

and Mamma join me in those wishes and I remain for ever Your affectionate Friend & Father —

John J Audubon.

Tell our Friend Children that I shall soon make a Shipment of Insects to him.

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### MORE LIGHT ON AUDUBON'S FOLIO 'BIRDS OF AMERICA.'

BY SAMUEL N. RHOADS.

THE following transcript of a clipping, which, from the character of what is printed on the reverse side, appears to have been cut from a New York City newspaper of January, 1838, I recently found laid within the leaves of an old book. It confirms my belief, long entertained, that the estimates placed by bibliographers and historians on the number of published copies of the first (Elephant Folio) edition of Audubon's 'Birds of America' were much too small.

Mr. Ruthven Deane, whose researches in Auduboniana cover a long period, writes me that "it was believed from creditable information that the number of copies published was *seventy-five*," and that "the Audubon family [descendants] believe that was about the number."

My experience in the old-book business during the last fourteen years, in which time I have examined or personally known of the sales of forty or fifty copies of this folio edition in America alone, was sufficient reason for placing the probable number of copies issued at considerably above one hundred. In the past twenty years it is probable that one New England print-dealer has broken up thirty or forty volumes of this magnificent work, selling the plates separately for framing and other illustrative purposes. The newspaper clipping is as follows:





GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.

FROM AN ORIGINAL WATERCOLOR BY JOHN JAMES AUDUBON.





Rhoads, Samuel N. 1916. "More Light on Audubon's Folio 'Birds of America'" *The Auk* 33, 130–132. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4072160>.

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