accipitres*. Vol. II, pp. i-iii titles, v-ix contents of vol. second, 1-334 Am. orn. *Passeres* continued and ending with *Gallæ*. Vol. III, pp. i-iv titles, v-viii contents of vol. three, 1-261 Am. orn., *Gallæ* continued, 263-320 synonyms, or names given to the different birds, in Wilson's Am. orn., by travellers and naturalists. Vol. IV, i-iv titles, v-vi advertisement by R. Jameson, vii-x contents of vol. four, 1-217 Bonaparte's Am. orn., beginning with Order I, *Accipitres*, 219-



238 synonyms, or names given to the different birds in Bonaparte's *Am. Orn.* by travellers and naturalists, 239-362 appendix, additional details in regard to the birds of America, and birds in general, by Audubon, Richardson, and Swainson.

This is the first European edition of Wilson. The work has been listed variously—18mo, 16mo, 12mo, and 8vo, and sometimes 4 vols. bound in 2, but so far as I can discover, there are no differences in title, date nor matter. Dr. Walter Faxon informs me that there is only one edition of Jameson's, but some large paper copies were issued, bringing the size up from 18°, or 16°, to 12°, being the same form with more generous margins to the pages. It can be had for \$3 to \$9.50, according to condition and binding.

(f) *American Ornithology*; | or, | *Natural History of the Birds of the United States*. | By Alexander Wilson. | With a Continuation | by Charles Lucian Bonaparte, | Prince of Musignano | The | *Illustrative Notes and Life of Wilson*, | by | Sir William Jardine, Bart., F. R. S. E. F. L. S. | [etc.] | In Three Volumes | Vol. I [-III] | MCCCCXXXII | Whittaker, Treacher, & Arnot, London: | Stirling & Kenney, Edinburgh | 8 vo.

Contains portrait of Wilson in first volume, and "97 plates, exhibiting 363 figures," engraved by Lizars, and beautifully colored by hand. This scarce and superior edition is catalogued at from \$18 to \$45, according to condition and binding.

(g) Edition de lux, consisted of "six sets only, for presentation, have the portrait and backgrounds colored, and the 97 plates generally finished in a superior manner with great care and brilliancy of coloring." A copy bound in smooth green morocco, extra full gilt backs, broad dentelle borders of gold or sides, edges marbled and gilt, was recently offered from the Seeborn library collection for £9. 9s.

Jardine's own set is in 4 vols. (the plates in a separate vol.) and was recently offered for £5.

The Jardine editions are in need of further study. Allibone quotes: "*American Ornithology, or Natural History of the Birds of the United States, By Alexander Wilson, with a Continuation by Charles Lucian Bonaparte, New and Enlarged Edition, Completed by the Insertion of above 100 Birds, omitted in the Original Work, and Illustrated by Notes, with a life of the Author, by Sir William Jardine, Bart., and 97 plates representing 363 figures, Lon. and Edin., 3 vol. 8vo, 1822 (some 1825), colored boards £6 16s. 6d. Extra colored, half-bound morocco, £10 10s. This edition was pur-*

chased by H. G. Bohn in 1836, and the plates colored with more care and finish than before. Utterson, in 1857, colored plates, £4 11s.; Sotheby's, Mar. 1863, £4." A set was recently quoted at £5 18s.

(h) American Ornithology; | or, | The Natural History | of the | Birds of the United States. | By | Alexander Wilson | and | Prince Charles Lucian Bonaparte. | The Illustrative Notes and Life of Wilson | By Sir William Jardine, Bart., F. R. S. E., F. L. S. | In Three Volumes, — Vol. I [-III]. | Cassell, Petter & Galpin. | London; Paris & New York. | [1832?] 8 vo.

Vol. I, frontispiece—engraved portrait of Wilson by Lizars, after Gordon painting; pp. v-vii contents, ix-cv life of Alexander Wilson, 1-408 Am. orn., pl. 1-27. Printed by Ballantyne and Company, Edinburgh and London. Vol. II, pp. v-vii contents, 1-495 Am. orn., pl. 28-68. Vol. III, pp. v-vi contents, 1-156 Wilson's Am. orn., 161-524 continuations of Wilson's orn. by Bonaparte, 525-540 general index of English and Latin names, pl. 69-75 Wilson, and 1-27 Bonaparte. Printed by Ballantyne, Hanson and Company.

A cheaper unauthorized edition of the above, printed in colors as original, reduced, engraved by W. H. Lizars. Can be had for about \$12, though it occasionally finds a market at a higher price. Very desirable. Not quoted by Coues.

(i) Illustrations of the American Ornithology of Alexander Wilson and Charles Lucien Bonaparte, Prince of Musignano. With the addition of numerous recently discovered species and representations of the whole Sylva of North America. By Captain Thomas Brown, [etc., etc.]. Edinburgh, Frazer & Co., 54 North Bridge | William Curry Jun'r & Co., Dublin | & Smith, Elder & Co., 65 Cornhill | London | MDCCCXXXV. [fol., eng. tit. [= 11.] + ded. eng. [= 11] + syst. index [= 11.], 124 pl.]

