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## Letter from John James Audubon to Edward Harris, January 21, 1834

John James Audubon

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Charlesson d. 6 - San 7. 21 - 1834 -My Fear Friend. -Town him at letter of the he - Instant oul reached me the affences. - The one you mustion having fut never came to hand atthough the news hapor containing your article respecting The Rallies Carolines did comes. I did not write fine Then having had the hope that en this I should have had the Steafure of Shaking you by the hand and that also of prefuting you to my excellent Friend The Reo of John Bachwan of this Gity, at whof houfe we all have been enjoying the realities of the halfitality. The Jural latter letters which have reached us from my dow Victor, now in London, have suduced me to at and on for The prefuet, my plans to revise the placed this spring at as early a prival as future circumstances wice admit of . -This I wish you to keep to yours of will we ment - Sam definous to runain a few Weather at Ballimon, and a few days at Phil a lefore we reach How Tarks; but even Those anaugunute or Wither may prove barred, - I d'all with to You presion to my departure and from intermediate places to give your a full know le of the proceedings. I feed you a Copy of a Paper drawe by our prima Wachman counciled with the hatite of the Vultures of our Country, exititing the relates of afericing experiment made to prove That These Vultures are ally the without pepipion of the posses of Smell assigned to Them fine time immerial, Through either Supertitions or Equisance. - Philosophericula have prong as facefiful as Phop which I made forme 15 years ago, hublithey about & Fears ago but the truth of which have not only been don't ing, but hamfunithed my Environ with what they in their Iguerance buy L deafout have though fit to attent my gunal Character to don I fund your this paper with a with that as from as your have read it, you have it to the Secretary of the Lycemen of new Fork with the not of the Reverus John Barhanan which accomplan This. - I do this that no tricks may be play of from That quarting - we have forwarded 2 the hopens without I the fame of his Backer and to England our & he published in London's magazine, where I have been rateally attacked by a moun who kines he ling when he wood against me, the thing to he read at the Ray al Cociety of Loudon & -I have besides what I fund you under able proofs that the Din's where Kill and dename a though when I would in define of all the hospi power to the Contray, Li, In History of the

Mattle Inake is proceeding apace, and deficed whom this, that I will take all fair apportunities to prove to my Euronius That Howetty is the best policy" -Four Sun must now be underway as my Sand Victor word four time fine that it was begune I would be furt out as from as posible. I have without to Victor to have feveral hundred When of the paper full him finitud & die hope of among my European Sufficient to the Bird of aminica " and the Proper is now at work here to give me 200 Copins of the one I now fact in the Diginal - Copies wice to forward to your as food as popible - of your Can explose the Vilainer Mongh. The Medium of the Men Forth Baffette, pray do so -The other please put in the new Book pott office aduly to by The Forthe Sufferitue, of whom you wise find a the at Berthous, Compling house I ha with & full perfer as your may Think will four itterest in The assuite an Do not fund any of the Books of the which I have wither me the an all will in before I clife I must tell you that I have in 1/2 a doyen diturine from Bother and that the Species inhabiting the Couthern Districts of our Country is fully distinct from that forming in the Midle or northern Hater. - Suday The amount of my Misurine is almost burthufund, and the world will & dan fay doubt him for a Time, as much as dig of the Strange but then facts which I have

If when I return to the Withof States, early here of Shing your day me the falinfaction of a good long Journey with your as an aprillant and himf -I Shall be most fally difapointed. Two and bett yand to Jour Whole havilly Abelieve to be finery four hims -John & Huduber n in Garin Egus Paul Forthe To procure for me The Phalarape of which your Speak, I fear that Some one will afferent I obscribe it, after which you there much of The Value would be gone. comper only stated the soft of the Sint wifel four to the service Their whater to louten Divers son in in fight the set from that fingly wife misses or harten state. - Indeed The summer of me discourse in about the first fact of the start of the sta as any of the strong at the fair to the

Charleston, S.C. Jan[uar]y 21st 1834 —

My Dear Friend,

Your kind letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> Instant only reached me this afternoon.— The one you mention having sent never came to hand although the newspaper containing your article respecting the Rallus carolinsus did come. — I did not write since then having had the hope that ere this I should have had the pleasure of shaking you by the hand and that also, of presenting you to my excellent friend the Rev'd John Bachman of this City, at whose house we all have been enjoying the realities of true hospitality. —

The several latter letters which have reached me from my son Victor, now in London, have induced me to abandon for the present my plans to revisit the Floridas, etc., and I contemplate sailing for England this spring at as early a period as future circumstances will admit of. — This I wish you to keep to <u>yourself</u> until we meet. — I am desirous to remain a few weeks at Baltimore, and a <u>few days</u> at Phil'a before we reach New York; but even those arrangements or wishes may prove barren. — I shall write to you previous to my departure, and from intermediate places to give you a full knowledge of our proceedings. —

I send you a Copy of a Paper drawn by our friend Bachman connected with the habits of the Vultures of our Country exsibiting [sic] the results of a series of experiments made to prove that these Vultures are altogether without possession of the powers of smell assigned to them since time immorial [sic], through either Superstition or Ignorance. — These experiments have proved as successful as those which I made some 15 years ago, published about 8 years ago but the truth of which have not only been doubted, but have furnished my enemies with what they in their Ignorance Envy & Jealousy have thought fit to attack my general character &c, &c. —

I send you this paper with a wish that as soon as you have read it, you hand it to the Secretary of the Lyceum of New York with the note of the Reverend John Bachman which accompanies this. — I do this that no tricks may be played from that quarter — We have forwarded 2 other papers written by the same John Bachman to England: one to be published in Loudon's Magazine where I have been rascally attacked by a man who knows he lies when he wrote against me; the other to be read at the Royal Society of London &c. — We have studied the habits of the Vultures anew — I have besides what I send you undeniable proof that these Birds Will Kill and devour a Horse when wounded in defiance of all the high powers [or: hopes proven] to the Contrary. &c. — The History of the Rattle Snake is proceeding apace, and depend upon this, that I will take all fair opportunities to prove to my Enemies that "Honesty is the best policy." —

Your Gun must now be underway as my Son Victor writes sometime since that it was begun & would be sent out as soon as possible. —

I have written to Victor to have several hundred Copies of the papers sent him printed & disposed of among my European Subscribers to "The Birds of America" and the Printer

is now at Work here to give me 200 copies of the one I now sent in the Original — <u>Copies</u> will be forwarded to you as soon as possible — If you can expose the Vilains [sic] through the Medium of the New York Gazette, pray do so — the others please put in the New York post office addressed to my New York Subscribers, of whom you will find a list at Berthoud's Compting house—the rest to such persons as you may think will feel some interest in the "The American Woodsman".

Do not send any of the Books &c. for which I have written. — We are all well. — Before I close I must tell you that I have rec'd ½ a dozen titmice from Boston and that the species inhabiting the Southern Districts of our Country is perfectly distinct from that found in the Middle or Northern States. — Indeed, the amount of my discoveries is almost burthensome and the Wor[1]d will I dare say doubt them for a time, as much as any of the strange but true facts which I have promulgated —

If when I return to the United States, early next Spring you deny me the satisfaction of a good long journey with you as an assistant and friend — I shall be most sadly disappointed. —

Give our best regards to your whole family & believe to be sincerely Your Friend — John J. Audubon

To Ed'd Harris Esq.

New York

Do procure for Me the Phalarope of which you speak. I fear that someone will observe it & describe it, after which you know much of the Value would be gone. —