

January 16, 1987

Dear Mr. Gentling,

Your package has arrived and I am overwhelmed! The Turkey is just beautiful and as I promised you it is being framed and will hang in the small sitting room of our house here in Brimcombe. I have not enough Thanks.

The sheets you included from your book, "Of Birds and Texas" are just beautiful. The printing of the text is superb and the photo offset work is just great. Congratulations all around.

I am fascinated by your story of the Great Crow Blackbird. By now I am sure you have received the xerox I sent you of the illustration in Alice Ford's book. I have your xerox of the illustration in Bonaparte's "American Ornithology" in front of me right next to the Ford illustration. They are alike but for two points:

- 1) Your xerox says "Engraved by Alexander Lawson". The Ford illustration says "Engraved by W. H. Lizars."
- 2) In the credit line to the artist, <sup>in your xerox</sup> there is a gap between the John and the J, but there is no such gap between them in the Ford illustration.

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All This is no way affects The story of your finding the lost painting and of The events as They happened in Philadelphia, but it does bring up an intriguing situation.

I can conceive of a situation whereby Audubon got his original drawing back, took it with him to Scotland, and had Lizars engrave it, but I cannot conceive That Audubon would have Lizars make an engraving exactly matching The illustration in Boscarter's book that had been so cruelly reworked and pretty well ruined and about which Audubon was so upset.

There has to be a story behind the print that is marked "Engraved by W.H. Lizars." As I told you, Anne Slattery at the NYHS is a friend of mine that I have done a lot of Audubon work with. I have written her about this and can't wait to hear back.

You mention in your letter That I might include your story of the Great Crow Blackbird in my book. Unfortunately, The book is in the hands of the publisher

and is "camera ready", plus the fact that its contents are strictly limited to "Birds of America".

However There is some talk of changing The size of the page which means it would have to be printed again on The Laser Printer in the new size. If this should happen it might be I ~~we~~ could get in a line or two but no more as it would throw out the pagination. At any rate, I will try.

What you have sent me is such a generous gift and I do want to do something to repay you. So I am setting some second hand book dealers (who deal in ornithology) to work to see if They can find a copy of Alice Jack's "John James Audubon". It may take a few weeks but if They find a copy it will be my pleasure to send it on to you as a gift to add to your Audubon library.

With all good wishes and again many many  
Thanks,

Sincerely,

Francis H. Low

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