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Pileated Woodpecker, *Picus Pileatus*. Plate 257.

Stock#: 100546
Map Maker: Bien / Audubon
Date: 1860
Place: New York
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 25.25 x 37.5 inches
Price: \$ 9,500.00



Description:

This double-elephant folio Bien edition plate features the Pileated Woodpecker, with a female at the top, a male in the center, and two juvenile specimens at the bottom. They are perched upon a dead, timeworn tree covered with lichen, with a Fox Grape vine winding around it. The painting on which this is based is believed to have been created in Pennsylvania around 1829, following Audubon's return from his initial voyage to England.

The Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) is a striking and distinctive bird species native to North America. Recognized for its bold appearance and large size, the Pileated Woodpecker is one of the largest woodpeckers in the region, measuring up to 19 inches in length with a wingspan of around 30 inches. Its



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striking features include a crimson crest on its head, black plumage, and white stripes on its neck and face. These birds are often found in mature forests, where they forage for their primary diet of insects, especially carpenter ants and wood-boring beetles, by excavating rectangular holes in tree trunks. Their distinct calls, which resemble a series of loud, cackling laughs, are commonly heard echoing through the woods.

Fox grapes, scientifically known as *Vitis labrusca*, are a wild grapevine native to North America. These grapes are known for their small to medium-sized clusters of round, purple-black or blue-black berries with a distinct and often musky flavor. Fox grapes have been used for centuries in traditional Native American foods and later cultivated for making jams, jellies, and wines. While they are smaller and more tart compared to European wine grapes, fox grapes have a unique and robust taste.

This image appeared as Plate CXI in the Havell double-elephant folio first edition.

Detailed Condition:

Chromolithograph on a double-elephant folio sheet of wove paper. A few expertly repaired marginal tears. Upper left corner expertly mended, not affecting the printed image. Backed on thin tissue.