

SOME ADDITIONAL AUDUBON COPPER-PLATES.

BY PHOEBE KNAPPEN.

I DID not appreciate the interest attaching to copper plates for the double elephant folio edition of Audubon's 'Birds of America' until I read Dr. May's note in a recent issue of 'The Auk' (11).¹ Inquiries were immediately made concerning two plates which had been seen and casually admired in the fall of 1928. They are deposited in the library of the Museum Building of the New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, New York City.

These plates were presented to the Botanical Garden by the former director, Dr. N. L. Britton, to whom they were given by John J. Croke (4) of Staten Island, at some time previous to his death in 1911. Mr. Croke was, presumably, a friend of the senior partner of Phelps, Dodge and Company [Ansonia Brass and Copper Company], who one day advised him to inspect a recent purchase of scrap copper, as there were figures of birds engraved on it. This Croke proceeded to do, and finding the scrap to consist of plates for the 'Birds of America,' he bought as many as he could carry away under his arm.

One of these plates is number LXIV, of the Swamp Sparrow, *Fringilla Palustris*, representing a male clinging to the stem of a May-apple. On this plate the usual—'Drawn from Nature by J. J. Audubon, F.R.S., F.L.S.'—is replaced by 'Drawn from Nature by Lucy Audubon.' According to Mr. Ruthven Deane, Audubon chose this as a way of paying a delicate compliment to his wife.² On the original painting from which the plate was made, now owned by the New York Historical Society, is this note in Audubon's writing: "Mr. Havell will please have Lucy Audubon [sic] name on this plate instead of mine."

The other plate is number CXCV, of the Hudson Bay Titmouse, *Parus hudsonicus*, illustrating a male, female and young. In six sets of the 'Birds of America' consulted, the legend on this plate is Canadian Titmouse but in two others³ it appears as Hudson Bay

¹ Italic figures in parentheses refer to bibliography.

² (10), v. 2, p. 306.

³ One being the perfect copy selected by Robert Havell for himself, now at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut. (5), p. 408 and (10), v. 2, pp. 203-204.

Titmouse. There is no evidence that the name on the plate has been altered, as it must have been at some time, unless there were engraved two plates of this same subject.¹ The mount of the drawing preserved in the New York Historical Society has the following notation upon it: "Hudson's Bay Titmouse No. 194." This is the form used throughout the various texts as the proper name of the species also referred to as Canada Titmouse.

Six of the original copper-plates for the 'Birds of America' were recorded as being deposited in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C. (5). It seemed advisable to study these preparatory to making a trip to New York to see again the plates described above. Surprise soon yielded to delight when I found that the only Audubon copper-plate on public display in the Smithsonian was not one of those mentioned by Deane. This is Plate CCLIX, of the Horned Grebe, *Podiceps cornutus*, a medium sized plate portraying the male and female. There is nothing in the records of the Institution to indicate when or by whom this plate was donated, save that it was in the collection prior to March 5, 1888. On the back of the plate the initials H. F. S. are cut, the H. and F. being very clearly engraved with double lines, the S. faintly scratched on. Who H. F. S. was, the writer is unable to say.

The six plates presented to the Institution by William E. Dodge in 1885, were then located and examined, with the result that the plate of the Great Blue Heron—CCXI, was found to be missing, but in its stead was a plate of the Hooping [sic] Crane, young, No. CCLXI. Reference to the Smithsonian Institution Accession Catalogue for 1885 disclosed that though no plate of the Great Blue Heron had been listed, the one of the Hooping Crane was catalogued among those received from W. E. Dodge in May, 1885. The error here may be attributed to the loss of an 'L' from the plate number CCLXI (i. e.: CCXI) in transcribing the record for Mr. Deane. These plates were correctly noted by B. A. Bean in 1896, though he stated erroneously that the donor was a Mr. Stuart of New York. (3).

Correspondence with Dr. N. L. Britton and Mr. W. T. Davis uncovered the information that the rest of the Crooke plates had been offered for sale at an auction of his estate conducted on Staten

¹ (10), v. 1, p. 384.

Island in 1911. Four of the plates were sold to Mr. J. B. H. Greaves who recalls that he selected them from a larger number—five or possibly six plates. The remaining plate or plates were acquired as a memento by another friend of Crooke's. I have so far been unable to ascertain who this man was, and which plates he purchased.

