

The Ward family of taxidermists

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ABSTRACT: Three generations of Ward taxidermists practised their craft both in Britain and abroad. The grandfather, John, had a daughter Jane Catherine, and two sons, James Frederick and Edwin Henry, both of whom went to North America to collect birds (Henry with John James Audubon). Edwin Henry's own two sons, Edwin and Rowland, became two of the best known taxidermists in Great Britain. Edwin emigrated to California, where he taught his skills to his three sons. Rowland was the most famous, successful and wealthy member of the family, becoming world-renowned as a taxidermist.

KEYWORDS: bird collecting – bird preservation – naturalists – North America – Australia.

The Ward family (Figure 1) found fame because of their interests in birds and their skills in taxidermy, an interest that originated in John Ward's activities as a bird breeder. Rowland Ward (1880: Preface, 1) referred to him: "my grandfather was a practical naturalist". All members of the Ward family referred to themselves as "naturalists" because the word "taxidermist" was not widely used until the late nineteenth century. Four of John's male descendants spent their lives working with birds, either as collectors or taxidermists, each of them travelling to America at some stage of their careers. John's daughter, Jane Catherine, went to Australia and became the first woman taxidermist to practise in that country. Their combined contribution to the study of the birds of the world, America in particular, by providing private collectors and museums with specimens, was without parallel. James Rowland Ward was the most successful member of the family as a noted commercial taxidermist in the United Kingdom and abroad. The Wards were active taxidermists for over a century.

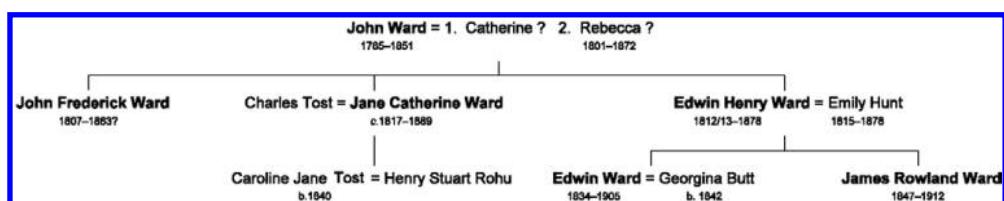


Figure 1. A reduced family tree of the Ward family showing the individuals mentioned in the text.

JOHN WARD (1785–1851)

John's keen interest in birds laid the foundations of the knowledge of, and dealing with, birds in three of his children – Edwin Henry, James Frederick and Jane Catherine – who became famous taxidermists.

John was born at Newbury, Berkshire, but had moved to Lambeth, Surrey, prior to 1807.¹ There is only one reference to John's first wife, Catherine, when their son James Frederick (born 16 October 1807) was baptized on 12 July 1810. While John James Audubon was in London overseeing the printing of the first parts of *The birds of America* (Audubon 1827–1838), he became acquainted with the two sons of John Ward, James Fredrick and Edwin Henry. We know when he met James Frederick in London and again in America, but we know nothing of how Audubon became aware of how good a bird preserver was the younger brother, Edwin Henry. Audubon asked permission from John Ward to take his teenage son, usually known as Henry, to America in 1831 to collect and skin new species to make specimens for him. Audubon was very pleased with Henry's work, writing to Robert Havell, his printer, on 20 September 1831, praising him and noting that shortly after arriving in America, Henry had written to his father, and that he (Audubon) also would write to John in a day or two (Corning 1920: 1: 127). Henry's American visit is described by Jackson (2018: 14–20 this issue).

At the end of their joint expedition, Audubon paid Henry off at Charleston in May 1832, leaving him there. Audubon said Henry behaved badly at this stage of their expedition. This was while Henry desperately attempted to put together sufficient money for his return home. Henry must have sent a letter to his parents in London telling them of his plight, because his mother went to see Victor Audubon, then in London deputizing for his father, to complain about her son's treatment. That John probably took no part in this is indicated by a passing reference to John in a letter from Victor to his mother Lucy Audubon, dated 30 August 1833: "I am sorry to hear of Henry Wards bad conduct, I have not shewn your letter to his Father who has not troubled me with his presence, & I do not think anything necessary to be done about it."²

After returning from America, Henry married Emily Hunt on 24 November 1833. John and his second wife Rebecca (1801–1872) signed as witnesses and attested to both the bride and groom being "under age" (that is, under 21 years old).

