ALBUM OF

ABYSSINIAN BIRDS AND MAMMALS

FROM PAINTINGS BY

LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES

SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

CHICAGO, U. S. A.

Through the generosity of Mr. C. Suydam Cutting, Field Museum is privileged to present in the accompanying portfolio a selected series of reproductions of the last work of the late Louis Agassiz Fuertes. The original paintings, made on the Field Museum–Chicago Daily News Abyssinian Expedition of 1926–27, were purchased by Mr. Cutting, after the artist's untimely death, and presented to the Museum. The great popularity and the prominence of Mr. Fuertes as the leading American painter of birds, together with the opinion freely expressed that these final studies represented the height of his power, brought a demand for their reproduction in some form that would make them available to a wide circle. When this became known to Mr. Cutting he promptly and most generously guaranteed the cost, with the result here produced.

The Field Museum–Chicago Daily News Abyssinian Expedition was doubly fortunate in having Mr. Fuertes as one of its members. His talent and skill as an artist and ornithologist were scarcely less important than his charm of personality and his unfailing loyalty. This expedition traversed a large part of Abyssinia (Ethiopia), making collections which cover a wide variety of conditions. The opportunity it gave Fuertes for life studies of African birds was varied and unusual. Theretofore engaged solely in painting American birds, he found a tremendous enthusiasm in a new field and plunged into it with joyous abandon and tireless energy. The conditions under which he worked were ideal for him, although to a less versatile painter they might have been distressing instead of stimulating. A large expedition constantly on the march offers extraordinary opportunities for observing birds under various environments, but it also presents many practical difficulties for a painter.

As all recognized who knew him, Louis Fuertes was a man of many talents. He sometimes spoke of himself as an ornithologist first and a painter afterward and certain it is that the two were most effectively combined in him. When hunting and observing birds, no trail was too rough for him, and at the skinning table no hours too long. With gun in hand he was a hunter and collector, having no qualms at the shedding of blood; but with a freshly killed bird before him, he was the impressionable artist and would sit stroking its feathers in a detached ecstasy, wholly oblivious of companions or surroundings. Pure beauty in all things fascinated him, and the exquisite combinations of color and texture shown

751536
by many small birds were his constant joy. It is significant, however, that his favorites among all birds were the falcons—the swiftest, boldest, and most dashing of their kind.

The affiliations which Fuertes made with Field Museum and other institutions were mutually advantageous and usually so arranged that he retained originals of sketches and paintings for himself, while specimens collected were shared; but so conscientious was he that what some might have considered his own interest was often neglected. He was a good shot and ardent hunter, and had such an inexpressible joy in the living bird and its surroundings that he would forget everything else, including his painting. In Abyssinia he collected birds for the Museum so assiduously that there was little time left for painting, although a more selfish person might have done the reverse. Altogether, he collected and personally prepared, labeled, and packed no less than one thousand bird skins—a good record, even if no painting had been done.

This artist-naturalist possessed unlimited patience at the skinning table and the drawing board, but otherwise it was not always evident, and at times his impetuosity nearly brought on disaster. His first day in Africa was in Djibouti on the hot coast of the Red Sea, and while others made necessary arrangements for progress inland or sipped cool drinks on the hotel veranda, he slipped out of the settlement, dodging local gendarmes, and in the sweltering heat shot seventeen small birds which were skinned with penknives that night in the hotel. The next day on the inland train, after it had crossed the Abyssinian border but before customs formalities, he was tantalized by unknown birds seen at a distance. Finally, at a small station, over the heads of a gaping and jabbering crowd of Abyssinians, a beautiful blue roller alighted on the telephone wire. Fuertes could stand it no longer but dove into his luggage for a small shot pistol and started out of the standing train intent on having the bird in his hands, come what might. It required the combined efforts of the four other members of the party, with argument and at least with threatened force, to convince him that the bird was not worth the almost inevitable altercation with bystanders which would follow. This was characteristic, and similar incidents took place from time to time throughout the trip. The sight of a new bird might at any time cause Fuertes to abandon in a flash all practical considerations, his own safety or comfort, plans for the day, and hopes for the morrow. As Dr. F. M. Chapman has said, "That instinctive, inexplicable passion for birds which arouses an uncontrollable desire to know them intimately in their haunts and to make them part of our lives, and which overcomes every obstacle until, in a measure at least, this longing is gratified, is the heritage of the elect; and few have been more richly endowed than Louis Fuertes."

