

SHANNON DAVIES
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AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746

April 4, 2000

Nicole Wells
Coordinator or Rights and Reproductions
The New-York Historical Society
170 Central Park West
New York, NY 10024

Re: Permission to publish

Dear Ms. Wells,

For the book *Of Birds and Texas* by Stuart Gentling and Scott Gentling, to be published by the University of Texas Press, we would like to use the following image:

John James Audubon, Boat Tailed Grackles (painted at Bonnet Carre's Church, Louisiana, January 1821)

This image appears in the book *John James Audubon: The Water Colors for the Birds of America* by Annette Blaugrund and Theodore Stebbins (Villard 1996), plate 95

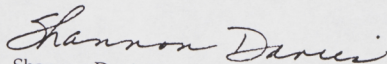
We are requesting nonexclusive world rights.

As a matter of interest, the New-York Historical Society owns a copy of the imperial folio edition of *Of Birds and Texas*, which Stuart and Scott Gentling donated to the library when it was published in 1986 and which society librarian James E. Mooney called a "colossal artistic achievement."

In addition, the Gentlings had previously shared with the society's then assistant director, Carole Anne Slatkin, the story of their purchase of Audubon's revised grackles painting, which was submitted by Audubon for use in the supplement to Wilson's *American Ornithology* in Philadelphia in 1824. This version of the grackles was lost after a grossly altered painting finally appeared in the supplement, to Audubon's lasting resentment. Discovered by chance, Audubon's grackles were shipped to Ms. Slatkin for her scrutiny. She was delighted to be able to see the three existing versions of Audubon's Boat-tailed Grackles side-by-side and wrote the Gentlings to express her thrill in seeing this original work by Audubon, which was subsequently sold to defray the cost of publishing the folio *Of Birds and Texas*. This whole intriguing story is being recounted in the new edition.

Thank you for your consideration. I will look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Shannon Davies
Editor

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