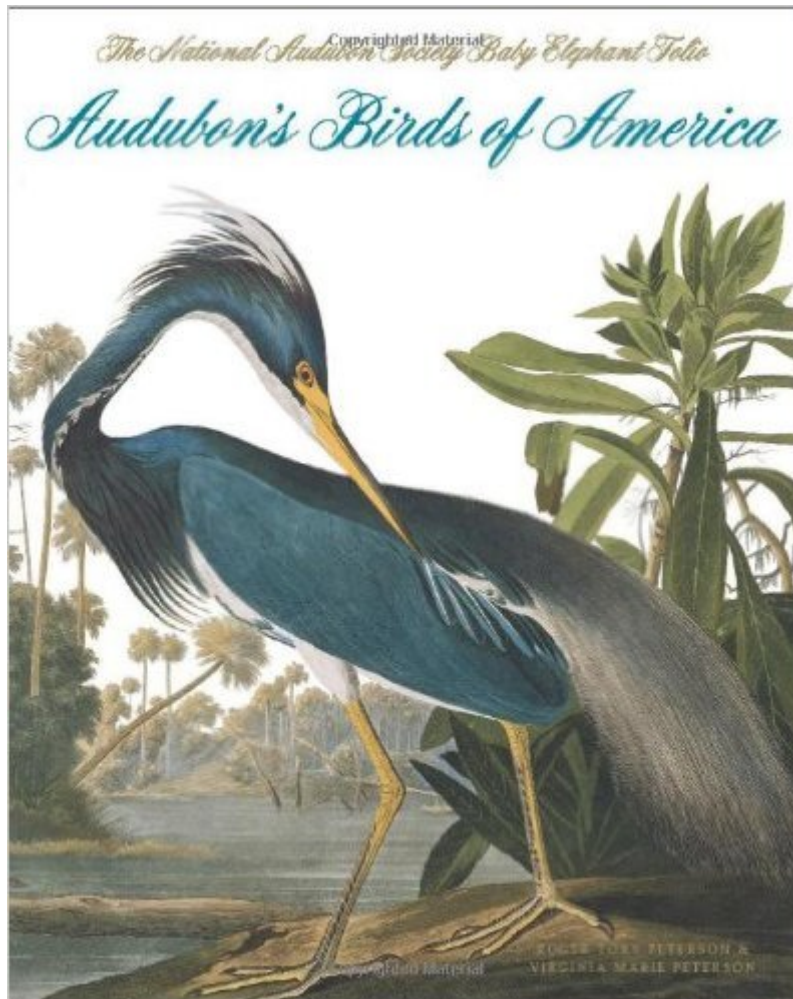


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Audubon's Birds Of America: The Audubon Society Baby Elephant Folio



Synopsis

A magnificent new printing of this classic edition of John James Audubon's masterwork. In this latest printing of the Baby Elephant Folio edition of Audubon's *Birds of America*, the thumbnail images accompanying the descriptive captions are printed in full color for the convenience of the reader. This printing also features an attractive new binding cloth, in a sumptuous teal color. The Baby Elephant Folio presents all 435 of Audubon's brilliant hand-colored engravings in exquisite reproductions derived from the original plates of the National Audubon Society's archival copy of the rare Double Elephant Folio. Although many attempts have been made to re-create the splendid illustrations in Audubon's masterpiece, nothing has ever equaled the level of fidelity achieved in this luxurious edition. Organized and annotated by Roger Tory Peterson and Virginia Marie Peterson, and issued with the full endorsement and cooperation of the Audubon Society, this volume is as informative as it is beautiful. Its fascinating introduction places Audubon in the context of the history of American ornithological art and also reproduces a wide sampling of the work of his notable predecessors and disciples, including Roger Tory Peterson's own rightfully famous paintings. A new systematic arrangement of the prints, following the modern classification of species, and descriptive captions about each bird allow us to appreciate Audubon's achievement in the light of modern ornithology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This "baby elephant folio" is indeed a tiny but complete book of Audubon's "Birds of America." It is a