Mr. and Mrs. Greaves kindly permitted me to examine their four, medium-sized plates, three of which are in fine condition, the fourth being somewhat corroded: CXLIV, Small Green Crested Flycatcher, *Muscicapa acadica*; CL, Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus* (this lettering is nearly effaced); CXC, Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, *Picus varius*; CCCLVIII, Pine Grosbeak, *Pyrrhula enucleator*.

All the plates examined bear in two places upon the reverse the stamp of the copper-plate maker, the initial of the given name being somewhat indistinct:

A. HIAM
9 Ratcliff Row
Bath St. City Rd.

One or two of the plates also bear the stamped word, London. Used in conjunction with correct inscriptions and dates on the face of the plate this imprint serves as a mode of authenticating the plates.

Two slight errors in Mr. Deane's article (5), due to his having published the figures and names as sent to him by the owners, are here amended with his permission. On page 404 the plate of the Canada Goose listed as CCLI should be CCI. On the next page reference is made to the Cowpen Bird as Plate CCII, when it should be XCIX, the former number referring to the figure of the American Gull.

Some of the plates recorded by Deane (5) have changed hands (9, 12), so it was decided to write to all the owners and institutions listed by him and find out whether they still possessed the plates and if not, who the present owners were. As will be seen from the appended list a number of the plates are missing, but as another was discovered and the names of four other plates were secured during the course of the correspondence, the score is about even.

Number CCCXV engraved with two figures each, of the Brown

COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF AUDUBON COPPER-PLATES KNOWN OF, OR MENTIONED IN LITERATURE.
 * = MISSING AT TIME OF WRITING; d = DECEASED; NUMBERS REFER TO BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Part	Plate	Name	Owner or Institution
1	I	Great American Cock	Mr. Cleveland E. Dodge, N. Y. C. (5)
2	VI	Great American Hen and Young	Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y. C. (5)
* 3	XII	Baltimore Oriole	d. Mayor Latrobe, Baltimore, Md. (12)
5	XXI	Mocking Bird	Groton School, Groton, Mass. (12)
5	XXII	Purple Martin	Mr. Charles F. Bliss, New Haven, Conn. (12)
8	XXXVII	Gold-winged Woodpecker	Mrs. Shelton E. Martin, Peapack, N. J. (12)
*10	XLVII	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	d. John H. Sage, Portland, Conn. (5, 14)
11	LII	Chuck-will's Widow	Smithsonian Institution, D. C. (3, 5)
12	LVI	Red-shouldered Hawk	Princeton University, Princeton, N. J. (5)
13	LXIV	Swamp Sparrow	New York Botanical Garden, N. Y. C. (8)
15	LXXII	Swallow-tailed Hawk	Pratt Memorial Library, Cohasset, Mass. (8)
16	LXXXVI	Virginian Partridge	Smithsonian Institution, D. C. (3, 5)
17	LXXXII	Whip-poor-will	Mr. Charles F. Bliss, New Haven, Conn. (8)
*20	XCIX	Cow Bunting or Cow-pen Bird	d. Miss Grace H. Dodge, N. Y. C. (5)
21	CI	Raven	Princeton University, Princeton, N. J. (5)
22	CVI	Black Vulture or Carrion Crow	Mr. Charles A. Cowles, Ansonia, Conn. (5)
*23	CXII	Downy Woodpecker	d. Miss Grace H. Dodge, N. Y. C. (6)
*23	CXIII	Blue-bird	d. Miss Grace H. Dodge, N. Y. C. (5)
*25	CXXI	Snowy Owl	Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y. C. (5)
27	CXXXI	American Robin	Smithsonian Institution, D. C. (3, 5)
29	CXLIV	Small Green Crested Flycatcher	Mr. J. B. H. Greaves, Staten Island, N. Y.
30	CL	Red-eyed Vireo	Mr. J. B. H. Greaves, Staten Island, N. Y.
34	CLXVII	Key West Pigeon	Mrs. Shelton E. Martin, Peapack, N. J. (12)
38	CXC	Yellow-bellied Woodpecker	Mr. J. B. H. Greaves, Staten Island, N. Y.
39	CXCIV	Canadian or Hudson's Bay Titmouse	New York Botanical Garden, N. Y. C.
40	CXCVI	Labrador Falcon	Mr. Charles A. Cowles, Ansonia, Conn. (5)
41	CCI	Canada Goose	Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y. C. (5)
*43	CCXI	Great Blue Heron	Smithsonian—mistaken identity. (5)
45	CCXXI	Mallard Duck	Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y. C. (5)
46	CCXXVI	Whooping Crane	Smithsonian Institution, D. C. (3, 5)
48	CCXXXVI	Night Heron or Qua Bird	Mrs. Cleveland H. Dodge, N. Y. C. (5)