The figures of birds are reproduced from Wilson's and Bonaparte's works on the 124 plates with tolerable closeness to the originals, but sometimes with the figures at different angles, and with the coloration not exact. The collocation of the species is original, and the grouping is mainly by genera adopted from Temminck. The birds are arranged on figures of branches of trees copied from Michaux.

In the words of the compiler, "The arrangement adopted is that of Temminck slightly altered, with the addition of some new Ge-

nera. One hundred and sixty-one birds have been added by the Editor, which are distinguished by an \*; and eighty-seven birds have been considerably enlarged; these latter are marked by a † prefixed. Besides the addition of one hundred and sixty-seven representations of Forest Trees and Shrubs."

There is no explanatory text except the data here reproduced and the names of the birds and trees. (*Cf. Gull in The Osprey*, Vol. V, 1901, p. 109.) Originally sold for £26., according to Allibone.

(j) American Ornithology, or the Natural History of the Birds of the United States. With a sketch of the author's life by Geo. Ord. London, 1839. Large 4 to. 5 vols. 3 vols. text, 2 vols. colored plates.

Not seen! Quoted from catalogue. Doubtless a reprint of Harrison Hall and Collin's & Co.'s edition of 1828-1829 (known as the Ord edition) with the edition of Bonaparte's birds, making the second volume of colored plates. Quoted at \$50 in a recent list.

(k) American Ornithology. | Illustrations | of | American Ornithology; | reduced from the | original work of Alexander Wilson. | London: | published by William Spooner, 259 Regent Street, | Oxford Street; | Hurst, Chance, and Co., 65 St. Paul's Church Yard; | and Constable and Co., Edinburgh. | [No date] 16 mo? 18 mo? (say 4 x 6). No. 1 containing 8 plates. Communicated by Prof. A. Newton, Cambridge, England. Cf. Coues' Bibliographical Appendix, p. 60.

This very rare edition seems to be involved in considerable mystery. Everything, however, will seem to indicate that it was projected in the same spirit, and by substantially the same people, if not at about the same time as the Jameson edition, for which it was doubtless intended as a companion or supplement.

(l) Wilson's | American Ornithology, | with | notes by Jardine: | to which is added | A Synopsis of American Birds, | including those described | by | Bonaparte, Audubon, Nuttall, and | Richardson; | by T. M. Brewer. |—| Boston: | Otis, Broadus, and Company. |—| 1840. <Wilson's | American Ornithology | with | Additions | including the birds | described by | Audubon, Bonaparte, | Nuttall, | and | Richardson | [Title surrounded by engraved scroll and figures of birds]. Boston, Otis, Broadus and Company. 1 vol. 12mo. Also 8vo.

Frontispiece reduced figures of Wilson's birds, pp. i title and sub-

title, ii entered ac. act Congress 1839 by Thomas M. Brewer. [Stereotyped at the Boston Type and Stereotype Foundry], iii-iv advertisement by Brewer, v-viii contents, 1-681 Wilson's American Ornithology following the original arrangement, 682-746 Synopsis of the Birds of North America, Plates uncolored, unnumbered, greatly reduced, but keeping the original grouping, usually three of the original in one, constituting figures numbered consecutively, figg. 316-318, and £22 are wood cuts in text.

This, the original Brewer edition, is rather scarce and is quoted at from \$3 to \$10.

(m) Wilson's | American Ornithology, | with | Notes by Jardine; | to which is added | A Synopsis of American Birds, | including those described | by Bonaparte, Audubon, Nuttall, and | Richardson: | By T. M. Brewer |—| New York: | H. S. Samuels, No. 8 Park Place, MDCCCLII. 8 vo.

This is a cheaper edition of the 1840 issue.

Dr. Faxon informs me that the various issues of Brewer were printed from the same plates which passed into the hands of different publishers, thus giving the different imprints.

(n) There is also an 1853 edition from the same source, in 1 vol. with colored frontispiece, now offered at \$3.75-\$5; and, according to trade lists, in 2 vols. with two colored, in addition to the usual plain plates, quoted at \$4.

(o) 1854, New York, Charles L. Cornish ed., in 1 vol. at \$5.25, and 2 vols. with two colored and the numerous uncolored plates at \$9.

(p) "The American Ornithology, by Alexander Wilson, with a life of the Author by George Ord, and Numerous Additions from Audubon, Bonaparte, Nuttall, Richardson, and Jardine, by T. M. Brewer. 2 vols. 8vo, and plates in 1 vol. r. 4 to, Phila. 1856." *Cf. Allibone's Crit. Dict. of Eng. Lit. Vol. III, 1898, p. 2766.* Not seen. If it exists, the plates may have been from the Ord edition, The Philadelphia ed., seldom quoted and readily brings \$6.50 without being catalogued, according to Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads.

