

Zoology

A Guide to the Resources in the Michigan State University Archives

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This guide was created to aid visitors to the MSU 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.

MSU Departmental Records:

1. Department of Entomology Annual reports, 1907-1969

- UA 16.45
- 28 volumes, 18 folders
- The annual reports of the Department of Entomology contain information on projects, publications, personnel, enrollment, and extension activities. Prior to 1906, entomology courses were taught in the Department of Zoology.

2. Department of Entomology records, 1887-1984

- UA 16.45
- 13 cu. ft.
- The Entomology Department records consist of correspondence, reports, subject files, extension bulletins relating to entomology, and photographs. The correspondence is from members of the faculty and staff about running the department, research grants, and teaching. The subject files contain information about running the department, comprehensive review reports, reports on various subjects, the MSU entomology club, and Beta Beta Beta. The extension bulletins consist of pamphlets about insects and pest control. The photographs include a scrapbook of cyanotypes of insects, campus buildings and scenes, forestry camp, and people.

The first class in entomology was taught in 1859. The classes were taught in the Zoology department. The insect collection was started about 1869 by Albert J. Cook. The department of entomology was organized as a separate unit in June 1906. In 1909, the department moved to what is now Cook Hall. In 1914, several colonies of bees were installed, starting an apiary at MSU.

3. Department of Fisheries and Wildlife records 1926-1975

- UA 16.48
- 6.5 cu. ft.
- The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife records consist of correspondence, employment opportunities, and administrative files for 1948 - 1968. The correspondence is from the department chairman and professors, other professionals, future and past students, and the general public. Areas of correspondence include fish ponds, fish culture, recipes, bait culture, pest control, admissions to program, staffing, bird banding, experimental station and bird sanctuary, public interest (alewife, lamprey eel), and careers in the field. Additional material includes background historical information about the department and school, several projects and studies, and course materials. Materials spanned the

years 1939 - 1975. The projects included studies with the Organization for Tropical Studies, Consumers Energy, Partners of the Alliance (in Belize), commercial fishing interests, and the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary. Course materials include 4-H, Fisheries, Zoology, and off campus seminars. In 2009, black and white photographs were transferred from the period 1929 - 1944; they include wildlife, habitat, course materials, and 4-H activities.

The Department of Fisheries was formed in 1950 from courses taken out of the Zoology curriculum and faculty drawn from several different departments. The department began in the Department of Agriculture but is now a department within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

4. Department of Geology records, 1920-1970, 1995

- UA 16.53
- 8 cu. ft.
- The records of the Department of Geology consist of annual reports for 1920-1970, 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. There are also records relating to the Glacial Institute. The department began in 1925 as the Zoology and Geology Department; and reorganized in 1928 as the Geology and Geography Department. The Geography Department became a separate unit in 1955.

5. Museum Records, 1896-1978, 1950-1982

- UA 3.19
- 3 cu. ft.
- Museum records include records of 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; and monographs, 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).

6. Natural History Society records, 1878-1903

- UA 12.3.19
- 1 folder 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. Volume one contains 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 formed 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.

7. Department of Zoology records, 1920-1984

- UA 16.121
- 2.25 cu. ft.
- The records of the Department of Zoology include chairperson's correspondence (1931-32), minutes of the Izack Walton League (1931-1932), World War II correspondence (1941-1946), Departmental material, Staff Meeting Minutes, Reports, and Laboratory of Experimental Zoology (Animal House) & Natural Science 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.

