



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Fig. 1. *Sciurus Fremontii*. Townsend. Fremont's Squirrel. Natural Size | Fig 2. *Sciurus Filiginosus*, Bach. Sooty Squirrel. Natural Size. Plate CXLIX.

Stock#: 96470
Map Maker: Audubon
Date: 1848
Place: Philadelphia
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 19 x 25.25 inches
Price: \$ 1,800.00



Description:

Freemont's Squirrel and Sooty Squirrel, rendered by John Woodhouse Audubon and lithographed by J. T. Bowen in Philadelphia in 1848, captures two distinct squirrel species with a detailed representation of their natural habitat. Centered on an oak tree, Fremont's Squirrel and the Sooty Squirrel are depicted with wonderful accuracy, underscoring the naturalism that was a hallmark of Audubon's oeuvre.

The mid-19th century was a time of profound curiosity about the natural world. As explorers charted new territories and brought back tales and specimens from previously unknown lands, there was a burgeoning interest in documenting and understanding biodiversity. This was a period marked by a scientific and aesthetic reverence for nature, embodied in the meticulously detailed works of artists and naturalists like the Audubons.

John Woodhouse Audubon, following in the footsteps of his renowned father, John James Audubon, was



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

Fig. 1. *Sciurus Fremontii*. Townsend. Fremont's Squirrel. Natural Size | Fig 2. *Sciurus Filiginosus*, Bach. Sooty Squirrel. Natural Size. Plate CXLIX.

among the prominent figures in this movement. His artwork is a testament to the intricate interplay between scientific observation and artistic representation. In this particular lithograph, the oak tree serves not merely as a backdrop but as an integral component, highlighting the ecological relationship between the squirrels and their habitat.

J. T. Bowen's contribution as the lithographer, printer, and colorist is equally significant. The process of lithography, a relatively recent innovation of the time, allowed for the mass reproduction of images with an unparalleled fidelity to the original. This plate exemplifies the delicate and nuanced shading and coloring that was possible with the technique, further elevating the image's lifelike quality.

In this visual chronicle, the two squirrels, each representing their species, stand not just as isolated subjects but as symbols of the era's passion for natural discovery and documentation. Their presence on the oak tree, rendered with such precision and care, evokes a vivid window into the natural world of the mid-1800s, a world that was rapidly being mapped, categorized, and celebrated.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Original lithograph on an imperial folio sheet of wove paper. A few minor stains.