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BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (3.30.21)

Author (as it should appear on the book): Krista Elrick

Title: *A Country No More*

Subtitle: *Rediscovering the Landscapes of John James Audubon*

Contributors: with essays Gregory Nobles and Mary Anne Redding and a conversation with the author by Joanna Hurley and Mary Anne Redding

Book pages: 256

Number and type of illustrations: 127 illustrations, including 91 photographs and collages by the author and 36 historic illustrations

Trim size: 12.25" x 10.75" horizontal/landscape

List price: \$55.00

Discount: trade

ISBN (book): 978-1-938086-80-9

ISBNs (electronic): TBD

Edition: Hardcover/PLC

E-book? TBD

Interactive e-book? n/a

Jacket: yes

Edition size: 1,200 (to be confirmed)

Publication date: 15 October 2020

Advances due: 15 September 2020

To warehouse: 1 October 2020

Printed in: Canada

Distributor: Casemate/IPM

Bookstore categories (list three): Art/Photography/Nature

Audience: Followers of John James Audubon (those who revere his paintings and those who have read the award-winning biographies of the man) plus anyone interested in art, photography, history, and the American landscape.

Selling points (list three): (1) John James Audubon is one of the world's most famous painters, and this is the first book of any kind by any artist to follow in his footsteps, retracing the myriad landscapes that Audubon traversed in order to paint birds and wildlife; (2) many locations throughout the nation, including Audubon Nature Centers and other organizations affiliated with the Audubon Society, have myriad outlets, including some

visitor centers where books about Audubon can be sold; (3) any serious book buyer who is captivated by the kind of creative collages and representation of history that this book reflects—the book truly is a work of art in its own right, featuring the high-end photography of Krista Elrick.

Tagline: The first artist to retrace the steps and revisit the landscapes of John James Audubon, from the East Coast, to the Gulf Coast, to the Heartland and Rocky Mountains.

Description of the work:

In 2010, when photographer Krista Elrick began traversing John James Audubon country in search of the birds the nineteenth-century American naturalist observed, painted, and wrote about, she encountered scarcely a sighting. Instead, she found the lushly forested watersheds and waterways that Audubon had passionately described in his journals vastly altered with many of the bird species extinct and their supporting habitat all but disappeared. Industrial buildings, parking lots, and strip malls had overtaken much of the area, edging out the natural world. It was a country no more.

With a vintage Hasselblad film camera in hand, Elrick traveled more than 45,000 miles over ten years, following in the footsteps of Audubon as she sought clues to what had happened to these places and to the animals and peoples who once lived there. Starting at his home in Mill Grove near Philadelphia, she retraced Audubon's many journeys to the bluffs of Cincinnati overlooking the Ohio River, to the key port town of Henderson, Kentucky, to the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and the burgeoning frontier towns of Natchez in Mississippi and St. Francisville and New Orleans in Louisiana, then back east to Charleston in South Carolina and St. Augustine and Key West in Florida on the Atlantic Coast, and on to far West and the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers and, on a final journey, to Audubon's gravesite in the Trinity Church Cemetery in New York City. What a journey.

Audubon's approach to painting birds was unique. He would kill however many birds he needed, brought them back to a studio or a room where he was lodging, constructed scenes with backdrops from a variety of locales, and rendered them in the paintings we revere today. Elrick responds to that approach by creating collages of her own, integrating the black-and-white images she made of the places Audubon and she traveled through with historic bank notes, period maps, and other ephemera that yield fascinating insights into the landscapes of Audubon today. And we see the changes and resulting effects on the natural world and its species as well as on the lives of the Native Americans and African Americans who once occupied the areas during Audubon's day.

In her research Elrick also discovered—as his biographers have—that Audubon himself was something of an enigma, a fabulist who told enchanting yet often conflicting stories about his own history and identity and what he saw in the field. Elrick's book offers us a fascinating compendium that gives us a fresh and provocative perspective on Audubon—the man and the artist—his times and enduring legacy.

Blurbs:

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About the Author:

Krista Elrick is a photographer based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. After earning her M.F.A. in photography from Arizona State University in 1990, she has had extensive arts-management experience with the Arizona Commission on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Western States Arts Federation, and she has completed several public art commissions with the Phoenix Arts Commission and the Seattle Arts Commission. She was also a featured artist in the exhibition/catalog, *Grasslands/Separating Species*, curated and edited by Mary Anne Redding (Radius Books, in conjunction with the exhibition at 516 ARTS in Albuquerque, 2009), and is a co-editor, with Mary Anne Redding, of *Through the Lens: Creating Santa Fe* (The Museum of New Mexico Press, 2009).

About the Contributors:

Mary Anne Redding is Curator and Creative Director of the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University. Previously she was Curator of the Marion Center for Photographic Arts and Chair of the Photography Department at Santa Fe University of Art & Design and Curator of Photography for the Palace of the Governors/New Mexico History Museum. For the past twenty-five years, she has written and published numerous essays on photography and contemporary art and actively curated exhibitions at museums around the United States.

Gregory Nobles is Professor of History Emeritus at the Georgia Institute of Technology. His previous books include *John James Audubon: The Nature of the American Woodsman* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017), *Whose American Revolution Was It? Historians Interpret the Founding*, Alfred F. Young (New York University Press, 2011), and *American Frontiers: Cultural Encounters and Continental Conquest* (Hill and Wang, 1998).