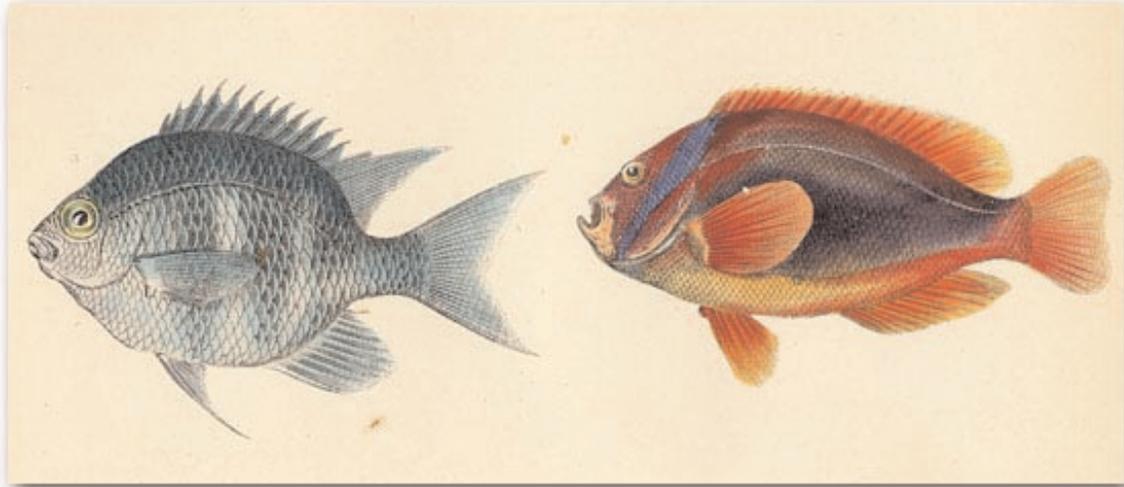


# BLACK SHIPS & SAMURAI

COMMODORE PERRY AND THE OPENING OF JAPAN (1853-1854)

BY JOHN W. DOWER

## CHAPTER EIGHT: NATURE

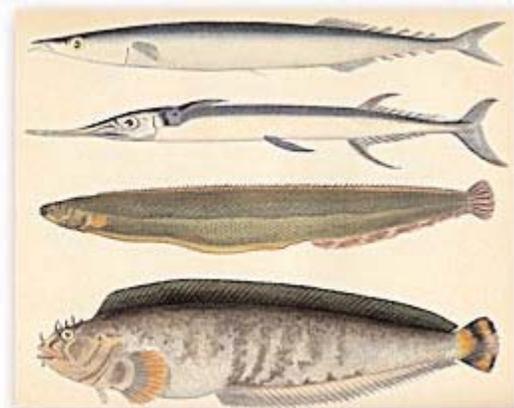
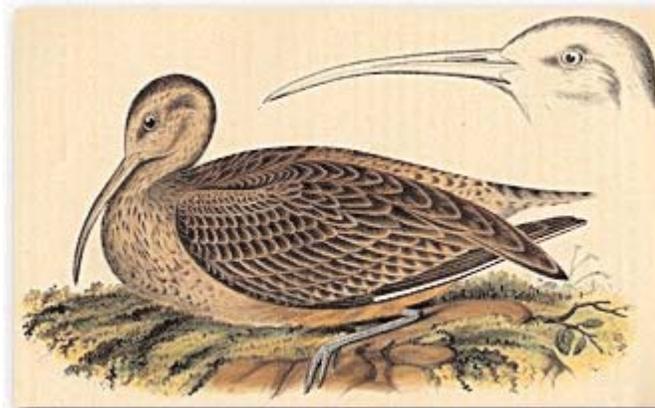
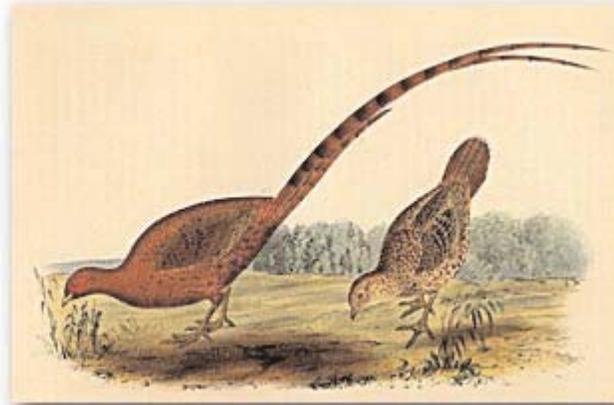


