

PRESS RELEASE

To commemorate our one hundredth anniversary the Texas Audubon Society is very pleased to announce the publication of a special limited edition color print by renowned Texas artists Stuart and Scott Gentling. The Gentling twins have chosen the green jay as the subject for their commemorative print, because Texas is the only U.S. state inhabited by these elegant semi-tropical birds.

The "Green Jays" is the first folio-sized bird painting the Gentlings have created since the publication of their massive elephant folio, OF BIRDS AND TEXAS, thirteen years ago. Weighing more than 47 pounds, with 50 color plates of Texas birds and landscapes and 87 pages of text printed by hand set metal type - the pages measuring twenty-two by twenty-eight inches - the Gentling folio was unanimously hailed as the most magnificent book in the history of Texas publishing. The main essay contributed by John Graves, considered to be Texas's finest writer, further enhanced the folio's standing among critics. OF BIRDS AND TEXAS was dedicated to John James Audubon whom the Gentlings claim as a spiritual mentor in their youth and whose work led them on the path to becoming artists. The spirit of Audubon is infused in the green jay print which is also the same size as the color plates of the Gentling folio.

All the original bird paintings created for OF BIRDS AND TEXAS were purchased by the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History who is now working with Texas Audubon by allowing a number of the Gentling birds to tour the state in celebration of our centennial. (TxAs might mention the confirmed venues for the show here).

The Green Jay commemorative print was unveiled on March 5th at Texas Audubon's 100th anniversary gala held at the Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth. By a wonderful coincidence the Gentling brothers produced the magnificent painted decorations that graced the front entrances as well as the Great Dome of the concert chamber of the new theater. To honor the Gentling achievement the world-renowned Kimbell Art Museum presented a major exhibition of the twins' Bass Performance Hall designs a rare accolade to living artists.

The Green Jay prints are for sale for \$150 each plus sales tax, handling and shipping. Funds raised from print sales will go toward the publication of a special trade edition of OF BIRDS AND TEXAS that average book buyers can afford. The new book will measure approximately 10 inches by 11 inches and will contain not only all the original Gentling 50 color plates and text but also a new essay by Stuart Gentling titled, "Of Birds and Texas, Audubon and Us." The new book will be even further enhanced by 30 additional watercolor studies of Texas birds done over the years for special Gentling patrons. A percentage earned from sales of the new book will go to the Texas Audubon Society in support of its many programs. The book will be published early in 2000.