DATES OF PUBLICATION FOR SHAW’S
GENERAL ZOOLOGY (1800–1826)

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Dates of publication for Shaw’s **General Zoology** (1800–1826)

**NEAL L. EVENHUIS**

*Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice Street, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96817-2704, USA*

**Abstract.** Dates of publication are presented for the parts and volumes of Shaw’s *General Zoology* based on notices and advertisements in contemporary newspapers and the periodical literature.

**INTRODUCTION**

Among the many illustrated works published by George Shaw (1751–1813) was his *General Zoology* (1800–1826). The work was published in 14 volumes, with two parts per volume. Each volume had both constituent parts issued simultaneously except one (Volume VII). Shaw wrote the descriptive text, which was accompanied by a plethora of plates per volume. Shaw died in 1813, after which there was a delay in publication, until it was taken over by J.F. Stephens, who saw it to completion with the publication of volumes IX through XIV.

Dating of the work has not been researched for any except the Aves volumes. Sherborn (1922: cxv) claimed that the dates were not to be found, so he used the title pages which, as shown here, are sometimes misleading. Mathews (1919, 1920, 1925) gave dates for the Aves volumes, based on information supplied by C.W. Richmond. No further dating research has been conducted on any of the parts until now.

**METHODS**


**ANALYSIS OF THE WORK**

The method of issue for the work was in parts with two parts per volume, issued simultaneously. only one volume (Vol. VII) was found with each part having been issued separately (i.e., the last page of part I states that part II will be published on 1 May 1809. Two types of title pages were prepared: a decorative title page with an illustration and the volume number and year (e.g., Fig 1); and (2) a plain title page for each separate part of the volume (e.g., Fig. 2). For the most part, the year printed on the title pages are the same as
the notices and advertisements of publication; however, there are three instances where dates differ and these are discussed below. Dates of publication found are given below for each part (earliest indicated in boldface) and summarized for all parts in Table 1.

**Volume I, Part 1.**

**Date of publication:** 31 May 1800 *(Lond. Star).*

**Remarks.** The four parts to the first two volumes are also advertised as “A history of quadrupeds”.

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**Figure 1–2.** Title pages of *General Zoology*. 1. Example of a decorative title page with an illustration and the volume number and year. 2. Example of a plain title page that accompanied each separate part of the volume.
Volume I, Part 2.
Date of publication: 31 May 1800 (Lond. Star).
Remarks. The four parts to the first two volumes are also advertised as “A history of quadrupeds”.

Date of publication: 27 March 1801 (Lond. Porcupine); 4 April 1801 (Lond. Star).
Remarks. The four parts to the first two volumes are also advertised as “A history of quadrupeds”.

Date of publication: 27 March 1801 (Lond. Porcupine); 4 April 1801 (Lond. Star).
Remarks. The four parts to the first two volumes are also advertised as “A history of quadrupeds”.

Date of publication: 1 July 1802 (Mon. Mag.).

Date of publication: 1 July 1802 (Mon. Mag.).

Volume IV, Part 1.
Date of publication: [31] August 1803 (Mon. List New Publ.); 1 September 1803 (Mon. Mag.).
Table 1. Dating for volumes and parts of Shaw’s General Zoology.

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<th>Part</th>
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**Volume IV, Part 2.**


**Date of publication:** [31] August 1803 (Mon. List New Publ.); 1 September 1803 (Mon. Mag.).

**Volume V, Part 1.**


**Date of publication:** 23 February 1805 (Courier).
Volume V, Part 2.

Date of publication: 23 February 1805 (Courier).

Volume VI, Part 1.

Date of publication: 11 January 1806 (Lond. St. James Chron.).

Volume VI, Part 2.

Date of publication: 11 January 1806 (Lond. St. James Chron.).


Date of publication: [31] August 1808 (Lond. Star, Mon. Mag.).

Remarks. Although both the London Star and The Monthly Magazine notice clearly state this part was published in August 1808, there are plates in this part dated 1 September 1808. The last page of this part as well as the 1 September 1808 issue of the Monthly Magazine says that Part II will come out in May 1809. This is apparently the only volume in which the parts were not published simultaneously.

