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PIONEERS OF BIRD ILLUSTRATION

Worcester Art Museum

December 4, 1990 - January 27, 1991



Roseate Spoonbill by John James Audubon

Bell Museum of Natural History

PIONEERS OF BIRD ILLUSTRATION

Worcester Art Museum, December 4, 1990 - January 27, 1991

The Worcester Art Museum and the Massachusetts Audubon Society will offer throughout the holiday season a special program of events focused on *Pioneers of Bird Illustration*, an exhibit of sixty original hand-colored prints—engravings, etchings, and wood engravings—organized by the Bell Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis. This collection displays the work of four pioneer artist-naturalists: Mark Catesby, Thomas Bewick, Alexander Wilson, and John James Audubon—men who devoted their lives to the documentation of the variety and beauty of America's birds. Their illustrated books, published in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, expanded and enriched the country's vision of nature and so enhanced the esthetic appreciation and valuation of birds that a natural and fruitful alliance between wildlife art and conservation was formed and continues to flourish in the present.

This exhibition chronicles the evolution of an art form and the discovery of bird species by gifted naturalists who advanced the natural science of their times through meticulous field observations and preserved these discoveries with pen and brush for future generations. So many of the species they portrayed are now extinct or endangered that the exhibit brings home our debt to these artists and the importance of preserving the country's diverse species and their habitats.

- Preview of *Pioneers of Bird Illustration* for Museum and MAS members.
Saturday, December 8, 6:00-8:00 P.M. Call for reservations: 508-799-4406.
- Outside-In Day. Tours, performances, demonstrations, and workshops.
Sunday, December 9, 1:00-5:00 P.M. Free admission all day.
- Christmas-Bird-Count tour of the exhibition led by birder Mark Lynch.
December 11, 2:00 P.M.; December 13, 7:00 P.M.; January 24, 7:00 P.M.
- Christmas Bird Count with Chris Phillips at Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary,
Worcester, December 15. Register: 508-753-6087. Members \$12; others \$15.
- Quabbin Nature Hikes led by Mark Lynch, Simon Perkins, and Tom Tynning.
Saturdays, January 5 and 19, 6:30 A.M. at Gate 43, Quabbin Reservoir. A six-mile trek. Register: 508-799-4406, ext. 264. Members \$10; nonmembers \$15.
- Sunday, January 6, 1:30-4:30 P.M. Nature films shown in the auditorium.
- Thursday, January 10, 7:00 P.M. Lecture by Mark Lynch: "Avian Artwork."
- Thursday, January 17, 7:00 P.M. Slide talk: "Where Birds Are Found"
by photographer Tony King, author of *This Proud Place* and *My Maine Thing*.
- Sunday, January 27, 2:00 P.M. Lecture: "Habitat Destruction"
by Dr. James Lynch, of Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

For more details, call WAM (508-799-4406) or your local MAS sanctuary.

Museum hours: Tu, W, F: 11-4; Th: 11-8; Sat: 10-5; Sun: 1-5.

Museum fees: adults \$3.50; senior citizens and college students with ID \$2.

Members and visitors 18 and under admitted free.

CBC tour, films, lectures, and slide talk are free with Museum admission.

Saturdays: free admission, 10-12 noon, courtesy of Shaw's Supermarkets.