

Final of over fifteen diff.
drafts. It may still have to
be shortened to fit on the
folio page.

Barbara Holma

WE PROUDLY ANNOUNCE THE COMPLETION OF
OF A GREAT IMPERIAL FOLIO
ON AMERICAN BIRDS

Occasionally there occurs in the world of publishing an event so special as to justify superlatives. Such an event is the publication Of Birds and Texas. *The book takes its title less being a work of national importance than* It is a book of national importance since most of ~~the~~ subjects are familiar American birds that annually migrate to Texas for their winter habitat.

Every great book has to have a conceiver--a birth giver. This creative and colorful work comes from the fecund minds of Scott and Stuart Gentling, who have earned a national reputation in the art world. They studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts where they came under the influence of John McCoy, prominent watercolorist and brother-in-law of Andrew Wyeth.

This massive volume of 50 color plates and 87 pages of text has been ten years in the making. *The Gentlings* Scott and Stuart have painted each bird in its natural habitat with a *an elegant style* ~~personal~~ awareness and poetic insight reminiscent of Audubon's historic folio. The artists have written a commentary to accompany each plate.

To give *dimension* to the volume, the Gentlings invited John Graves, author of Goodbye to a River, to contribute a major work of prose "Recollections of a Texas Bird Glimpser." Graves has written a personal and moving account of people and places that have influenced him as a man and as a writer.

The book consists of two portfolios. *contained in an impressive two-volume set* The first portfolio holds ten landscape subjects painted in the Gentlings' more familiar dry brush watercolor style. The second portfolio holds forty magnificent color plates of American birds. All are shown against backgrounds of the many regions where they migrate.

Of Birds and Texas is also blessed with magnificent writing and several unique and historic research finds which add to the history of American ornithology.

- * There is a foreword by Harry Tennison, international conservationist and currently president of Game Conservation International.
 - * The Gentlings, who have dedicated the book to Audubon and include a magnificent small portrait of him by Scott Gentling to grace the opening page, have made a valuable contribution to Audubon scholarship by bringing to light the long missing Audubon painting, "The Great Crow Blackbird," and have ^{they have published it here for the first time} printed it in its unaltered, original state as Audubon created the painting in 1824. ^{in its original unaltered version}
 - * They have also published for the first time Audubon's original manuscript of his commentary on the red-shouldered hawk written in 1830.
- ☒ ☐ The book has been designed and printed on acid-free paper by David Holman at his Wind River Press in Austin in an edition of 500 copies. This is the only book known in American publishing where a 'one man' printer has printed the text by letterpress and then printed 50 color plates, measuring 22 inches by 28 inches, ^{unbound} by offset lithography. ^{To hold the plates book binder} The book contains a total of 137 ^{Consistent} folio size pages. ~~The binding has been executed by Craig Jensen using two archival quality portfolios which are placed in an appropriate linen-covered box.~~ ^{of his design and manufacture.}

Of Birds and Texas is a major work in the history of American bookmaking and will assure enjoyment and retention by a family for ~~untold~~ ^{if you are fortunate suggest that} generations. We urge you to place your order promptly for this important volume. The price is \$2500.

THE GENTLING BOOK OF BIRDS
902 Boland Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76107