JAMES FREDERICK WARD (1807– c. 1863)

The son of John and Catherine, brother of Edwin Henry and Jane Catherine, James Frederick was born on 16 October 1807, and baptized at St Dunstan, Stepney, in 1810.³ As the son of John Ward, bird breeder and naturalist, he doubtless had plenty of dead birds to use to learn the skills of skinning and preserving. His father was in contact with fellow bird enthusiasts in London, and though the Wards were not of the "gentleman" class, nevertheless James Frederick's trade was useful to those who were.⁴ He became acquainted with several naturalists, including William Swainson (1789–1855), the English author and naturalist, and found that foreign bird skins were in demand and fetched good prices.

On 28 February 1828, James Frederick went to call on Audubon in London. Referring to this visit, Audubon (1897: 1: 284) wrote that he had studied "some of the positions of my birds. I told him I would lend him anything I had." Audubon would also take the opportunity, as he always did, to enthuse about America, its wonderful forests and wild places, its colourful birds unknown to naturalists in Britain and the excitement of traversing virgin territory while shooting and skinning birds before painting their images for his book. James Frederick obtained a commission from William Swainson to collect bird skins for him

in North America. He had a straightforward business arrangement, as an independent collector, with Swainson and William Cooper.⁵

Audubon travelled to America on the *Columbia*, sailing from Portsmouth on 1 April 1829, arriving in New York on 5 May (Rhodes 2006: 240–241).⁶ Audubon completed some business in New York and then went to Philadelphia for a few days before moving to New Jersey, where he stayed for several weeks with James Frederick Ward. He wrote on 14 September 1829, saying “Ward and myself had boarded for four weeks together immediately after our arrival to this country” (Corning 1930: 1: 99). They were together in Camden, New Jersey, where they took lodgings in a boarding house and collected in the area before Audubon left to collect in the Great Pine Forest, Pennsylvania (Rhodes 2006: 250–256). Returning six weeks later, Audubon enquired for Frederick and wrote to William Swainson on 14 September 1829 that “Ward was absent and got married” (Corning 1930: 1: 99). He continued (Corning 1930: 1: 99):

I am now informed that 2 days after my departure he left for New York, arriving there on Tuesday and married on the Saturday following – he left word that (for he is gone now to the Sea Shore) he had written to you that it was his determination not to work for me any more – indeed Harlan said to me this day that Ward told him that you paid him too little &c &c – the Woman is of the very lowest cast (I speak now from hearsay) and poorer than the americans are – she is (I am told a Londoner) an English woman – if I mistake not Ward must be in debt to you &c &c – he had applied to Richard Harlan for business and so much boasting of his abilities to that good Man that he . . . would have nothing to do with him.” – here the Tale ends.⁷

Audubon sent the astonishing news to Robert Havell on 24 October 1829: “Ward has perhaps done worst he has married a woman without a shilling and God knows where he is I have not heard from him or seen him these 4 months or more.”

Audubon had hoped Frederick would travel to New Orleans to collect for him, but that arrangement was now cancelled. Frederick had declined this expedition because he claimed that the expenses were too great. He was financing his own travel, and feared being unable to collect sufficient specimens to cover his expenses and make a profit.

Ford (1964: 246, 256) stated that John Gould had commissioned “Henry Ward” to collect specimens for him in America, and that he had squandered the money, paid to him in advance by Gould, on marriage. The reference to Gould being involved in a transaction has not been substantiated. The two brothers, James Frederick and Edwin Henry Ward, not only had a different relationship with Audubon, but were in America at different times. James Frederick was there in 1829, initially with Audubon, but then went to New York. Henry, who was contracted to Audubon, arrived in America, travelling with him in 1831–1832. It appears that Ford confused the two brothers.⁸

In Audubon’s letters of 1 July 1832 and 23 September 1833, there were two subsequent references to James Frederick, naming him merely as Henry’s “brother”. Audubon told the Reverend John Bachman on 1 July 1832 (Corning 1930: 1: 196): “I hope Henry is doing well – remember me to him and tell him that I am glad to hear his brother is doing well and has about 2000 skins on hand.” This indicates a very successful haul of collecting and preserving on Frederick’s part. However, the next letter reveals an entirely different attitude to James Frederick, when Audubon wrote from New York to his son, Victor, in London about Henry Ward, adding “I never speak to his brother” (Corning 1930: 1: 197; Herrick 1938: 2: 257).

Little is heard of Frederick again until Audubon was in Edinburgh and wrote to Edward Harris, a wealthy young friend who lived in New Jersey, on

19 December 1838: “Ask Trudeau whether he ever saw my Hirundo Serripennis in America. Bachman wrote me that Trudeau thought he had it in the skins of Frederick Ward” (Herrick 1938: 1: 186). Dr Trudeau was a “young friend in Louisiana” (Rhodes 2006: 502). Nothing more has been traced about James Frederick Ward.

