

in the connection, and according to Dr. Coues, it is to Catesby, Edwards, Forster, Pennant, Latham and Bartram, that the credit belongs of making North American Ornithology what it was at this period.

The name of Bartram will always be respected from his connection with Wilson, yet Bartram himself was an advanced Ornithologist for the time, and published a list of the birds of the Eastern United States, naming many species as new, which, it is believed, were credited by subsequent authors to Wilson.

Prior to 1794 Alexander Wilson lived in his native town of Paisley, in Renfrewshire, Scotland, where he followed his father's steps as a hand-loom weaver. For a time he turned packman, but the venture was not a success. He had also corrected the Muses, and had written several pieces which were so well received as for a time to be attributed to Burns. In 1789, while carrying the pack, he added to his wares a prospectus of a volume of his poems, in which he said "if the *pedlar* should fail to be favored with sale, then I hope you'll encourage the *poet*." But he did not succeed in either capacity, and in 1794 he came to America, where he was once more a weaver, a pedlar, and a schoolmaster. It was here on the banks of the Schuylkill that he enjoyed the society of Bartram, which was no doubt instrumental in deciding his future course in life, and in all his troubles he received sympathy and encouragement from this venerable friend and ardent lover of nature. The period of Wilson's labors here was bright, but brief. The first volume of his work appeared in 1808, and he died in 1813, before the work was finished. With a cheap gun, hardly safe, with which to secure his specimens, and only common paper on which to trace his illustrations, he followed the subject with enthusiasm and perseverance which earned for him a reputation far ahead of all composers at the time; even now he is regarded as the father of American Ornithology, and many of his descriptions of the birds are still quoted as the best which have appeared on the subject. After the untimely death of Wilson the work was carried on and completed by his associate Oud, who brought out the eighth and ninth volumes in 1814. In this work about 280 species of birds were fully and faithfully described, and many of them shown in colored illustrations.