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(Magnolia Warbler) Black & Yellow Warbler, *Sylvia Maculosa*. Lath, Young Male. White Oak *Quercus primus*. Plate L.

Stock#: 100545
Map Maker: Havell, Jr. / Audubon
Date: 1833
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 25.75 x 39 inches
Price: \$ 2,400.00



Description:

"[This] plate was a comedy of errors." - Susanne M. Low

A handsome example of John James Audubon's double-elephant folio first edition aquatint of the Magnolia Warbler on a Swamp Chestnut Oak - though you would not know for reading the legend on the plate!

The Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*) is a small, colorful songbird found in North America. It is known for its distinctive black streaks on a bright yellow underside, with a white belly and undertail coverts. The male Magnolia Warbler has a black mask across its eyes and a yellow crown, while the female



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has a less prominent mask. These warblers are migratory birds, spending their summers in the northern United States and Canada and wintering in Central America and the Caribbean. They are often spotted in mixed woodlands and shrubby habitats during their breeding season, where they forage for insects and spiders.

Here, a young male is shown perched on the branch of a Swamp Chestnut Oak (although the legend calls it a White Oak). The Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Quercus michauxii*) is a sizable deciduous tree native to the southeastern United States, characterized by its impressive stature, large glossy leaves, and distinctive acorns with fringed caps. Often found in wetland areas like swamps and floodplains, this oak species thrives in wetter soils, providing valuable habitat and a food source for wildlife. Its wood is prized for its durability and finds use in furniture, flooring, and cabinetry. While not endangered, the conservation of Swamp Chestnut Oak habitats is essential for preserving biodiversity and ensuring the well-being of various animal species that rely on it.

Low's Commentary

Painting and plate depict one immature bird in a branch of Swamp Chestnut Oak. A very faint pencil inscription on the painting may say: "Louisiana. Oct. 20, 1821." The whole situation regarding the painting and plate was a comedy of errors. Audubon wrote that he drew this immature bird, which he called Black and Yellow Warbler, for inclusion with the two Magnolias in Plate CXXIII, but Havell misunderstood and made a separate plate of it. Then Audubon wrote "Swainson's Warbler" on the painting, which was a mistake evidently made in haste. He did paint the Swainson's, which is in CXCVIII. Audubon wrote of the confusion regarding this painting and plate in Ornithological Biography.

State

Low's second of two plate legend variants.

Detailed Condition:

Hand-colored engraving with aquatint on a double-elephant folio sheet of wove paper watermarked "JWhatman 1833". Minor repairs in the margins.