



The Humboldt Arts Council
in the Morris Graves Museum of Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Exhibition Headline: *Birds of America: Audubon Prints from the Humboldt Group Corporate Collection*

Exhibition Dates: December 4 through January 29, 2006

Museum Hours: Thursday - Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Explore a selection of prints by premier wildlife artist John James Audubon. On loan from the Humboldt Group Corporate Collection, this exhibition highlights the first edition copper engravings that are hand-tinted watercolors (c.1830), second edition stone lithographs (c.1860) and third edition stone lithograph octavo prints. Included in the exhibition is the premiere print *Baltimore Oriole*, along with various specimens of the birds featured in the prints.

John James Audubon (1785-1851) produced a folio of ornithological prints that remains the most enduring depiction of birdlife in the United States. The prints produced in *Birds of America*, continues to be a standard by which 20th and 21st century scientific illustrators are measured.

Born in Haiti, Audubon traveled to America in 1803 where he lived and developed his skill at rendering the natural world while trying to support his family as a frontier businessman. Before long, Audubon retired from business and began to dedicate himself wholly to documenting every species of bird on the North American continent.

In the early 1820s, Audubon and his wife Lucy embarked on a voyage through the back woods and rivers of America to capture images of birds in their natural habitats and document the grandeur of North America in a collection of 435 life-size ornithological prints.

An enthusiastic naturalist, Audubon wrote of his appreciation and concern for conservation and sounded the alarm regarding destruction of birds and habitats. In 1905, the National Audubon Society was founded on his principles of conservation and wildlife protection.

The Morris Graves Museum of Art, located at 636 F Street, Eureka is open to the public noon-5p.m., Thursday through Sunday. Museum admission is by donation: \$4 for adults, \$1 for seniors age 55 and older; HAC Members and children age 12 and under are admitted free. Admission is always free for everyone during each First Saturday Arts Alive!, 6-9 p.m.

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