

COMMENTS FROM THE ART AND BOOK WORLD
ON "OF BIRDS AND TEXAS"
BY SCOTT AND STUART GENTLING AND JOHN GRAVES

"A triumph of beautiful design, fine printing and original scholarship. There was nothing in Paul Mellon's incomparable collection of 18th and 19th century illustrated books from Britain of greater appeal and sheer beauty."

Edmund Pillsbury, Director
Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth

"One of the most important books published in Texas. Anyone who loves Audubon, birds, Texas or books would be well advised to invest in this book."

Ron Tyler, Director
Texas State Historical Association

"A country's heartland is best defined by its natural history, and Texas is well-served by this landmark gathering of powerful, colorful plates and accompanying bird tales, by a lengthy John Graves narrative of the birds in his life worthy of standing alone with the best of his work, and by a massive graphic symphony of letterpress and lithography by David Holman, the state's finest printer A mountainous folio of a book, a museum-quality work, unlikely ever to be emulated."

Harold Billings, Director
General Libraries
University of Texas at Austin

"Marvelous; a simply overwhelming book."

Andrew Wyeth
Chadd's Ford, Pennsylvania

"The most stunning and prodigious book in Texas History The color printing is breathtaking This is the Audubon elephant folio of the twentieth century Although the 500 copies are priced at \$2,500, there is no question the investment possibilities alone make the price reasonable. The beauty of the Gentlings' paintings is delivered so stunningly that even to describe the work is to sound like a paid claque! But there has never been anything like this to come out of Texas before."

A. C. Greene, Coordinating Director
The Center for Texas Studies

"Scott and Stuart Gentling's OF BIRDS AND TEXAS probably is the most magnificent book ever produced in Texas This literal descendant of Audubon's BIRDS OF AMERICA is destined to become a classic of ornithology and fine printing John Graves' refreshing "Recollections of a Texas Bird Glimpser" is an autobiographical account of his off-and-on interest in birds The heart of the book, though, remains the Gentlings' superb portraits of Texas birds. Mere words cannot describe the accuracy and delicacy of their attention to form, or the brilliance and subtlety of their colors. It is impossible to pick favorites Did I say that OF BIRDS AND TEXAS is probably the most magnificent book ever produced in Texas? Change that probably to definitely."

Lee Milazzo, Book Critic
The Dallas Morning News

"OF BIRDS AND TEXAS has no counterpart in southwestern printing history. It has few peers in scope, content and fidelity anywhere in America This is printing artistry at its finest. The results, taken in toto, constitute a landmark achievement."

Al Lowman, Author of
PRINTING ARTS IN TEXAS

"In OF BIRDS AND TEXAS, Stuart and Scott Gentling pay homage to two major influences on their lives as artists -- the Texas countryside and the work of John James Audubon. They have produced a breath-taking tour de force, rich with vitality, luminescence and a sense of place. The work is not only beautiful in its own right. The style of the bird paintings purposely echoes Audubon's romantic, lively style; one can imagine him creating highly finished paintings much like these if he were painting today and had the Gentlings' formal training and modern art materials."

Mary Durant and Michael Harwood,
Authors of ON THE ROAD WITH JOHN
JAMES AUDUBON

"I commend OF BIRDS AND TEXAS on its many excellent virtues and on its even more superlative ones. It joins some other great books and water-colors and engravings of birds and it stands tall in that company, even among the Audubons which have informed and inspired this work. Again, our profound respect and admiration for this colossal artistic achievement which will be of interest to all Americans and not limited to collectors of Texana...."

James E. Mooney, Librarian
The New York Historical Society

"I can sense Mr. Audubon standing just over there, applauding those rowdy Gentling boys -- not only for the personal genius behind their magnificent color plates (with commentary by the artists themselves) but for the wisdom to have invited an essay by John Graves and then for having the whole thing beautifully produced by David Holman and Craig Jensen. It took a bold sense of derring-do to have even attempted a project of this magnitude. That the Gentlings have accomplished it with such quality and taste -- with such rightness of look and feel -- is a shining achievement. I know of nothing in the history of Texas arts and letters to rival it."

Bill Whittliff, Author, Film Director,
Publisher of Encino Press at Austin

"I add my voice to the already thunderous praise of OF BIRDS AND TEXAS a glorious work, placing the most refined and sophisticated twentieth century printing technology in the service of the nineteenth century's unbridled reverence for nature. And, wonderfully, the spirit of John James Audubon pervades the pages, revealing in your monumental bird images both the unique and subtle characteristics of each species and the artist's unabashed passion for them Your book's appeal will by no means be limited to Texans, for any lover of art or natural history will be captivated by the paintings and delighted by the enchanting and lyrical text. Many congratulations on this exceptional work. You have created a moving homage to Audubon, to Texas and to American natural history."

Carole Anne Slatkin, Assistant Director
The New York Historical Society

"Although their Audubonesque style represents a departure from current trends in bird painting, the Gentlings are no slavish imitators of that artist. In their best works they have combined a 19th century romantic's passion for their subject with a bold and often innovative sense of composition which makes their work unique. OF BIRDS AND TEXAS is simply a fantastic book, and it is a fitting tribute to the Gentlings whom I have known and admired for many years. Anyone who is interested in fine contemporary books about birds should see this work."

Guy Coheleach,
Bernardsville, New Jersey

"Extraordinary! The book is a breathtaking accomplishment and celebrates both the birds and the wildness that still exist in parts of Texas."

Roger Tory Peterson,
Old Lyme, Connecticut