

The Audubon Series

The Parkville Frame Gallery is pleased to offer: **The Audubon Series**. This series is a collection of reproductions (known as “Plates”) painted by the well-known and respected American artist John James Audubon, and engraved by Robert Havell, Jr. We can offer these reproductions, and many others, already framed, or we can order an image (plate) of your choice, in a variety of sizes, and frame it to your specifications. Lets’ create something together.

The Artists:

- **John James Audubon** (artist from nature) American, 1785-1851
- **Robert Havell, Jr.** (engraving and aquatint) British-born American, 1793-1878



John J. Audubon



Robert Havell, Jr.

- John James Audubon and Robert Havell, Jr. created a collection known as: ***The Birds of America***. This was a large collection consisting of 435 “Plates” (arranged in “Parts”) that show the images of 457 species of birds.
- A “Part number” is different than a “Plate number”
 - Each grouping of prints originally issued was given a “Part” number.
 - Each individual print within a grouping was given a “Plate” number. For example: Audubon Havell prints were issued as 87 Parts. Each Part had 5 Plates, thus equaling a total of 435 Plates of 1,065 birds.
- *The Birds of America* series cost Audubon and Havell more than \$2 million in today’s dollars to create. In 2011, a complete set of the engravings was sold at auction for \$11.5 million.
- Plates from *Birds of America* are among the most widely reproduced images in the history of western art.
- The value of an original Audubon print today depends on its “edition”, e.g. “Havell Edition” prints, “Audubon Royal Octavo” prints, and “Audubon Bien” prints vary in value. Good machine copies made today are reasonably priced.



The Louisiana Heron

Birds of America: Plate Number CCXVII (#217)

John James Audubon and Robert Havell, Jr.
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Date created: 1834

Medium: Hand-colored engraving and aquatint on Whatman wove paper

Size: Plate: 20-13/16 x 26 inches, Sheet: 26-15/16 x 39-13/16 inches

Where on display: National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Accession number: 1945.8.217

Credit Line: Gift of Mrs. Walter B. James

- **The Art:** *The Louisiana Heron* (Plate #217)
- The Tricolored heron (scientific name: *Egretta tricolor*), formerly known as the Louisiana heron, is a small (9.8-12 inches in length) species of heron native to coastal parts of the Americas. In the Atlantic region, it ranges from the northeastern United States, south along the coast, through the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, to northern South America as far south as Brazil.
- On the southeastern coastal plain, the Tricolored Heron is a characteristic bird of quiet shallow waters. Strikingly slender, with long bill, neck, and legs, it is often seen wading belly-deep in coastal lagoons. Although it is solitary in its feeding, it is sociable in nesting, often in very large colonies with various other herons and egrets.
- This bird acquires the full beauty of its plumage the second year after its birth. The bird itself continues to increase in overall size.
- The flight of this beautiful Heron is light, rather irregular, swifter than that of many other species, and capable of being considerably protracted.



Mallard Duck

Birds of America: Plate Number CCXXI (#221)

John James Audubon and Robert Havell, Jr.

Date created: Between 1827-1838

Medium: Hand-colored engraving and aquatint on Whatman wove paper

Size: The original *Birds of America* prints were issued on something called double elephant folio sized paper (26 1/2" x 39 1/2"); however the images varied in size. One "Part" was: 1 large plate, 1 medium-sized plate, and 3 small plates.

The Art: *Mallard Duck*

- It is estimated that there are currently around 10 million mallard ducks of breeding age in North America. There are more mallard ducks in North America than on any other continent.
- A common nickname for the male mallard is "greenhead." A common nickname for the female mallard is "Suzy."
- Mallard ducks will usually form pairs in October and November, and will stay in pairs until the end of breeding season, which occurs in early March and extends into late May.
- After mating season, males move away from female ducks to join other males for molting, leaving females to care for the offspring.
- Most mallard ducks are migratory birds, flying south to temperate climates during the winter, and northwards in the summer to nesting grounds.

Editor's Note: A lot more information about mallard ducks is available at:

<https://forum.americanexpedition.us/mallard-duck-information-facts-photos-and-artwork>



American Flamingo

Birds of America: Plate Number CCCCXXXI (Plate #431)

John James Audubon and Robert Havell, Jr.

Source: National Gallery of Art

Series title: The Birds of America, Plate CCCCXXXI (#431)

Date painted: 1838

Medium: hand-colored engraving and aquatint on Whatman wove paper

Dimensions:

Image: 87.63 x 58.58 cm (34 1/2 x 23 1/16 in.)

Plate: 97 x 65 cm (38 3/16 x 25 9/16 in.)

Sheet: 101.3 x 68.3 cm (39 7/8 x 26 7/8 in.)

Where on display: National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Accession number: 1945.8.431

Credit Line: Gift of Mrs. Walter B. James

Artists / Makers

John James Audubon (artist) American, 1785 – 1851

Robert Havell, Jr. (artist after) American, born England, 1793 - 1878

Provenance: Mrs. Walter B. James, NY; gift to NGA 1945