JANE CATHERINE WARD (MRS CHARLES G. TOST) (c. 1817–1889)

Jane Catherine was the daughter of John and Catherine and sister to Edwin Henry and James Frederick Ward. She is first referred to as a taxidermist in two letters written by John Gould’s secretary, Edwin Prince (Lambourne and Jackson 1993). At this time she was working in Gould’s taxidermy shop in Broad Street, London, while Gould was travelling in Australia. On 5 July 1839, Prince wrote: “So much work that Jos[eph] Baker obliged to employ Johnson at over hours at Z[oological]. S[ociety]. and Miss Ward”. Almost a year later, on 20 May 1839, Prince recorded that “The workroom is so full that we have been obliged to engage Mrs Tosh [sic] (late Jane Ward) to assist.”⁹ Charles Gottliebe Tost¹⁰, a pianoforte maker of Macclesfield Street, had married Jane Catharine Ward, also of Macclesfield Street, in the parish church of St Anne, Westminster, on 1 April 1839. Their marriage certificate recorded that Jane was the daughter of John Ward, a “bird breeder”. Her brother, Edwin Henry Ward (see p. 8 below), was one of the two witnesses.

Jane, with her husband and children, emigrated to Hobart, Tasmania, in 1857. They only remained there for three years before moving to Sydney, New South Wales, in 1860, where



Figure 2. The Australian trade card for Tost & Rohu (courtesy of Dr Mark Cabouret, Victoria, Australia).

Charles and Jane worked at the Australian Museum as taxidermists. Their daughter Caroline Jane (who for some reason adopted the name Ada Jane) was also a taxidermist and married the Scottish naturalist Henry Stewart Rohu. The ladies, mother and daughter, and their husbands advertised (Figure 2) as “Tost & Rohu, taxidermists, furriers, tanners, and island curio dealers” at 60 William Street, Sydney. The advertisement revealed that their diverse skills included stuffing and mounting birds. They also traded in “New Guinea Island curios of all kinds”.

Members of the family were involved in the group of amateur and professional naturalists in Sydney, actively supporting the Natural History Association of New South Wales that had been established in 1887. They also became members of the Field Naturalists’ Society of New South Wales after its establishment in April 1890, a year after Jane Catherine Tost had died. The name of Ward may have been lost over the thirty years since Jane and Charles arrived in Sydney, but their pioneering work enabled the study of natural history to flourish in New South Wales.

EDWIN HENRY WARD (1812/1813–1878)

The son of John and Catherine Ward, he is usually known as Henry Ward (Figure 3) as he only used his full name on official documents such as the census returns and marriage certificates. No records of his birth or baptism have been found. In the censuses, all completed before the end of April each year, he was consistent stating that he was 26 in 1841, 36 in 1851, 46 in 1861 and 57 in 1871, making his date of birth 1814 or 1815. However, as noted, at the time of his marriage on 24 November 1833 he was stated to be “under age”. If he came of age in December 1833 or in 1834 then he was born in 1812 or 1813. On his death certificate, burial record and grave memorial, he was stated to be aged 66, again pointing to a birth date of 1812 or 1813.¹¹ The question of the exact year of his birth is only of importance in consideration of his youth, when he was recruited to accompany John James Audubon to North America for the arduous task of trekking in wild country and spending long days skinning and preserving birds that Audubon had not obtained earlier in order to illustrate them in *The birds of America*. The only sure fact is that Audubon took a teenager to America in 1831.

Henry Ward and Audubon sailed on 31 July 1831 from Portsmouth and had five weeks at sea, during which time Henry captured and skinned sea birds. From New York they went to Philadelphia and then worked their way south to Charleston, South Carolina. From Charleston they went on a long trip through Florida, via St Augustine, crossing virgin territory before returning to Charleston. While with Audubon, Henry preserved over 550 birds and assisted in transporting the skins to Charleston. It had been a hard time for Henry, with a shortage of food (they had to shoot and eat possums and young alligators to survive) and traversing rough ground. Audubon was a hard taskmaster, expecting Henry to be up early, trek all day and then skin the birds they had caught in the evening (Adams 1867: 389).

Henry worked with Audubon until the middle of 1832, when Audubon paid him off and left him in Charleston to make his own way home. He did not have sufficient funds to return to New York immediately and left Charleston owing money. Henry eventually made his way to New York and sailed back to England in September 1833.



Figure 3. Edwin Henry Ward (from Ward 1913): "My father, Henry Ward, Companion of Audubon" (courtesy of Dr Pat Morris).



Figure 4. Memorial garlanded pillar for Edwin Henry Ward in West Norwood Cemetery (courtesy of Dr Pat Marris).