The total number of paintings made by Fuertes in Abyssinia is 108, including a few of mammals and a few mere sketches of birds, scarcely more than records of the fugitive colors of soft and unfeathered parts which are altered in the preserved specimen. As intimated above, the number might have been much greater, but his passion for the living bird was so intense and his loyalty to the expedition and to the Museum so marked that his time was spent largely in hunting, observ-
ing, and preparing specimens. Since the painting required daylight, it would often be done at the expense of the skinning which was then accomplished by candlelight far into the night hours. Under these conditions it is remarkable that such splendid results were obtained. The painting was in almost all cases done in the tent, the artist sitting on his sleeping cot and his materials and specimens scattered all about him. His technique was something secure and mastered and rarely offered him any difficulty. Sometimes a picture would be finished within an hour and seldom did one occupy more than two hours. Occasionally one would be taken up on a later day for finishing, and a few were left for final touches when he should be returned to the quiet of his own studio. He was limited to one size of sheet on which to work and, since all subjects were done in natural size, the larger birds could not be shown entire. Nevertheless, there was pictorial quality and subtle feeling in nearly every subject and, although many must be regarded merely as studies, they all reflect the power and genius of their creator.

If it be true, as many have felt, that this series of paintings represents high-water mark in the artist’s career as well as its termination, the explanation may perhaps be found in the joyous, high pitch to his spirits, which was maintained throughout the Abyssinian expedition. From beginning to end, he was like a boy let out of school. His enjoyment of every feature of the expedition, scientific, practical, and social, was intense and exuberant. He was under no irksome compulsions, and the pictures he painted were of his own free choosing with no regard to whether or not they might ever be sold or put to any definite use. Spontaneous expression of his pencil and brush, therefore, was natural and easy.

The thirty-two subjects presented herewith have been selected from the larger number the originals of which are preserved in Field Museum. They include four studies of mammals and twenty-eight of birds, among which the proportion of raptorial species is rather large, these being the artist’s favorites. They have been reproduced by offset lithography in eight and sometimes nine colors. Proofs have been very carefully scrutinized and, in practically all cases, complete fidelity to the originals has been obtained.

WILFRED H. OSGOOD, Curator of Zoology

November, 1930
LIST OF SUBJECTS

1. Cape Teal. *Anas capensis* (Gmelin).
16. Bearded Vulture. *Gypaetus barbatus meridionalis* (Keys, and Blas.).
FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CHICAGO, U. S. A.

PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT

ALBUM OF
ABYSSINIAN BIRDS AND MAMMALS
FROM PAINTINGS BY
LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES

Field Museum of Natural History takes pleasure in announcing the publication on November 17, 1930, of a portfolio of accurate lineographic reproductions of paintings of birds and mammals, made by the well-known American artist, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, while a member of the Field Museum—Chicago Daily News Abyssinian Expedition of 1926-27.

This portfolio, issued as a special publication of Field Museum, made possible through a generous donation from Mr. C. Suydam Cutting, who was also a member of the above mentioned expedition. The paintings made by Mr. Fuertes, consisting of 108 subjects, were purchased by Mr. Cutting after the artist's untimely death and presented to the Museum. From this collection, thirty-three of the finest have been selected and reproduced by offset lithography, and are enclosed in a portfolio of convenient form.

The portfolio includes four studies of mammals and twenty-eight of birds, among which are many of the finest and most characteristic species of Abyssinia. A brief descriptive text accompanies the plates which are suitable for individual framing for preservation as a collection.

