



Antique Rowland Ward Taxidermy, Swallow Tailed Hawk

Rowland Ward

Sold



REF: 27482

Height: 77.5 cm (30.5")

Width: 62 cm (24.4")

Depth: 41.5 cm (16.3")

Description

Pair of Swallow Tailed Kites by Rowland Ward.

An exceptional pair of cased Swallow Tailed Hawks. The case contains a cleverly modelled pair of Hawks sitting on a tree branch within a realistic setting by arguably the most well known taxidermists of them all, Rowland Ward. There is an original trade label internally that reads "Rowland Ward Ltd. 167 Piccadilly, London". The case is glazed on all four sides as well as on top. This gives a great view of the two birds. An exceptional piece of Victorian taxidermy.

The swallow-tailed kite breeds from the southeastern United States to eastern Peru and northern Argentina. Its colours are a contrasting deep black and bright white, with some of the black feathers showing some iridescence. The flight feathers and tail are all black with most of the rest of the bird being white. It has a large forked tail giving it its name. Other common names used include Fork-tailed Kite, Swallow-tailed Hawk, and Scissor-tailed Kite. With its deeply forked tail and bold black-and-white plumage, it is unmistakable in the summer skies above swamps of the Southeast. Flying with barely a wing beat and manoeuvring with twists of its incredible tail. Their principal food is large grasshoppers, dragonflies, grass-caterpillars, small snakes, lizards, and frogs and they nearly always feed on the wing. After rearing its young in a treetop nest, the kite migrates to wintering grounds in South America.