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Illustrations Of The Family Of Psittacidae, Or Parrots



Synopsis

Edward Lear's album of parrots contains the finest illustrations of the family ever produced. Lear (1812-1888) turned his hand to many things in the course of his artistic and literary life; landscape painting, nonsense verse, and the illustration of birds and reptiles. His work as a natural history draftsman lasted little more than the first decade of his career, until his eyesight became too weak for the detail of feathers and scales. The Psittacidae is Edward Lear's most remarkable achievement: he conveyed with telling sympathy the carriage of a bird, the grasp of the claws, the tilt of the head, its grave, curious, or quizzical expression. The book, first issued in parts, was drawn, lithographed, and published on a shoestring by Lear himself in a tiny edition.

Commentary by Robert McCracken Peck.

Book Information

CD-ROM: 120 pages

Publisher: Octavo; Cdr edition (January 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1591100089

ISBN-13: 978-1591100089

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 5.5 x 4.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #5,488,705 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Graphic Design > Lithography #3565 in Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic

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Animals > Birds & Birdwatching

Customer Reviews

Edward Lear, known for nonsense verse, was also an accomplished artist. A rare collection of ornithological plates in PDF format. -- Nature, March 27, 2003 It's a great joy to flip through the pages, turn back to a favorite, zoom in, and absorb the beauty. -- The AFA Watchbird, Third Quarter 2003 Lear's Parrots contains the finest illustrations of the family ever produced--a stylistic monument in the depiction of birds. -- The Society for the History of Natural History Newsletter, October 2003 Octavo editions give readers a firsthand experience of a milestone text: each includes page-by-page views, expert commentaries, and appropriate "marginalia." -- University of Chicago Magazine, October 2004 One of the greatest examples of 19th-century zoological illustration. The

product is of high quality and simple to use. -- Library Journal, August 2003

Imaged from the collection of the California Academy of Sciences

An excellent cd. Even the 1973 reprint of the book fetches over £500 these days so the cd is particularly welcome. I found the colour and reproduction to be first class throughout. To be recommended John Whitaker,

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