Part	Plate	Name	Owner or Institution
*51	CCCLIII	Pomarine Jaeger.	d. C. H. Dodge, N. Y. C. (5)
*52	CCCLVII	Double-crested Cormorant.	d. D. Stuart Dodge, Simsbury, Conn. (5)
52	CCCLX	Horned Grebe.	Smithsonian Institution, D. C.
53	CCCLXI	Hooping Crane—Young.	Smithsonian Institution, D. C. (3)
*54	CCCLXVII	Arctic Jaeger.	d. John H. Sage, Portland, Conn. (5, 14)
55	CCCLXXI	Frigate Pelican.	Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Pa. (7)
56	CCCLXXVII	Hutchin's Barnacle Goose.	Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y. C. (6)
57	CCCLXXXI	Great White Heron.	Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y. C. (1, 5, 9)
59	CCXC	Herring Gull.	Mr. Charles A. Cowles, Ansonia, Conn. (5)
62	CCGVI	Great Northern Diver or Loon.	Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y. C. (5)
62	CCCLX	Great Tern.	Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.
65	CCCLXXII	Red-head Duck.	Mr. Chester F. Tolles, Ansonia, Conn.
65	CCCLXXIII	Black Skimmer or Shearwater.	Mr. Charles A. Cowles, Ansonia, Conn.
68	CCCLXXXVIII	Bimaculated Duck.	Miss Norline W. Brainerd, N. Y. C. (6)
72	CCCLVI	Marsh Hawk.	Mr. Charles A. Cowles, Ansonia, Conn. (5)
72	CCCLVIII	Pine Grosbeak.	Mr. J. B. H. Greaves, Staten Island, N. Y.
73	CCCLXII	Yellow-billed Magpie, Steller's Jay, Ultramarine Jay, Clarke's Crow.	Miss Mary Parsons, Lenox, Mass. (11)
76	CCCLXXXVIII	Hawk Owl.	Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y. C. (5)
77	CCCLXXXI	Snow Goose.	Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y. C. (1, 5, 9)
79	CCCXCI	Bran Goose.	Pleasant Valley Bird and Wild Flower Sanctuary, Lenox, Mass. (5, 12)
79	CCCXCII	Louisiana Hawk.	Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y. C. (1, 5)
80	CCCXCVII	Scarlet Ibis.	Smithsonian Institution, D. C. (3, 5)
82	CCCXCVII	Dusky Albatros.	Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y. C. (5)
82	CCCXVIII	American Scoter Duck.	Mr. Charles A. Cowles, Ansonia, Conn. (5)
82	CCCXVIII	Havell's and Trudeau's Terns.	Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. (5)
83	CCCXCV	Brown Creeper and Californian Nuthatch.	Wadsworth Atheneum and Morgan Memorial, Hartford, Conn.
84	CCCCXVII	Maria's, Three-toed, Phillips', Canadian, Harris's and Audubon's Woodpeckers.	Princeton University, Princeton, N. J. (5)
85	CCCCXXII	Rough-legged Falcon.	Princeton University, Princeton, N. J. (5)

Creeper, *Certhia familiaris*, and the Californian Nuthatch, *Sitta pygmaea*, has been loaned to the Wadsworth Atheneum and Morgan Memorial by Mrs. Allen B. Talcott of New York. This is said to have been "found by W. E. Dodge about 1860 with six others and given by Mr. Dodge to Dr. C. R. Agnew of New York."

