

Zoology

A Guide to the Resources in the Michigan State University Archives

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October 2010
Revised February 2015

This guide was created to aid visitors to the Michigan State University Archives in finding resources related to the Department of Zoology and the zoological sciences. Note that this guide is not a comprehensive listing of all the available sources, but is intended to be a starting point from which visitors can begin their research according to their specific needs. Online versions of the finding aids for most collections listed can be accessed by clicking on the collection name.

MSU Departmental Records:

- 1. Department of Entomology records, 1887-1984** **UA 16.45**
 - 13 cubic feet, plus 28 volumes and 18 folders
 - The records of the Department of Entomology contain correspondence, reports, extension bulletins relating to entomology, and photographs. The Department's annual reports have information on projects, publications, personnel, enrollment, and extension activities. Prior to 1906, entomology courses were taught in the Department of Zoology.

- 2. Department of Fisheries and Wildlife records, 1926-1975** **UA 16.48**
 - 6.5 cubic feet
 - The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife records consist of correspondence, employment opportunities, and administrative files for 1948 to 1968. Additional materials, spanning the years 1939 to 1975, include background historical information about the department, several projects and studies, and course materials. There are also photographs of wildlife, habitat, course materials, and 4-H activities from 1929 to 1944.

- 3. Department of Geology records, 1930-2010** **UA 16.53**
 - 8 cubic feet
 - The Department of Geology was formed in 1925 as the Department of Zoology and Geology. The records of the Department of Geology consist of annual reports for 1920 to 1970, administrative files, correspondence, field trip reports, inventories of the department, experiment station notes, material relating to the Works Progress Administration, military college program, Sigma Xi and Phi Kappa Phi, and financial information.

- 4. MSU Museum Records, 1896-2011** **UA 3.19**
 - 3 cubic feet
 - MSU Museum records consist of materials from Museum Director Rollin H. Baker (1955-1975), Curator of History Frank W. Elliot (1957-1961), display floor plans and architectural information on the museum, scrapbooks, monographs, and studies and reports by Museum staff members. Research reports cover topics including zoology, paleontology, ecology, archaeology and excavations (Michigan and Kenya), and Michigan history.
 - From its inception in 1857 to 1924, the Museum emphasized biology and contained primarily instructional exhibits describing economically important plants and

animals. Initially run by professors in economic biology, the Museum's first curator was Professor Albert J. Cook (1875-1893), who was followed by zoologist Walter Barrows. Professor Joseph W. Stack (Curator, 1924-1941; Director, 1941-1955) is credited with modernizing and broadening the scope of Museum exhibits, a trend continued by his successor, Dr. Rollin Baker (1955-1982).

5. Natural History Society records, 1878-1903

UA 12.3.19

- 0.5 cubic feet (1 folder and 2 volumes)
- The records of the Natural History Society consist of one folder which includes bylaws with amendments and articles, as well as a membership list. The volumes contain the constitution of the club, meeting minutes, and newspaper clippings of the proceedings of meetings. Some of the clippings contain a summary of papers read at the meetings.
- The Natural History Society was founded in 1872 and membership included students and faculty. The Society formed its own library and museum. The Society was made up of various sections that studied branches of the Natural History field, such as zoology or botany. The Society disbanded in 1903 due in part to the formation of more specialized clubs.

6. Department of Zoology records, 1920-1984

UA 16.121

- 3.25 cubic feet
- The records of the Department of Zoology include correspondence, departmental material, staff meeting minutes, reports, and building blueprints.
- The Zoology and Entomology Department was created in 1860. Manly Miles was the first instructor hired for the department. The department was renamed Zoology and Physiology in 1894. In 1922, the department became part of the Applied Sciences Division. The department was later transferred to the College of Natural Science in 1962.