Volume VII, Part 2.

Date of publication: 10 March 1809 (Lond. Star).


Date of publication: 3 February 1812 (Lond. Star); 6 February 1812 (Courier).
Volume VIII, Part 2.
**Date of publication:** 3 February 1812 (*Lond. Star*); 6 February 1812 (*Courier*).

Volume IX, Part 1.
**Date of publication:** 31 May 1816 (*Mon. Mag.*).

**Remarks.** Although the title page has the date “1815” there have been no records of it found in this study as having been published in that year. Since all the other volumes (except volume VII) had the two part of each published simultaneously, it is treated here as having both parts of the volume published simultaneously. Mathews (1919) said both parts of this volume came out between July 1816 and March 1817. Mathews (1925) gave August 1816 for both parts of this volume.

Volume IX, Part 2.
**Date of publication:** 31 May 1816 (*Mon. Mag.*).

**Remarks.** See above for dates given by Mathews (1919, 1925).

**Date of publication:** 9 August 1817 (*Bent’s Mon. Lit. Advert.*).

**Remarks.** Mathews (1919) gives only the year printed on the title page. Mathews (1925) gives September 1817.
**Volume X, Part 2**.


**Date of publication: 9 August 1817 (Bent’s Mon. Lit. Advert.).**

**Remarks.** Mathews (1919) gives only the year printed on the title page. Mathews (1925) gives September 1817.

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**Volume XI, Part 1.**


**Date of publication: 29 June 1819 (New Times); 10 July 1819 (Bent’s Mon. Lit. Advert.); August 1819 (Mathews 1925); October 1819 (Mathews 1919).**

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**Volume XI, Part 2.**


**Remarks.** Although the date of the title page of both parts is “1824”, there is no evidence that either part came out in that year. The 28 January 1825 notices in the *London Morning Post* and the *London St. James Chronicle and General Evening Post* each state that the
“twelfth volume, in two parts, is ready for delivery” and that “The thirteenth volume is in considerable tardiness, and will complete the work.” This former statement of being “ready” is not considered here as proof of publication although it may have been intended to be. The notice in the Gentleman’s Magazine for January 1825 (here treated as the last day of January) is definitive and can be taken as the earliest confirmed date of publication. Mathews (1919) gave the notice in the Gentleman’s Magazine as the date of publication.

**Volume XII, Part 2.**


**Date of publication:** 28 January 1825 (*Lond. St. James Chron.*; “Ready for delivery”); [31] January 1825 (*Gen. Mag.*).

**Remarks.** See above for dating details for Part I of this volume, which also pertain to Part II.

**Volume XIII, Part 1.**


**Date of publication:** 18 February 1826 (*Lit. Gaz.*, Mathews 1925); 28 February 1826 (*Lond. St. James Chron.*).

**Remarks.** Although the title page has the date as “1825”, the second title page has “1826”. Mathews (1919) gave a later date (26 March 1826), when it was noticed at a meeting of the Linnean Society.

**Volume XIII, Part 2.**


**Date of publication:** 18 February 1826 (*Lit. Gaz.*, Mathews 1925); 28 February 1826 (*Lond. St. James Chron.*).
**Remarks.** Although the title page has the date as “1825”, the second title page has “1826”. Mathews (1919) gave a later date (26 March 1826), when it was noticed at a meeting of the Linnean Society.


**Date of publication:** 11 December 1826 (Bent’s Mon. Lit. Advert.); 19 December 1826 (New Times).

**Remarks.** Mathews (1919, 1925) gave a date of 6 February 1827, when both parts of this volume were donated to the Linnean Society.


**Date of publication:** 11 December 1826 (Bent’s Mon. Lit. Advert.); 19 December 1826 (New Times).

**Remarks.** Mathews (1919, 1925) gave a date of 6 February 1827, when both parts of this volume were donated to the Linnean Society.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This paper is dedicated to the memory of my good friend, and colleague in bibliographic research, Lucius G. Eldredge, who reviewed an early draft of this work and helped with some resources enabling completion of the study, which has lingered for many years.

**REFERENCES**