Henry would have arrived back in London some time in October 1833, and a month later he married Emily Hunt (1815–1878). Henry struggled to find suitable employment, but eventually became an assistant to Thomas Mutlow Williams of 155 Oxford Street, listed in the trade directories between 1845 to 1856 under "Bird and Beast Stuffers" and "Dealers in Birds and Live Animals". His trade advertisement said: "Preserved by T M Williams, 155 Oxford Street, nearly facing Bond St Artist 8 years at the Zoological Gallery" (Frost 1987: 17). The Zoological Gallery was owned by the Robert Havells, father and son, Audubon's printers.

Henry Ward established his own firm in premises on Vere Street in 1856/1857. His trade labels give some account of his movements. An early label that Henry attached to his own work read: "H. Ward Late Williams 2. Vere St Oxford St London" (Frost 1987: 17). A later (but undated) label stated: "Henry Ward collector to the celebrated naturalist Audubon chief artist in taxidermy to the late T. M. Williams preserver of birds, beasts, reptiles, fish & every species of animated nature 2 Vere Street, Oxford Street . . . London" (Frost 1987: 17). Henry did not take over Williams's shop, but was still noting he was successor to the late T. M. Williams as a preserver of birds and animals in the 1860 London directory. Henry owned both 2 and 5 Vere Street in St Peter's parish later in his career (Jackson 2012: 135).¹²

Rowland Ward stated in the first edition of *The sportsman's handbook* (Ward 1880: Preface, 3) that

... my father the late Henry Ward became eminent in the same way [as his father John, a naturalist] but with some remarkable advantages having travelled much in pursuit of his profession in both hemispheres, and notably as the companion of Audubon when that distinguished man was so greatly enriching and extending the field of natural history.

Henry's work was appreciated by the royal family, and he received a royal warrant from Queen Victoria in 1870. He also included on his labels that he had a special appointment to the Prince of Teck, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh. The dealer in natural

history specimens and author Christopher Frost (1987: 17–18) noted: “Cases bearing Henry Ward’s own label, which are generally of excellent quality, were probably produced between 1857 and 1878 . . . Artistically and taxidermically his work was ahead of its time, and may have been unequalled in its day.” Cases of Henry’s mounted birds appear in sales occasionally today and are highly regarded.

Henry was assisted for ten years by his son Rowland, during which time they mounted many of the hummingbirds in John Gould’s extensive collection. It grew until it took over Gould’s house, extending even to his drawing room (Lambourne 1987: 85). In the year of the Great Exhibition, 1851, John Gould displayed his collection of hummingbirds in special octagonal cases in a temporary building within the Zoological Society Gardens. This coincided with the publishing, in parts, of *A monograph of the Trochilidae, or family of humming-birds* (Gould 1849–1861).

A collection of Henry’s birds was sold at Stevens’s auction room in 1878, and “among stuffed birds, the property of Mr E. H. Ward of Vere Street an albino specimen of the red throated diver, British killed, made £39.18s., a collection of 400 humming birds £105, a group of chatterers for £80” (Allingham 1924: 172). Henry also acquired nests and eggs (as he had in North America) and owned a Great Auk’s egg until he sold it in 1864 for £25 (Allingham 1924: 163).

Henry died unexpectedly on 29 August 1878 and was buried in West Norwood Cemetery. He left no will, but letters of administration reveal that his estate was worth more than £15,000.¹³ Henry had evidently prospered greatly since setting up his own business in 1856 or 1857. Henry’s elaborate grave memorial is a pillar with two garlands at the top, mounted on a plinth with an inscription on the two-tiered base (Figure 4). The inscription reads: “In affectionate remembrance of Edwin Henry Ward of The Mount, Shortlands, Kent and of 2 Vere St. who departed this life quite suddenly Aug 29th 1878 aged 66 Thy will be done.”

After Henry’s death, Emily moved from The Mount. She was recorded in the census of 1881 as Emily Ward, widow, aged 65, born in Lewisham, living at 1 London Road, Foliage House, Bromley, Kent. Her unmarried daughter Emily Eliza, stated to have been born in Lambeth, lived with her. Emily Ward moved again and was in Brunswick House, Brixton Hill, at the time of her death on 24 December 1887, aged 73; she also was buried in West Norwood Cemetery. Following her death, under probate, everything went to Emily Eliza, who had the administration of the property from February 1888. Henry had provided well for his family.

As a youth, Henry Ward’s conduct in Charleston left much to be desired. As a taxidermist, the quality of his work was never questioned by Audubon and is demonstrated in the cases that he set up which survive today. Henry’s knowledge and expertise were passed on to his sons Edwin and Rowland. In his standard textbook on taxidermy, Rowland Ward (1888) wrote: “This book is dedicated to the revered memory of the late Henry Ward of London (my father) whose eminences as a practical taxidermist, traveller, sportsman and naturalist I prize like an inheritance and affectionately emulate.”