In addition to the five plates listed as belonging to Mr. Charles A. Cowles (5), he owns number CCCXXIII of the Black Skimmer or Shearwater; numbers XXII and LXXXII of the Purple Martin and Whip-poor-Will respectively are in the possession of Mr. Charles F. Bliss, while Mr. Chester F. Tolles has plate number CCCXXII of the Red-head Duck. These four plates were mentioned but not identified in Cowles' letter to Deane (5, p. 403) and were not included in his total.

Fifty-nine plates are recorded herein, of which one has never been found (CCXI), and nine have been lost since rediscovery. Thirty of the remaining forty-nine plates are deposited in public institutions and nineteen are privately owned.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

1. ANONYMOUS.

Mementoes of Audubon in the Museum. Notes and News, American Museum Journal 1(6): 82-84, 1 pl., January, 1901. [Mention of copper plate of Louisiana or Harris's Hawk, p. 83. General note on sale and rediscovery of the plates by Miss M. R. Audubon, p. 84.]
Collection of Auduboniana consisting of 126 specimens of plates, paintings and antiques. American Museum Annual Report, for 1925, p. 116, May 1, 1926.

2. REIGNOLD.

Audubon Plates Sold for Junk. Letter to Editor: Forest and Stream 47(11): 203, September 12, 1896. [Had seen six of the plates including one of the bald eagle, about 1870.]

3. BEAN, BARTON A.

Audubon Copper Plates in the Smithsonian. Natural History: Forest and Stream 47(17): 325, October 24, 1896. [Correctly lists six of the plates in the U. S. N. M.]

4. DAVIS, W. T.

John J. Croke: A Staten Island Naturalist. Staten Island Assoc. of Arts and Sciences, Proc. 3(4): 169-172, March-May, 1911. [Obituary notice, containing information on the finding of the copper-plates by Croke to whom they were sold by Mr. Anson H. Phelps of the Ansonia Copper Company.]

5. DEANE, RUTHVEN.
The Copper-Plates of the Folio Edition of Audubon's 'Birds of America,' with a Brief Sketch of the Engravers. *Auk* 25(4): 401-413, October, 1908. [This is the most complete record of the recovery and present repositories of the plates. Actual status—38.]
6. DEANE, RUTHVEN.
Two additional Copper-plates of the Folio Edition of Audubon's 'Birds of America.' *Auk* 27(1): 93, January, 1910. [Status—40.]
7. DEANE, RUTHVEN.
One additional Copper-plate of the Folio Edition of Audubon's 'Birds of America.' *Auk* 42(2): 282, April, 1925. [Status—41.]
8. DEANE, RUTHVEN.
One additional Copper-plate of the Folio edition of Audubon's 'Birds of America.' *Auk* 42(3): 452, July, 1925. [Status—42.]
9. DEANE, RUTHVEN.
The Copper-plates of the Folio Edition of Audubon's 'Birds of America.' *Auk* 44(1): 121-122, January, 1927. [Recording presentation of M. R. Audubon's two plates to Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.]
10. HERRICK, FRANCIS HOBART.
Audubon the Naturalist. v. 1, p. 384; v. 2, pp. 193-194, 203-204, 306-309. D. Appleton and Co., N. Y., 1917.
11. MAY, JOHN B.
Another Audubon Copper-plate located. *Auk* 47(4): 580, October, 1930. [Actual status—43 plates.]
12. MAY, JOHN B.
More Audubon Copper-plates. *Auk* 48(2): 284, April, 1931. [Records the discovery of three more plates and notes another which can not be located, though known to exist, and mentions the transfer of a fifth plate noted by Deane, 1907, to a museum. Actual status 46 (+ 1 unlocated)].
13. MUSCHAMP, EDWARD A.
Audacious Audubon, the Story of a Great Pioneer, Artist, Naturalist and Man. pp. 282-283, 284, 286, Brentano's, N. Y., 1929.
14. SAGE, JOHN H.
The Plates of Audubon's Work. Natural History: Forest and Stream 47(13): 244, September 26, 1896. [Two plates owned by him.]
15. WILLIAMS, GEORGE A.
Robert Havell, Junior, Engraver of Audubon's 'The Birds of America.' *Print-Collectors Quarterly*, v. 6, pp. 225-257, illus., Boston, 1916.

I wish to express my gratitude to the many people who have so graciously replied to my numerous questions and letters, in the course of gathering the material reported upon here.

Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.