

## JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

by MARGARET and JOHN KIER.

To most Americans, the name Audubon means *birds*, in their natural colors. I love to check every bird they see against the pictures and notes of John James Audubon.

Yet 150 years ago the friends of this young Frenchman had little hope of winning success in anything. Such a charming daydreamer as he was, always watching birds and sketching them in most minute detail! In despair, his father sent the boy off to America to manage a farm, little thinking that the birds of Pennsylvania would be so numerous and distracting.

Debts and business failures piled up. Time after time Audubon moved on to a new business project. But in each location there were new birds to study.

Each of Audubon's pictures shows a life-size bird in its natural color. So true to life was each portrayal that the bird almost seemed to breathe. He would make such a record of every bird in America that the artist decided. And to that end he drove himself night and day, walking hundreds of miles through the woods to study some new warbler or its mate. Through all this his faithful wife Lucy stood by him, patient and encouraging.

*John James Audubon* is the thrilling story of a man with a purpose whose monumental work has brought delight to millions of people.



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