Sarita Ward (1927: 4), in a book about her husband Herbert Ward (Henry’s grandson, the son of Edwin), said: “From his grandfather, Henry Ward, also a renowned naturalist, and for many [sic] years, the travelling companion of Audubon, he inherited his gentleness of character, his love of nature, and his great understanding.” This is how the mature Henry was remembered by a member of the family.

EDWIN WARD (1834–1905)

Edwin¹⁴ was the eldest son of Henry and Emily Ward.¹⁵ Henry trained both of his sons, Edwin and James Rowland, and they became successful taxidermists in the second half of the nineteenth century. Rowland admired Edwin's skill and esteemed him as one of the "best known and most skilful operators in artistic taxidermy that we have ever had in this country. I have had the benefit of his advice and help" (Ward 1880: 1). Edwin was established in his own premises at 11 Thayer Street, Manchester Square, London, by 1865, but moved the following year to 24 Wigmore Street, and again in 1870 to 60 Wigmore Street. He also acquired 49 Wigmore Street, which he named "Trophy Galleries", and that became his official business address. Edwin, aged 36, was recorded as a naturalist in the census of 1871, living in Hampstead, Middlesex, with Georgina, his wife, aged 28, and four children, Herbert (aged 8), Madeline (aged 2), Victor (aged 1) and Oscar (3 months).

Edwin mounted quadrupeds, especially big game, including the head of one of the famous white bulls from Chillingham Park in Northumberland that had been shot by the Prince of Wales. This trophy head was sent to Sandringham, the Norfolk estate of the royal family. Another of his notable pieces of taxidermy was the mounted head of the horse called Ronald that Lord Cadogan rode when heading the charge of the Light Brigade at the Battle of Balaclava on 25 October 1854; Ronald survived Cadogan by four years and died in 1872 (Morris 2003: 10). He also set up parts of mammals as household objects. Catering for a wider trade, he advertised on his trade labels as a "naturalist and plumesier", also a "furrier", of Wigmore Street. He published *Knapsack manual for sportsmen in the field* (Ward 1872) privately¹⁶, some of which was copied closely by his brother in *The sportsman's guide to collecting and preserving trophies* (Ward 1888).

Edwin followed his father in receiving royal patronage from the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) before emigrating to California shortly after his retirement in 1879. Doubtless his father had told him about his time in North America collecting and preparing bird specimens for Audubon, inspiring Edwin to go there himself. Edwin's manager and brother-in-law, George Frederick Butt, continued the business under Edwin Ward's name for a few years until bought out by Rowland Ward.

An article about Edwin in the *Pasadena and valley union* newspaper (Anonymous 1885: 1) referred to him as "General Ward", Fellow of the Zoological Society of London, a naturalist, sculptor and poet (a poem by him was praised by Henry Longfellow in the *Los Angeles times*¹⁷). Edwin had purchased a property in San Gabriel, Los Angeles County, and named it Shortland's Vinery, perhaps as a reminder of his father's home in Shortlands, Bromley, Kent. He bought several properties in Pasadena with the intention of building a museum of natural history similar in architectural style to the National Museum in Washington. It was expected that his two sons, Victor and Oscar, would assist him in the museum.

Edwin sent several letters to the *Los Angeles times*, one an account of his travels in Alaska, another about the excessive slaughter of Californian quails. He expressed his delight in being in Pasadena (though he soon moved to Long Beach) and said that he had nearly been born an American citizen as "my father wished, but my mother was back in England and my father went back to England".¹⁸

Edwin's eldest son, Herbert Frederick (1863–1919), became a bird collector on expeditions to Australia, New Zealand and Borneo, and was in the Congo with H. M. Stanley in 1887, from whence, Edwin hoped, he would send specimens of African fauna home for

his father's projected museum. The collapse of Edwin's finances aborted this intention. Herbert had a successful career as a writer, sculptor (probably initially trained by his father), explorer and soldier. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre after being wounded during the First World War and mentioned in dispatches in 1915 for rescuing wounded soldiers under bombardment. Later, he became an officer of the Légion d'Honneur.

In her biography of Herbert Frederick Ward, Sarita Ward (1927: 9) regretted a "note of sadness, the endowment of his father, Edwin Ward, a distinguished naturalist and a talented sculptor", that had overshadowed the early life of her husband. She explained that Edwin had an "inborn feeling for art", and a "great talent for sculpture". However his "irritability and gloom which clouded the lives of his family were due to the fact that he did not realize that he himself was in a wrong groove – hence his discontent and restlessness, migrating with his family from town to country, from country to sea, and finally to California, where disaster awaited him." He lost money in land speculation, instead of using his "undoubted gift for sculpture".