7. Zoosphere, 1975-1977

Serial 1136

- 1 Folder
- *Zosphere* was an informal monthly newsletter published by the Department of Zoology from November 1975 to October 1977. It contained news of the Zoology Department and of the field of Zoology in general. The items were submitted by students, staff, and faculty. It was discontinued due to lack of interest; there was rarely enough news submitted to make up a full issue.

Individual Collections and Papers:

1. Rollin Harold Baker papers, 1936-1991

UA 17.111

- 15 cubic feet
- The Rollin Baker papers includes his diaries (1936-1951), personal and business correspondence (1937-1974, 1990-1991), manuscripts (1937-1978), course materials from classes taken as undergraduate and graduate (1933-1947) and from classes taught (1947-1978), and research notes (1936-1978).

- In 1955 Baker became the director of the Museum and professor in the Department of Zoology and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. He held this position until his retirement in 1982.

2. Walter Bradford Barrows papers, 1850-1961

UA 17.2

- 6 cubic feet
- The Barrows papers includes letterpress copies of correspondence (3 volumes, 1896-1900, 1904-1906, 1905-1910), correspondence (1893-1915), bird lists (1850-1914, undated), migration records (1903-1908), a copy of Barrow's book *Michigan Bird Life* (1912), and photographs.
- Walter Bradford Barrows accepted a professorship in zoology and physiology at Michigan Agricultural College (now MSU) in 1894, where he stayed until his death in 1924. A renowned ornithologist, in 1912 he wrote his magnum opus, *Michigan Bird Life*, an excellent report accompanied by a voluminous bibliography.

3. Charles E. Bessey papers, 1869-1932

UA 10.3.157

- 0.8 cubic feet
- The Charles E. Bessey papers consist of professional correspondence, publications and articles, and a workbook. The workbook contains notes and observations of experiments, and inventories of a museum and herbarium and of equipment in the botanical department. The collection also contains articles written by Bessey on botany topics, other topics of interest to him, and reviews of books and articles.
- Charles E. Bessey received his B.S. from Michigan Agricultural College (now MSU) in 1869. Bessey was an instructor of Botany at Iowa Agricultural College (now Iowa State University) from 1870 to 1873. In 1882, he became Vice President of the college and acting President. In 1884, Bessey left IAC to become the first Dean of Agriculture at the University of Nebraska. He held that position until 1915.

4. Richard Adams Fennell Papers, 1936-1983

UA 17.25

- 2 cubic feet
- The Fennell papers consist of correspondence (1936-1970), university related materials, and laboratory notebooks and manuscripts. The correspondence is business-related, and written to colleagues and associates. Several manuscripts written by Dr. Fennell are also in the collection (1933-1966). There are also class syllabi, laboratory schedules, and examinations from classes taught by Dr. Fennell in the late-1960s. Lecture notes from 1968 are also present, as are laboratory equipment lists and inventories, and various and other university-related materials. There are also drafts of several speeches and addresses Fennell gave, mostly in the 1930s-1940s, over WKAR-radio. Finally, there are two laboratory notebooks, probably compiled by Fennell during his collegiate career.
- After receiving his Ph.D. in Zoology from Johns Hopkins, Fennell was appointed as an instructor at Michigan State College in 1936. From 1944 to 1946, Fennell also worked as an agent at the U.S. Regional Poultry Laboratory in East Lansing, Michigan. Dr. Fennell was awarded the Distinguished Teacher Award from the MSC College of Science and Arts in 1954.

5. Max Hensley papers, 1947-1986**UA 17.126**

- 2 cubic feet
- The Max Hensley papers consist of three series: Correspondence, Professional Associations, and General Information. The Correspondence series primarily contains letters requesting information on reptiles and amphibians, or information on how to rid households of snakes. The Professional Associations series contains journals, conference programs, and some correspondence relating to Hensley's work with professional herpetological associations. The General Information series contains information on National Science Foundation grants and fellowships awarded to Hensley, summer institutes, and Gettysburg College, where Hensley taught before coming to Michigan State University.
- Marvin Max Hensley arrived at Michigan State University as an assistant professor in zoology in 1956. Hensley retired from MSU in 1986.