This album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals is not available on exchange. It is priced at $3.00 per portfolio, plus postage and other delivery charges. The weight, wrapped for mailing, is three pounds, six ounces. A limited de luxe edition, in attractive vellum binding, is available at $5.00 per copy. Orders should be sent to the Director, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A.

STEPHEN C. SIMMS, Director

November 17, 1930
Cape Teal

Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published from Life by

Field Museum of Natural History

Through the generosity of C. Eugene Cutlar

Chicago, U. S. A.

No. 1. Album of Abyssianian Birds and Mammals

Winged teal of North America.

This duck is a common inhabitant of African ponds and streams. It

(Recoloration made in 1906)

Nettione capensis (Gmelin)
Plectropterus gambensis

SPUR-WINGED GOOSE
SPUR-WINGED GOOSE

Plectropterus gambensis (Linnaeus)

(Four-fifths natural size)

This fine species is found near rivers and ponds but also visits cultivated fields. It has a spur on the inside of each wing which is used in fighting.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

Through the generosity of Q. Suydam Cutting

No. 2. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
through the generosity of C. Shufham Guiting
Chicago, Ill. S. A.
Field Museum of Natural History
Published by

Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Relates to the vultures and hawks.
peated plows with its feet. It is nearly
small animals which it kills by re-
it feeds on snakes, lizards, and other
inhabitant of the open plains.

Secretary Bird

imperial Palace of

Library
Common African Vulture
Pseudogyps africanus
Solay Camp, Nov 28, 1926
WHITE-NECKED VULTURE
WHITE-NECKED VULTURE

*Pseudogyps africanus* (Salvadori)

(Four-fifths natural size)

This vulture is most common in forest regions, though it is often found on the African plains in company with other carrion-feeders.

*Painted from life by*

Louis Agassiz Fuertes

*Published by*

Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

*Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting*

No. 4. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
Length 29"  
Wing 29"  
Tail  
Expt - 9' 3"
LAPPET-FACED VULTURE

*Torgos tracheliotus nubicus* (Smith)

(Four-fifths natural size)

The curiously folded, naked skin of the head is a marked feature of this species. It is one of the largest of Old World vultures and, like others, it feeds mainly on carrion.

*Painted from life by*
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

*Published by*
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

*Through the generosity of C. Suyciam Cutting*

No. 5. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
WHITE-HEADED VULTURE
WHITÉ-HEADED VULTURE

Trigonoceps occipitalis (Burchell)
(Four-fifths natural size)

This vulture commonly feeds apart from other species. It is widely distributed in Africa except in the heavily forested regions.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.
Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 6. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
EGYPTIAN VULTURE

*Neophron percnopterus* (Linnaeus)

(Four-fifths natural size)

A common and well known species. It nests on rocky precipices and, in Egypt, on the pyramids. It is one of the birds commonly represented in Egyptian hieroglyphics.

*Painted from life by*

Louis Agassiz Fuertes

*Published by*

Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

*Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting*

No. 7. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
ABYSSINIAN LANNER
The lanner is a true falcon, swift, active, and powerful in flight. It is a relative of the well known peregrine falcon and has been a favorite among the species used in falconry.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.
Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 8. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
AFRICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

Swallow-Kite.
(Celicopte riecourii)

Near Matemba.
APRIL 18, 1827.
(A. M. B.)
AFRICAN
SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

*Chelictinea riocourii* (Vieillot and Oudart)

(Four-fifths natural size)

This bird is very graceful in flight and is seen mostly on the wing, rarely perching or alighting on the ground. It feeds principally on small birds.

*Painted from life by*
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

*Published by*
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 9. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
No. 10. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals

Through the Generosity of C.1. Shygiun Cutting
Chicago, U.S.A.
Field Museum of Natural History
Published by

Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Pinnated from Life by

This is light and buoyant;
Usually a bush or a small tree. Its
Perch is
When resting, it is perched on-
sects, small birds, rodents, and rep-
tures, Carusus (Dendrocinus)

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE

SAGACIOUS TO THE
OF THE
LIBRARY
Aquila rapax raptor

N’jabarra, Gojam
Mar. 23, 1927
(living bird)