8. Zoosphere, (1975-1977)

- MSU Serials 1136
- 1 Folder
- Zoosphere was an informal monthly newsletter published by the Zoology department from November 1975 to October 1977. It contained news items about the MSU Zoology Department, and the field of Zoology in general. The items were submitted by students, staff, and faculty. It was eventually 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 records, 1936-1991

- UA 17.111
- 15 cu. ft.
- The series includes: diaries, 1936-1951; correspondence (personal, business), 1937-1974, 1990-1991; manuscripts, 1937-1978; classes taken (notes and tests as undergraduate and graduate), 1933-1947; classes taught (notes and tests), 1947-1978; students (dissertations, theses), 1949-1981; U.S. Navy (correspondence, course notes, promotions, etc.), 1934-1982; research (notes), 1936-1978; restricted (grade books, tests, U.S. Navy evaluations), 1944-1981; miscellaneous (speeches, newspaper clippings, Civil Service information), 1936-1985; Organization for

Tropical Studies (meeting information, correspondence), 1955-1981; research and professional groups, 1958-1979.

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, 1896-1961

- UA 17.2
- 2 cu. ft. 2 Vols.
- Letterpress copies of correspondence (3 volumes, 1896-1900, 1904-1906, 1905-1910); correspondence (1893-1915); bird lists (1850-1914, n.d.); migration records (1903-1908); advertisements, newspaper articles; MICHIGAN BIRD LIFE (1912). Walter Bradford Barrows accepted professorship in zoology and physiology at Michigan Agricultural College (M.S.U.), 1894, where he stayed until his death. A renowned ornithologist, he wrote BIRD LIFE OF MICHIGAN, 1912.

3. Charles E. Bessey papers, 1875-1914

- UA 10.3.157
- 0.8 cu. ft.
- The papers of Charles E. Bessey consist of correspondence, publications and articles, and a workbook. The correspondence consists of letters written to Bessey, letterpress books of letters Bessey wrote. The correspondence is largely professional in nature. The workbook contains notes and observations of experiments, inventory of a museum and herbarium, inventory of equipment in the botanical department, an outline, and a letter. In addition, there is also Systemic Botany notebook. The publications consist of an article about Bessey, a scientific article about germ plasm, and an 1885 realtors brief. 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 MSU in 1869. Bessey was an instructor of Botany at Iowa Agricultural College (now Iowa State University) from 1870-1873. In 1882, he became Vice President of the college and that same year he became 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
- 3 cu. ft.
- The papers consist of correspondence, university related materials, and laboratory notebooks and manuscripts. The correspondence ranges in dates from 1936 to 1970, with the greatest concentration being in the forties and fifties. The correspondence is business-related, and written to colleagues and associates. Several manuscripts written by Dr. Fennell are also in the collection, written

between the mid-forties and mid-sixties. There are also numerous published articles, some written by Fennell, but most written (in German) by others. There are also several class syllabi and laboratory schedules from classes taught by Dr. Fennell in the late sixties as well as examinations from those classes. Lecture notes from 1968 are also present, as are laboratory equipment lists and inventories, and various and sundry 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 (then) Michigan State College. From 1944-1946, Fennell also worked as an agent at the U.S. Regional Poultry Laboratory in East Lansing. 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
- 2.0 cu. ft.
- The Max Hensley papers consist of three series: Correspondence, Professional Associations, and General Information. The Correspondence series is the largest, containing primarily 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 cu. ft.

The papers of John A. King contain correspondence, diaries, and typescripts of his diaries. One diary is from his freshman year (1939) at the University of Michigan. The remaining dairies span 1998 through 2006 and document King's daily life. The material from Rollin H. Baker, Donald Dewsbury, and Michael Straight. John 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 of the letters are

to Alexander Sokoloff about his work with the *Tribolium Confusum*, or confused floor beetle. Sokoloff was a faculty member at the University of California, Berkeley department of genetics. The correspondence includes notes on his work with beetles, as well as personal correspondence between the two men. 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 cu. ft.
- 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 particular 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 State College 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
- 17 folders.
- The papers include correspondence, class papers, honors and news clippings about Wallace. The majority of the collection is copies of various articles and booklets that were 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 University 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 of class notes Watkins took as a student at Michigan Agricultural College. The notebooks are from 1890 to 1891 and 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
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