6. John A. King papers, 1939-2006**UA 17.206**

- 1.4 cubic feet
- The papers of John A. King contain correspondence, diaries, and typescripts of his diaries. Most of the dairies (1998-2006) include King's observations of native animals, such as fox, squirrels, and mink, which frequented his backyard. Several contain notes about animals he caught in traps. The correspondence contains discussion of nature and scientific discoveries. Also included in the collection are King's early research notes and field work on prairie dogs.
- John A. King was a professor of zoology at Michigan State University from 1961 until his retirement in 1986.

7. Herman Slatis papers, 1963-1972**UA 17.105**

- 1 folder
- The Herman Slatis papers contain correspondence written by Slatis to various people during his years at Michigan State University. The majority are to Alexander Sokoloff, a faculty member at the University of California, Berkeley Department of Genetics, about his work with the *Tribolium Confusum* (confused floor beetle). The correspondence is both professional and personal in nature.
- Herman Slatis was a professor of zoology at Michigan State University from 1963 until his premature death in 1976.

8. Joseph W. Stack papers, 1916-1953**UA 17.44**

- 3 cubic feet
- The Joseph W. Stack papers relate to Stack's tenure at MSU as a professor in the Department of Zoology and as curator and director of the MSU Museum. His areas of interest were ornithology and bird banding. Other subjects covered in Stack's papers are the curriculum at MSU, the Inland Bird Banding Association, and Stack's work with the Works Progress Administration.
- Joseph William Stack came to Michigan Agricultural College (now MSU) in 1915 as an instructor in zoology, physiology, and geology. He began serving as Curator of the Museum in 1924 and was appointed Director in 1941.

9. George J. Wallace papers, 1937-1971

UA 17.50

- 0.5 cubic feet
- The George J. Wallace papers include correspondence, class papers, honors and news clippings about Wallace. The majority of the collection is copies of articles and booklets written by Wallace. The materials deal primarily with the field of ornithology. Also included are issues of the "Michigan Pesticide Council Newsletter."
- George J. Wallace was born in Vermont and there became interested in ornithology. He attended the University of Michigan and received a B.S. in zoology in 1923 and his Ph.D. in 1927. In 1942, Wallace came to Michigan State College where he was a faculty member for thirty years. During this period he was active in fighting against the use of the pesticide DDT.

10. L. Whitney Watkins papers, 1890-1891

UA 10.3.85

- 4 folders
- The L. Whitney Watkins papers contain four notebooks (1890-1891) of class notes Watkins took as a student at Michigan Agricultural College. They cover his classes in horticulture, organic chemistry, agricultural chemistry, and zoology.
- Lucius Whitney Watkins graduated from Michigan Agricultural College in 1893 and later served as a member of the Michigan State Board of Agriculture. In appreciation for his work with the College, Watkins was awarded an honorary Ph.D. in 1932.

Other Resources:

University Publications:

1. Alumni and Faculty Catalogues
2. Alumni Newsletters
3. Course Catalogs
4. Faculty and Student Directories
5. MSU Staff Newsletters
6. MSU Yearbooks (*Wolverine* and the *Red Cedar Log*)
7. Student Newspapers

MSU Information Files:

1. Animal Air Quality Research Facility
2. Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory
3. Animal Science 141
4. Animals
5. Animals. Cruelty
6. Animals. Experimental
7. Animals. Wild
8. Biotechnology Institute
9. Birds on Campus-1896
10. Buildings, Natural Science
11. Cockroaches
12. Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health

13. Ecology
14. Fisheries and Wildlife Club
15. Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of
16. Michigan Biotechnology Institute
17. Natural Areas, Campus
18. Natural Science, College of
19. Natural Science, Department of
20. Research
21. Scientists
22. Zoology, Department of
23. Zoology, Wallabies

MSU Photographs:

Zoology