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Great American Hen & Young. Vulgo. Female Wild Turkey. _ Meleagris Gallopavo. Plate VI. No. II

Stock#: 105349
Map Maker: Audubon / Havell / Lizars
Date: 1827
Place: Edinburgh, Scotland
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 39.25 x 25.75 inches
Price: \$ 45,000.00



Description:

First State.

A handsome example of John James Audubon's double elephant folio etching of a female wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) with her nine young on a lush forest floor. Audubon began painting the model for this plate in 1820 on his way down the Mississippi. It was one of the first plates engraved for the Birds of America, appearing before Audubon shifted that task from William Home Lizars to Havell, and aquatinting became *de rigueur*.

The scene captures the natural behaviors and interactions of the young with their mother. Notably, in this first state, the two chicks in the lower right corner are without the snail that appears as their quarry in later states of the print.

Low notes that the female turkey has a "beard" on her chest, which is described as being more common on males.

Detailed Condition:

Etching on a double-elephant folio sheet of wove paper watermarked "J WHATMAN / TURKEY MILL / 1827". Original hand-color, retouched. Minor strengthening of the lettering in the Audubon and Havell credits.