



MEDIA RELEASE

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CENTRAL LIBRARY DISPLAYS REMARKABLE AUDUBON FOLIO

Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America follows in the footsteps of Birds of America

A new exhibit on the main floor of the downtown Central Library at 1 Lafayette Square celebrates the life and work of naturalist and painter John James Audubon (1785-1851), particularly his last work, *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*. The exhibit, free and open to the public, documents four-footed mammalian wildlife with beautiful, brightly-colored and accurately-painted images. The display features original leaves from the folio, reproductions, and the history of its creation.

John James Audubon is best known for his *Birds of America*, a double elephant folio including 435 ornithological plates that was completed between 1820 and 1838. He followed this lifetime achievement with an effort to document the mammals of the continent with the images now on display in the library. The *Quadrupeds* folio of 150 hand-colored lithographic plates was completed between 1839 and 1849, but the accompanying three volumes of text were not completed until 1854, three years after Audubon's death. His sons, John Woodhouse and Victor Gifford Audubon, completed the great work along with friend Rev. John Bachman. Once finished, *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America* became the first work of its magnitude to be engraved, printed and colored entirely in the United States; *The Birds of America* had been produced in the United Kingdom.

The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America is on display during Central Library's open hours, currently 7 days a week during the school year, in the main floor's Rare Book Room, for one year. Click here for more information: <https://www.buffalolib.org/whats-happening/audubons-viviparous-quadrupeds-north-america-great-national-work>.

This exhibit joins several others on display at the Central Library this fall. Lively with bold colors and well-loved illustrations familiar to many is the major exhibit *B is for Book: Children's Stories Through the Centuries* in the Library's Collections Gallery. *E is for Erie County: Celebrating Our Communities* in honor of Erie County's 2021-2022 Bicentennial is displayed on the main floor. It features images and maps from the Library's collections that illustrate the story of the County, its communities and its people. *Celebrating Erie County's Musical Legacy* features sheet music and images of some of Erie County's famous personalities in music including Harold Arlen, Jack Yellen, David Shire, Ani DiFranco, and the Goo Goo Dolls. Additionally, the powerful poster exhibit *September 11, 2001: The Day That Changed the World*, created by New York City's 9/11 Memorial & Museum is on view through September 30. It recounts the events of that day through personal stories in honor of 9/11's 20th anniversary.

For more information, call the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System at 716-858-8900 or visit www.BuffaloLib.org. ###