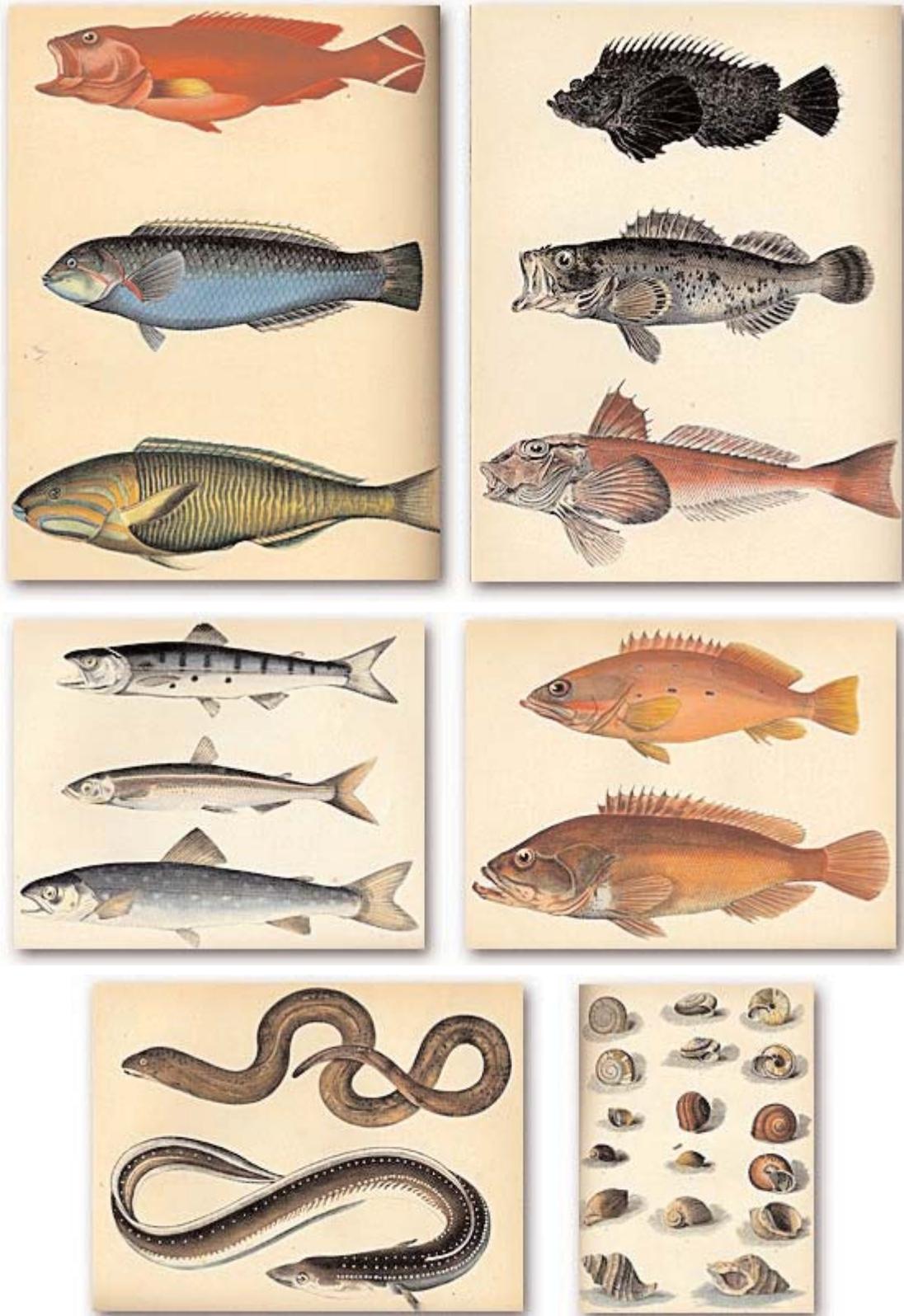
*Marine life*

Lithographs from volume two of the official Narrative

The Perry mission was intent on more than just opening relations with Japan, and its artists and technical specialists devoted themselves to more than just depicting the people, customs, and landscapes of a hitherto secluded country. They also set themselves the task of compiling a graphic record of the natural world.

Due to unfortunate personal wrangles, the hundreds of botanical samples collected by Dr. James Morrow were never included among the plates that graced the official Narrative, and Morrow's illustrations were subsequently lost. The second volume did, however, include sumptuous lithographs of marine life, together with a small selection of birds. Works of art in and of themselves, these illustrations represent an obvious counterpart to the great Audubon folios of birds and mammals that constituted one of the most elegant of Perry's gifts to Japanese officials. These renderings, presented below, remind us that the Western adventurers and expansionists of these days were intent on "mapping" virtually every aspect of the little known world.





*All images from the official Narrative, volume two*