

CENTER FOR Texas Studies

FOCUS ON TEXAS

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THE MOST STUNNING and prodigious book in Texas history (and possibly forever) is the massive production of twin artists, Stuart and Scott Gentling's About Birds and Texas, with an Introduction by John Graves (that amounts to a book in itself.) The artists' personal comments on both the birds pictured and the Texas lands that afford them habitat are of a quality almost equal to the artists' painting. The "book," if it must be called that, is h-u-g-e. The sheets measure 22" x 28" and the paper is acid-free, of heaviest stock, so that the whole thing weighs 60 pounds in 2 linen-covered boxes. The color printing is breathtaking, superior to any renderings ever done in the United States and measuring up to or surpassing even the finest process work done in the Netherlands or Japan. David Holman is printer, designer and typographer. This is the Audubon elephant folio of the twentieth-century (and the Gentlings are lavish in their appreciation of J. J. A.). Although the 500 copies for sale are priced at \$2500, there is no question the investment possibilities alone make the price reasonable. The beauty of Stuart and Scott Gentling's paintings (the Fort Worth brothers are already famed) is delivered so stunningly that even to describe the work is to sound like a paid claque! But, then, there's never been anything like this come out of Texas before.

Theodore Coleman

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