(q) Wilson and Bonaparte. | — | American Ornithology; | or, | The Natural History | of the | Birds of the United States | Illustrated with Plates | engraved and colored from original drawings from nature. | By | Alexander Wilson | and | Charles Lucian Bonaparte. | with a Sketch of the Life of Wilson, | By George Ord, F. L. S., | and | A classification of the genera and species of American Birds, | By Spencer F. Baird, | of the

Smitsonian Institution. | Vol. I [— III]. Philadelphia: | Porter and Coates. | [No date. 1871.] 3 vols. imp. 8vo. with folio atlas in two parts, the first entitled:

American Ornithology; | or, | the Natural History | of the | Birds of the United States. | Plates | engraved and colored from original Drawings taken from Nature. | By | Alexander Wilson. [Trademark.] Philadelphia: Porter and Coates, | 822 Chestnut street. Leaf of index and 76 plates. The second part is simply entitled:

Bonaparte's Ornithology | Plates. Leaf of index and 27 pll. As this does not bear the publishers' imprint, it was undoubtedly intended a mere subtitle to be bound with the first. It is frequently found separated, and has caused some confusion to cataloguers on account of this insufficient title. The whole work is from the Caxton Press of Sherman & Co., Phila., and stereotyped by Mears & Dusenbery.

Vol. I, pp. v-vi contents of Vol. I, vii editor's preface, ix-x preface to the life of Wilson, xi-xxxii sketch of the author's life, 1-9 introduction, 11-214 text of Am. orn. from Turkey Vulture to Hummingbird.

Vol. II, pp. v-viii contents of Vol. II, 1-9 introduction, 9-284 text, Red-winged Starling to Partridge, 285-287 introduction to Waterbirds, 289-290 Martineo Gallinule to Roseate Spoonbill. Vol. III, pp. iii-viii contents of Vol. III, i-xiv catalogue of North American birds by Prof. Spencer F. Baird, xv-xvi alphabetical index of genera of birds, 9-123 text, Grey Phalarope to female Snakebird, 139-140 contents of Bonaparte's ornithology, 141-143 preface to the original edition in four volumes, 145-148 preface to the second and third volumes, 149-408 text Bonaparte's ornithology following the original sequence, 409-426 combined index of whole work.

This is simply a reprint of Ord's fine 1828-1829 edition, with the interpolation of Baird's Catalogue of North American Birds, reprinted from the 8vo edition of 1858, and the addition of Bonaparte's work. The original plates of Wilson's work were purchased at a cost of \$1700, but as Bonaparte's beautiful plates had been melted and sold for old copper, resource was made to photography and electrotyping to reproduce the latter. The coloring for the most part is high and lacks the artistic merit of the best earlier edition. Had Coues closely examined the 1828-1829 edition, he would scarcely have quoted from the editor's preface of the Porter and Coates edition (Cf. Bibliographical Appendix, p. 689), as it is

exceedingly inappropriate, having been taken verbatim for the earlier edition. The whole text, as a matter of course, was almost half a century behind the times on the day of issue. It is catalogued variously at from \$45.00 to \$75.00 according to condition and binding, and published to sell at \$100 originally.

(r) "American Ornithology, or the Natural History of the Birds of the United States, By Alexander Wilson and Charles Lucian Bonaparte . . . with notes and life of Wilson by Sir Wm. Jardine, London: 1876. New York: J. W. Bouton, 1887. New edition, 3 vols. 8vo. All the plates, 103 in number, lithographed in colors."

The above taken from a recent trade list. Said to be very scarce with this imprint. Coues called it a reissue of the cheaper Jardine issue of the 1832 edition, though he had not seen it. Doubtless a reprint of the undated edition. Quoted at \$15 and \$17.

(s) American Ornithology; | or, the | Natural History | of the | Birds of the United States. | Illustrated with plates | engraved from drawings from nature. | By | Alexander Wilson | and Charles Lucian Bonaparte. | — | Popular edition | Vol. I [— III]. | [Monogram] | Philadelphia: | Porter and Coates, | 822 Chestnut street. | No date—1878.] 3 vols. in 1 | royal 8vo.

Text the same pagination and order as the 1871 edition with the exception of the removal of Baird's catalogue and the alphabetical index to follow Ord's life of Wilson in place of their insertion between contents and text of final volume. Bonaparte's plates 1-27 on 8 leaves marked "B," and Wilson's plates 1-76 on 20 leaves, greatly reduced, uncolored, though retaining original characteristics and grouping; are inserted between contents of Vol. I and preface to the life of Wilson.

A cheap reprint in one volume of the 1871 edition without the atlas of colored plates, selling at \$7.50. In reviewing this edition, Ernest Ingersol remarks (Cf. *Bul. Nuttall Orn. Club*, Vol. IV, 1879, p. 54) "What *would* be welcome is an edition of Wilson at a moderate price, prepared under the direction of a competent ornithologist, which should be a commentary on the splendid work of the Father of American Ornithology, and should indicate in a brief and graphic way the progress in the science since his death. Such a work would be of great value to the ordinary man of culture as well as the specialist."