Edwin died on 21 February 1905, aged 70, at San Joaquin, California, a broken man, all his plans for a museum and other projects shattered.

JAMES ROWLAND WARD (1847–1912)

The younger son, born on 12 May 1847, of Edwin Henry and Emily Ward, was named James Rowland. However, he only used his first forename at the commencement of his career.¹⁹ He became the foremost taxidermist of the late nineteenth century, and wrote books on hunting and taxidermy. Rowland followed in his father's footsteps when he made a journey to North America, where he enjoyed an angling holiday resulting in his book *The English angler in Florida* (Ward 1898).

Rowland left school when he was 14 years of age and was then trained by his father in the taxidermy business as well as learning sculpting in bronze. He made sufficient money from his sculptures to enable him to set up in business on his own as a taxidermist. One of his earliest cases was signed James Ward and dated 1868, but he quickly adopted the use of his second name for business purposes. By 1872 his business had expanded to such an extent that he had a shop, known throughout the British Empire as "The Jungle", at 167 Piccadilly. Here he exhibited mounted animals in forest settings, visited by thousands of people. He also was known throughout Europe to huntsmen, who wanted their trophies mounted by him. He became known for creating objects from skins and other parts of animals for use and decoration in the home. These examples of "animal furniture" included a bear as a dumb waiter holding a tray of glasses and umbrella stands made from the feet of elephants. His firm, Rowland Ward Ltd, also operated in the USA (Frost 1987: 25).

The sportsman's handbook to collecting, preserving, and setting-up trophies together with a guide to the hunting grounds of the world, first published in 1880, went through several editions and encouraged him to publish and promote 30 other books by several authors on hunting, fishing and shooting as well as the preserving of specimens in his series "Rowland Ward's Books for Sportsmen". He set up groups of animals in natural habitats for the many national and international exhibitions of the period. By visiting the London Zoological Gardens he observed the different subjects he was setting up so that he could accurately replicate the animals' musculature under the skins, the whiskers and the expressions of the animals, such as the snarl of the tiger.

The 1901 census indicated he was living in Piccadilly, London, and was aged 55 years. His wife, Lina, was 33 years old, and they had two servants. By this time he was phenomenally successful and had become very wealthy. In 1912 he paid 140 guineas and 150 guineas for two Great Auk eggs at Stevens's auction house (Allingham 1924: 164). A lasting legacy, apart from the numerous cases of his work still in existence, was his *Records of big game*, first published in 1882. From the second edition this was renamed *Rowland Ward's records of big game* (Ward 1886), a title that has been used ever since. It included measurements and other details for an increasing number of species through succeeding editions. It was so prestigious having one's trophy listed in this book that princes and presidents submitted their records for admission.

At least three subspecies were named after Rowland Ward: *Capra sibirica wardi* (Baltistan Ibex), *Redunca redunca wardi* (a subspecies of the Bohor Reedbuck) and *Helarctos malayanus wardi* (a subspecies of the Malayan Bear).

Rowland Ward died on 28 December 1912 at his home, Restmore, Sea Road, Boscombe, Hampshire. His estate was worth £147,167 13s. 9d.

CONCLUSION

Much has been written about collectors of new and rare birds in many foreign countries to be shipped home for British naturalists. A great deal is known about authors, artists and illustrators of the nineteenth century who described the birds. Less is recorded of the taxidermists who made the birds available to ornithologists and museums. Members of the Ward family of taxidermists were major contributors to the knowledge of foreign birds in the nineteenth century. Henry and his son Rowland prospered with business premises in London during the Victorian period, when taxidermy became fashionable following the discovery of arsenic as a long term preservative for skins that revolutionized the profession. The Wards were at the forefront of the trade in London during that prosperous period in the second half of that century.

Several taxidermists created colourful displays of exotic birds for the Great Exhibition in 1851, including T. M. Williams. Following an act of parliament in 1845, granting the councils of large municipal boroughs powers to establish museums, several were established in the second half of the century with natural history as one of the main subjects. Displays with mounted birds created a further demand for specimens from taxidermists – many of whom would follow the advice of members of the Ward family, and the guidance in Rowland Ward's publications.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pat Morris provided information about Edwin Ward from his collection of material on the taxidermist and trade labels, and his discovery and ownership of the book by Edwin published in 1872. He sent me photographs of Henry's grave memorial and of a portrait of Henry that he had purchased with some Rowland Ward archival material. Christopher Frost discussed various aspects of the Wards' activities; my basic information on Edwin came from his *A history of British taxidermy* (1987). Both Pat Morris and Christopher Frost gave me unstinted and valuable guidance to Ward sources and advice on their taxidermic activities.

