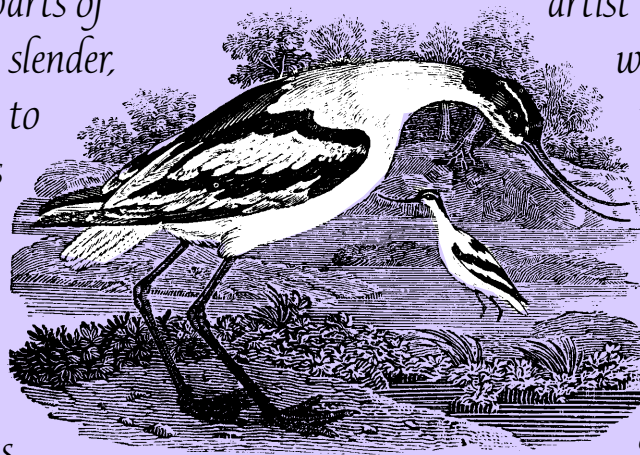


Avocet Light

These birds are not uncommon along the eastern coast of England, south of the Humber, and breed in the fenny parts of Lincolnshire. The long, slender, tapering beak enables it to scoop up minute insects or worms on which it feeds: during this operation it appears as if it were incessantly beating the mud with its beak. The avocet is a beautiful bird; its general plumage is white, with the exception of the head and back of the neck. - *Museum of Animated Nature*, c. 1870.



The illustration shown is the work of Thomas Bewick (1753 - 1828), naturalist, artist and craftsman, whose wood-engraved illustrations for the monumental *History of Quadrupeds* (1790) and *History of British Birds* (1797) firmly established his reputation as one of England's greatest geniuses. Whenever possible he drew from actual specimens, which were procured for him by sportsmen friends; he was never able to kill a bird or animal himself.

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Avocet Light Xtras

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