Tawny Eagle
AFRICAN TAWNY EAGLE

Aquila rapax raptor Brehm
(Four-fifths natural size)

A powerful species of predatory habits, which feeds on small antelopes, hares, bustards and other such game. It is allied to the well known golden eagle of northern countries. Its nest is a large structure occupied and enlarged from year to year.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.
Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 11. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
Bateleur Eagle
*Haliaeetus vocifer*
Near Njabura
Mar 20, 1927.
BATELEUR EAGLE

Terathopius ecaudatus (Daudin)
(Four-fifths natural size)

This handsome eagle kills much of its own prey but sometimes is found devouring carrion in company with the vultures. Its soaring flight is unusually swift and graceful.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 12. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
Bateleur Eagles
(Heleotarsus bouchoutus)
T. J. Harre, Gosan.
Mar. 20, 1927.
BATELEUR EAGLE

Terathopius ecaudatus (Daudin)

The extremely short tail gives these birds in flight a peculiar abbreviated appearance that is very characteristic. They are rarely seen except on the wing, where they are very expert, swift, and graceful.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.
Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 13. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
AFRICAN SEA EAGLE

Cuncuma vocifer (Daudin)

(Four-fifths natural size)

Common on the coast and found also inland in the vicinity of rivers and lakes. It is usually seen perched in conspicuous places near the water or flapping slowly over the surface, ready to pounce on an unlucky fish that rises too near the top.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz-Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 14. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
AFRICAN SEA EAGLE
IMMATURE
AFRICAN SEA EAGLE

Cunctum vocifer (Daudin)

(Four-fifths natural size)

This species has been accused of killing small lambs on occasion, but its ordinary food consists of much smaller and more easily procured animals, such as fish, crabs, and reptiles, to which is added a variable amount of carrion.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 15. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
No. 16. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals

Through the generosity of C. S. Shugart, Chicago, U. S. A.

Field Museum of Natural History Published by

Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Painted from life by

Stately and powerful times to kill its prey. Its height is
on carrion, though it is known, at
generally of the air. It commonly feeds
A Southern relative of the lammergeier

Gypsius barbatus meridionalis Keys, and Blas.

BEARDED VULTURE

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

OF THE

LIBRARY
AFRICAN HARRIER HAWK

Gymnogonys typhicus typicus.
African Harrier Hawk

Gymnogenys typicus (Smith)

(Four-fifths natural size)

A hunter of small prey such as frogs, lizards, snakes, and some small birds. It frequents grasslands and burned-over areas, and usually flies only moderate distances, resting at frequent intervals.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 17. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
BLACK-BELLIED BUSTARD

Near Dungulbar - Lake Tsang - Mar 29, 1927

Lisotis melanogaster
BLACK-BELLIED BUSTARD

*Lissotis melanogaster* (Rüppell)

(Four-fifths natural size)

A bird of rather solitary habits found on the open grassy plains. It is considered a game bird and is hunted both for sport and for food, since its flesh is excellent.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 18. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
No. 19. Album of Abyssinia Birds and Mammals.

Through the generosity of C. S. Franklin,

Field Museum of Natural History

Published by

Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Painted from life by Louis, Charles

Unusual birds, to the pigeons and also to the gal-

Their surroundings. They are related
to their coloration which matches
to their surroundings. They are not so easy to see, owing

When they are not on the ground in thickets or on sandy or pebbly ground

Sand grouse are found singly or

Eremophila quadriradiata Lacedo (Gray)

LOWES SAND GROUSE

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

OF THE

LIBRARY
No. 20. Album of African Birds and Mammals

Through the generosity of C. Seymour Cutting
Chicago, U. S. A.
Field Museum of Natural History
Published by

Louis Agassiz Fuertes
Painted from life by

Green Pigeon

(muscleus indicus)

V/aga varadina (Mayer)
Lake Tsana.
Mar. 31, 1927.
(Dungulbar)

crinifer zonatus

GRAY PLANTAIN EATER
Gray Plantain Eater

Crinifer zonurus (Rüppell)

(Four-fifths natural size)

This is a very noisy, restless bird, somewhat distantly related to the cuckoos. It travels in pairs or small flocks and feeds on fruit, inhabiting light scrub rather than heavy forest.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 21. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
Cerythornis cristata.

