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### Case of stuffed birds from Brazil

#### Background information and significance:

This is a very rare and early example of taxidermy (stuffed birds or animals). The birds, from the rainforest of Pará, Brazil, are said to have been mounted by John James Audubon and his pupil “Mr. Moore” in 1841. Mr. Moore, along with George Newell of Framingham, shot and prepared the birds while Olive Plimpton Newell (George Newell’s wife) looked on. Back in Massachusetts, Mr. Moore sent the case of stuffed birds to Mrs. Newell in 1842 as a gift.

Mrs. Newell gave the arrangement to the Town of Framingham in 1880.

#### Additional information about George Newell and Olive Plimpton Newell:

- George and Olive Newell married in 1841 and lived on Pleasant Street on the Lawson Buckminster, Jr., estate.
- George Newell was a sea captain.
- In the 1900s their great granddaughter, Margaret Kendall, became President of the Framingham Historical Society. An artist, she made many drawings of Framingham scenes as they looked in the mid-1900s.
- Olive Plimpton Newell wrote this account of her trip to Brazil as a newlywed:

*These rare Birds, were shot, and prepared by my husband & a Mr. Moore a pupil of the Celebrated Audubon of New York & Mounted by Audubon & Moore in the year 1841, in Para South America & sent as a present to me by Mr. Moore in the year of 1842 at Cambridge.*

*Many of these Birds I entered the forests with them & sat in my Palanquin [sedan chair or portable litter] while they were shooting the poor birds, all about me were monkeys, parrots, Lizards, Snakes, of every kind & quantities of Musketees the scenery was grand & wild flowers abounding every where. The plumage of these lovely Birds were magnificent. I regretted that they were killed for Audubons benefit, at the time –*

**Pictures** – from John James Audubon's *Birds of North America*, published 1827-38:



*Left to right:* Cardinals, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, White-throated Finches