Eliana Medina (County of Los Angeles Public Library) located the article referring to Edwin Ward. Wei Zhang (Reference Librarian, Adult Information Services, Pasadena Public Library) supplied me with photocopies of Edwin Ward's letters to the *Los Angeles times*; and also checked the California death indices to find the record of Edwin Ward's death.

My thanks to Colin Parish (Archives Assistant, Windsor Castle), Dr R. M. Peck (Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia), Andrew Lott (London Metropolitan Archives), who provided the details of Henry's marriage in 1833, and to Elaine Charwat (formerly of the Linnean Society) for access to Swainson's correspondence. My thanks also to Peter Davis and Charles Nelson for several comments and suggestions.

NOTES

Baptisms, marriages and deaths were recorded in parish registers from 1538 until 1837, when a national General Registry took over. An International Genealogical Index on microfiche records baptisms and marriages, but not deaths, covering the same period as the Parish Registers. It is arranged by counties. Note "b" does not indicate born in parish registers, but baptized, date of birth rarely being recorded.

¹ John was not listed in any London directory. He married Catherine (possibly Catherine Griffith) on 27 April 1806 at Lambeth, Surrey. By about 1837, John had married for a second time; his wife was Rebecca Ward (born 18 January 1801 at Faversham, Kent; died in April 1872 aged 71), daughter of James and Rebecca Ward. She may have attended the wedding of Edwin Henry Ward in 1833.

In the census of 1841, John was listed as a messenger, aged 50, and his wife Rebecca, aged 40, a seamstress. There were two children in the household: Edward, aged 4, and Alice, aged 1. They lived in the district of St Pancras, Marylebone. In the census of 1851, John, aged 66, was listed as a "naturalist", born about 1785 in Newberry (now Newbury), Berkshire. Also present were his wife Rebecca, aged 50, and both their children, aged 14 and 11 respectively. John died on 13 November 1851 aged 66.

² Yale University, Audubon papers. Box 2, Folder 38.

³ International Genealogical Register, London. Possible but unverified date of death, St Pancras, London, 1863.

⁴ There are no records of James Frederick and Jane Ward in the Royal Archives, Windsor Castle: Colin Parish (Archives Assistant, Royal Archives) to C. E. Jackson, pers. comm., 19 November 2013.

⁵ J. J. Audubon (hereafter JJA) to W. Swainson (hereafter WS), 14 September 1829: original ms in Swainson correspondence, Linnean Society of London: ms 270.

Ford (1988: 256) stated that Frederick was living in Philadelphia and doing work for Swainson and for William Cooper, a founder member of the New York Lyceum with a private collection of birds.

⁶ JJA to Lucy Audubon, 6 May 1829 and 10 May 1829 (Rhodes 2006: 220–241).

⁷ JJA to WS, 14 September 1829: original ms in Swainson correspondence, Linnean Society of London: ms 270.

Audubon referred three times to Ward, without any forename, who Ford (1988) took to be Henry. It is far more likely that this was Frederick Ward, who was in America in 1829, where he met Audubon. Henry was contracted to Audubon from July 1831 until the spring of 1832. The "Henry" of Audubon's letters while he was in America 1829–1830 probably refers to Henry Havell, brother of his printer Robert Havell.

⁸ Another and unrelated Henry Ward was operating in America about this time (see Kohlstedt 1980).

⁹ E. Prince to J. Gould, 28 July 1838 and 20 May 1839: original mss in Mitchell Library, Sydney (Gould letters nos. 3 and 14).

¹⁰ Everyone had trouble spelling Charles Tost's surname. In the 1841 census he was listed as "Charles Tash". His wife, Jane, was listed as a "bird stuffer" and on the day of the census, she was at Broad Street, home of John Gould.

Their children were: Caroline Jane, baptized in March 1840 (Strand district); Charles Richard, baptized in March 1843 (St James, Westminster); Eliza Emma, baptized in September 1846 (St Pancras district); Jane Catherine, baptized in June 1848 (Strand district).

¹¹ Edwin Henry Ward died, intestate, on 29 August 1878 and was buried on 3 September 1878. His age at death would have been supplied by his wife, Emily (née Hunt). They were married on 24 November 1833, in St John the Evangelist, Waterloo, Lambeth.

The Census returns for London for 1841 to 1871, taken each April, included Henry and his family. The information was given, or withheld, by Henry as head of the household. In 1841 the only information required was name, position in household, age, and whether born in the same county (indicated by Y[es] or N[o]). Ages could be rounded up or down to the nearest 5 or 10.