perfect edition to give as a gift to friends and family who are Audubon aficionados. It is great quality and the price can't be beat; I purchased several. I am adding this note: I have been reading through all the reviews and comments to reviews and it is obvious that many of the reviews are referring to a different sized edition of "Audubon's Birds of America" that have been for sale on . The item I wrote my review for and what is titled for sale as "Audubon's Birds of America" (Tiny Folio) is not the same book most people are reviewing, so it is confusing. The so-called "tiny folio" is not actually the title of the book being sold here. The book, which IS tiny and measures 4.5 x 4.3 x 1.5 inches, is hard covered and contains 435 pages. It is small but fully packed! It is sturdy! The actual title is "The National Audubon Society BABY Elephant Folio Audubon's Birds of America." It doesn't say "tiny" anywhere, only in 's description. This book is not a coffee table book, it isn't for scholars, it isn't so big it won't fit into a bookcase, it sits nicely in the palm of your hand, actually covering just the palm of your hand, and it is beautiful! It is a great gift for someone who has everything, or someone who has shown some interest in Audubon's major work but doesn't want a bigger book, it is great to have in your own bookcase or on the corner of the desk. I think needs to review its description for this BABY folio and take out the "tiny" from the description and then when they get other editions (which are sure to be larger) to be sure they have the correct description for them. BUYER BEWARE! This book is very small but you will love it!

In addition to the Baby Elephant Folio I recently purchased the Birds of America by Sterling Publishing (from London Museum of Natural History). Had I purchased the Baby Elephant Folio in 1996 when it was first published I would have given it an "A+". However, the book is already 15 to 30 years old (depending on Edition) and I suppose that printing/reproduction has come a long way. I can only give the Baby Elephant Folio the grade of "B" today. The colors are not true to the Havell prints in many, many prints. While they may have been adequate for the time, many prints appear washed-out and pale in color and there is consistent trouble throughout the volume of producing accurate wood colors and textures. Yellow warblers are orange. In some places the color is thin enough to see white (of the paper). The layout is good and a lot of thought went into placing birds with similar backgrounds on opposing pages. Some prints are double-wide but this is of little consequence since the binding doesn't allow a clear view of the entire print (some part of the print is always tucked-away in the center of the book). The Sterling publication, on the other hand, has superb clarity and color. The tree bark textures are crisp and are more faithful reproductions of the Havell prints. Additionally, the colors appear deep as though they were hand colored. The aquatinted tones (gradation white-grey-black)) are superb and makes the grey birds look

tremendous. In the Baby elephant Folio such gradations in color appear grainy and uneven. I am happy to own both and the Baby Elephant Folio brings larger prints and more descriptive text to the table. But to truly appreciate the original Audubon prints I would seek a copy of Sterling's Birds of America before the Baby Elephant Folio. Birds of America

Having recently read the biography of Audubon, I was very interested in seeing the actual drawings. The book I read had a few of them in black and white, but I wanted to see a larger sample in color. I decided to see if I had anything and was very surprised to see that they offered all of the original drawings in color for a very small price. I realized the book would be smaller than the original life size drawings, but was a little surprised to find that the book was so small. That is my main problem with the book. Otherwise - WOW. To see these birds in all their glory in full color is just breathtaking. Furthermore, when you consider the original size, to have shrunk them down and still maintain the detail and the beauty is quite impressive. One can appreciate the drawings without having read about Audubon's struggle to create and then publish them, but I would suggest this book as a companion to a good biography of Audubon. Once you have both, his accomplishment can be fully appreciated.

Nice book. shipping was great and delivery fast so no quibbles there. Images are not quite as accurate as with other more recent publications such as the Sterling/Sibley effort, (which is gorgeous and a bargain). Most of the images in this book are good to very good, and a few are not so good. Dark colored birds lose some of their relief and detail. It is as if many images were underexposed if they had been photos. However what I do love are the wonderful annotations by Roger Peterson on each of the 435 birds. They were carefully researched and thoughtfully written. Also, unlike some criticisms, I like the ordering of the birds by genus and species. I can see how Audubon treated similar birds. So what the reader is getting with this Abbeville production is a combo art book and ornithological treatment of Audubon's birds, which makes sense given that Mr Peterson was so involved in the production. . The intro written by Mr Peterson is also excellent. One final word of caution the book is huge and heavy, that is good and bad. good because you get large bordering on poster sized images. Bad in that one does not easily handle this thing. Lastly the binding and overall physical construction is outstanding. Comes in a beautiful slip case.

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