PIGMY KINGFISHER
Pigmy Kingfisher

Corythornis cristata (Pallas)
(Four-fifths natural size)

This tiny kingfisher is no larger than a sparrow. It feeds on water insects as well as very small minnows. It is found over most of Africa south of the Sahara Desert.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.
Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 22. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
GRAY-HEADED KINGFISHER

25 MILES WEST OF
LAKE TSANA,
APRIL 7, 1927

Halcyon I. leucocephala,
GRAY-HEADED KINGFISHER

_Halcyon leucocephala_ (Müller)

(Four-fifths natural size)

This handsome bird is commonly found in the forests of central Africa as well as along the margins of streams. Its food consists of insects, small reptiles and fish.

_Painted from life by_
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

_Published by_
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

_Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting_

No. 23. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
No. 24. Album of Abyssian Birds and Mammals

Through the Generosity of C. Buckingham
Chicago, U. S. A.
Field Museum of Natural History
Published by

Louis Agassiz Fuertes
Painted from life

To roost together.
They sometimes gather in numbers
Forest birds and feed mainly on fruit.
They are
Large size of these hornbills make
The loud voice, noisy flight, and

Crested Hornbill

(Corymphaga cristata) (figure)

Birds

Taken from Life
Of the
Library
AFRICAN NIGHT HERON

Ambo Hot Springs
25 MILES WEST OF LAKE TS'ANA
APRIL 7, 1927.

Mysticorax leuconotus
African Night Heron

Nycticorax leuconotus (Wagler)

(Four-fifths natural size)

The very large eye of this species is in accord with its nocturnal habits. It is found mainly in west-central Africa, especially in the lowlands along the upper branches of the Nile and the Congo rivers.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 25. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
Mt. Guramba Sidamo  
1924, 17.26.

NARINA TROGON
NARINA TROGON

Apaloderma narina (Stephens)

(Four-fifths natural size)

Like other trogons, this species inhabits deep forests, mainly in mountainous regions. It is ordinarily shy but may be decoyed by imitations of its soft whistled note.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 26. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
15 MILES WEST OF LAKE TSANA.
APRIL 6, 1927.

PRIONOPS CONCINNATA

NILE HELMET SHRIKE
NILE HELMET SHRIKE

Prionops concinnata Sundevall
(Four-fifths natural size)

The helmet shrikes are of restless disposition and travel about in flocks through the open woods, keeping in nearly continuous motion.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 27. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
"Alulu" on The Muggar R.
THICK-BILLED RAVEN

Corvultur crassirostris (Rüppell)

(Four-fifths natural size)

This strikingly marked bird belongs to the crow family but is vulturine in habits and commonly feeds on carrion in company with the vultures and kites. It frequents villages and camps where it acts as a scavenger.

Painted from life by
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Published by
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting

No. 28. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
No. 29. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals

Through the Generosity of C. S. Spalding, Esq.,
Chicago, Ill. S. A.
Field Museum of Natural History
Published by

Louis Agassiz Fuertes
Painted from Life by

Small Rodents.
In small packs, it subsists mainly on
habits, at least in the extent of going
to resemble its color. It is well like in
mountains of Abyssinia. Although
smoothed canine found only in the
This is a long-legged and slender-

Guiniz Simensis Rugpall

ABYSSINIAN WOLF

Invertebrate of the
Of The
Library
GELADA BABOON
*Theropithecus gelada* Rüppell

Although most African baboons inhabit the warmer parts of the country, this one prefers high mountains where the climate is relatively cool. It frequents rocky peaks and walls of steep canyons, which it scales with incredible ease and speed.

*Painted from life by*
Louis Agassiz Fuertes

*Published by*
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, U. S. A.

*Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting*

No. 30. Album of Abyssinian Birds and Mammals
GELADA BABOON

Amenities of Memory of the
Legends