1841: Clarence Gardens, St Pancras: Henry Ward, 26; Emily Ward, 20; Edward [sic = Edwin] 6; Emilia [sic = Emily Eliza] 4; Jessy 2; Havell? 7 months.

From 1851 to 1871, the trade or profession was required and exact place of birth, county ("Mx" = Middlesex) and town or parish. Henry evidently had no idea where he had been born. The word "naturalist" was given in each census for "trade or profession" by Henry.

1851: 21 Edward Street, Deptford, SE8: Henry, head [of household], 36, born Mx St Pancras; Emily, wife, 35, born Deptford; Edwin, son, 16, born Deptford; Jessy, daughter, 12, born Mx Chelsea; Clara, daughter, 6, born Mx; James Roland [sic], son, 4, born Mx.

1861: 2 Vere Street W1: Henry, head [of household], 46, born Bristol; Emily, wife, 45, born Deptford, Kent; Eliza E., daughter, unm[arried], 24, born Surrey; Jessy, daughter, unmarried, 22, born Mx; Clara, 16, born Mx; James R., son, 13, born Mx.

1871: Henry, head [of household], 57, born Mx London; Emily, wife, 56, born Mx London; Emily, daughter, 26, unmarried, born Mx London; Clara, daughter, 24, unmarried, born Mx London.

Emily gave her place of birth as Lewisham in the 1881 census.

Their children were Edwin (see pp 8–9); Emily Eliza (1836–1933), who remained a spinster; Jessy or Jesse (1 August 1838–1913); both sisters were baptized at Old Church, St Pancras, on 22 December 1850, as was their brother Edwin (see note 14 below); Clara (1845–1892); James Rowland (see pp 9–10).

¹² In the *London street directory* for 1860 there are these entries: "2 Vere Street Henry Ward preserver of birds and animals", and in the alphabetical list of traders, "Henry Ward (successor to the late T. M. Williams) preserver of birds and animals. 2 Vere Street, Oxford Street W." (Kelly 1860). Directories for 1827 to 1860 inclusive were checked.

¹³ "Letters of Administrations PCC 24 September 1878 of personal estate of Edwin Henry Ward late of No 2. Vere Street, Cavendish Square in the County of Middlesex, Naturalist who died on the 29th day of August 1878 at The Mount, Shortlands in the County of Kent intestate, were granted to Emily Ward of The Mount aforesaid Lawful Widow and Relict. Effects under £16000, resworn May 1879 sub £15000. Admon [abbreviation for Administration, from the Latin] of undermentioned property issued February 1888."

Henry and Emily Ward's home, The Mount, Mays Hill Road, was in the wealthy, southwestern part of Bromley called Shortlands. The Mount was offered for sale in March 2014, when it was described as an "elegant gothic revival house"; the asking price was £1,250,000.

¹⁴ Edwin was referred to only by this Christian name in the censuses and in all other sources quoted.

¹⁵ He was born on 13 November 1834, but not baptized until 22 December 1850, with his sisters (see note 11 above), at Old Church, St Pancras, London. On 11 September 1861, witnessed by Henry Ward and Robert Butt, he married Georgina Isabella Butt (born on 19 April 1842, baptized on 1 October 1843 at St Mary, Marylebone; her parents were Robert and Eliza Butt). George Frederick Butt, born in 1846 in Hertfordshire, was Georgina's brother.

Ward (1880a: 1) wrote: "My brother, Edwin Ward, late of 49 Wigmore Street, London, was one of the best known and most skilful operators in artistic taxidermy that we have ever had in this country. I have had the benefit of his advice and help."

¹⁶ This book, of which there are few extant copies, was discovered by Dr P. Morris who compared it with Rowland's *The sportsman's handbook to collecting, preserving, and setting-up trophies* ... (Ward 1880).

¹⁷ Edwin Ward contributed ten articles to the *Los Angeles times* between April 1885 and August 1887, writing from Long Beach between 14 July 1885 and 8 May 1886. His poem, published in the issue of 15 May 1887 (p. 6), received praise from Henry Longfellow in a tribute printed on 21 May 1887 (p. 3).

¹⁸ *Los Angeles times* 20 August 1887: p. 8B.

¹⁹ Most sources give Rowland's birth date as 1848, but he was born on 12 May 1847 at 21 Edward Street, St Pancras (the same address occupied by Henry his father and his family in the 1851 census).

Rowland married Lina Taylor (1868–1951) on 9 February 1893. There was no issue. He died 28 December 1912.

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Received 19 April 2016. Accepted 19 August 2016.