

Audubon's *Birds of America* subject of slide show

Father Charles Brandt worked on restoring priceless prints in the late 70s

The restoration of the first volume of John James Audubon's *Birds of America* will be presented in a special slide show and talk by well-known conservator and naturalist Father Charles Brandt.

The event, sponsored by the Comox Archives and Museum, will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m. at the Filberg Gallery in Comox, below the Comox Library and adjacent to the museum. (This is a change in venue than previously announced.)

Audubon published the double elephant folio edition of *Birds of*

America between 1827 and 1838. This spectacular creation was the result of his travels across the continent studying, drawing and painting the birds in their natural environment, in life-size and life-like poses.

Only 134 sets of the four-volume folios are known to exist, five of them in Canada. In 1852 the Legislative Library at Fredericton, NB purchased one of the sets. Father Brandt treated the 109 prints of Volume I in 1978-79 while working at the Atlantic Conservation Centre in Moncton, NB.

His restoration work has been recently featured in the summer 2003 issue of the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild newsletter.

Father Brandt has worked as a bookbinder and paper conservator for almost 40 years. He came to



CONSERVATOR AND NATURALIST Father Charles Brandt will present a talk on James Audubon's *Birds of America*.

Vancouver Island in 1965 from New Mallory Abbey to join the hermit foundation on the Tsolum River. In 1967 he was ordained to the Catholic Priesthood by Bishop Remi J. De Roo in Canadian Martyrs Church, Courtenay with a mandate of Hermit-priest.

Previously, he had been a navigator in the U.S. Air Force, and received a Bachelor of Divinity degree and Bachelor of Science degree, studying ornithology at Cornell University.

He has travelled to the U.S. and Europe to further his knowledge of bookbinding, and to learn paper and art conservation. In 1980 he became chief conservator of the Provincial Archives of Manitoba in Winnipeg. He now lives on the banks of the Oyster River near Black Creek.

In his talk he will also discuss types of paper and bring along a mould and deckle for making paper.

The Comox Archives and Museum is pleased to present this event of interest to artists, naturalists, historians and CAMS members alike. Refreshments will be served. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

Admission is by donation, and all are welcome. In addition, the museum next door will be featuring a temporary exhibit of bird artwork, including drawings and paintings by Hamilton Mack Laing, as well as bird photographs by Dr. Brad McPhee.

The museum will be open the evening of Jan. 28 from 6-9 p.m. for viewing. Parking is available at the Comox Mall across the street. For more information call 339-2885.