

200 Year



Location **New York**
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Immaculate, large, original "Imperial Folio" engraving by Prideaux John Selby (1788-1867) from his historic multi-volume work, "Illustrations of British Ornithology," printed in Edinburgh in the early 1800's.




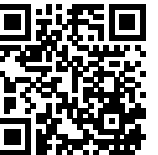





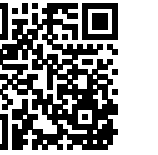
Selby's landmark "Illustrations of British Ornithology" is noted for being the first set of life-sized illustrations of British birds ever printed. Issued in 19 parts over 13 years, the work consists of 218 large, "Imperial" size copper-plate, hand-colored prints, of which this print - Eider, Female - is Plate LXX (printed 1820).

Engraved and hand-tinted by William Lizars of Edinburgh - the same house that engraved and colored the first ten plates of Audubon's "Birds of America" - this is an historic and artistic work of the highest quality.

In this engraving, the female Eider duck (a type of sea duck) is playfully illustrated resting on a small patch of land within the ocean. Selby's own signature is whimsically incorporated as part of the rippling waves, just to the left of this tiny island.

Born in Northumberland and educated at University College, Oxford, Prideux John Selby was a landowner and squire with ample time to devote to the study of the plant and animal life at his country estate, Twizell House. As a boy, he had studied the habits of local birds, drawn them, and learned how to preserve and set up specimens. Later, Selby became an active member of several British natural history societies and contributed many articles to their journals.

This acid-free, hand-colored print is an impressive work measuring approximately 12 1/2" x 17 1/2".

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