

**Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**  
**ARCHIVES – FINDING AID**

**Collection Title:** Francis S. Dayton Papers

**Creator:** Dayton, Francis Spencer, Reverend (1871-1948)

**Dates:** 1886-1899, undated

**Language:** English

**Extent:** .25 Linear Feet (1 box)

**Level of Description:** Folder Level

**Repository:** Museum Collections and Archives, Chicago Academy of Sciences /Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, Illinois.

**Access Conditions:** Open for research.

**Ownership and Literary Rights:** The Francis S. Dayton Papers are the physical property of the Chicago Academy of Sciences. Access is provided to materials in the collection for non-commercial educational and research purposes. Copyright may belong to the authors or their legal heirs or assigns. For permission to publish or reproduce any materials from this collection, contact the CAS/PNNM Collections Department.

**Citation:** Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item], [folder], [box], Francis S. Dayton Papers, Chicago Academy of Sciences /Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.

**Acquisition Information:** Acquisition of papers is not clearly defined. However the Academy received a donation of egg and bird specimens from Francis S. Dayton in November 1900. It is possible that these materials came to the Academy at the same time as the specimens as other examples of the notes on egg sets are found within the Oology collection.

**Processor and Date:** Amber K. King, July 2010

**Processing Note:** Arranged chronologically under series headers. The journal volumes that the “Key” notebooks refer to are not in the possession of the Academy. Dayton’s spelling is not uniform and is often phonetic.

**Biographical Sketch:** Reverend Francis S. Dayton (1871-1948) was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, but his family later moved to the Chicago area. He attended the University of Michigan for two years and then went on to the Nashotah Theological Seminary. He held positions at Episcopal pastorates in Chicago, Stevens Point, WI, Oshkosh, WI, and finally, in 1913, New London, WI.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Dayton taught high school chemistry and science for twenty-one years at the New London High School. He was also active in the New London community, forming the first Boy Scout Troop, organizing the local chapter of the American Red Cross, was a charter member of the local Rotary Club, as well as a member in the Wisconsin Archaeologist's Society, the Wisconsin Historical Society, the American Ornithologists Union, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, and the Chicago Academy of Sciences. He was also the director and curator for the New London Public Museum which was established in 1917. He helped to supplement that institution's holdings by collecting and donating anthropological, botanical, and ornithological specimens.

Before moving to New London, Rev. Dayton had already been working as an amateur naturalist, botanist, and ornithologist. He started a record of bird migration and other field notes in 1886, which he regularly maintained for over fifty years, the locality of his observations changing with his current residence. In fact, his bird observations have been used by other birders in their publications and the historical observation of various bird species. Examples of such citations can be found on the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology's website, <http://www.wsobirds.org/> and *Wisconsin Bird Life: Population & Distribution Past & Present* by Samuel D. Robbins. The Chicago Academy of Sciences maintains a number of egg sets and bird specimens within its scientific Ornithology collection.

**Scope and Content:** This collection contains mainly field notes from Dayton's collecting trips. His notes are thorough, including not only locality information, but the behavior of the parent birds when the eggs were collected as well as detailed descriptions of the eggs when sets were obtained.

**Related Resources:** More materials or information on Dayton can be found in the New London Public Museum Archives; contact that institution directly for more information.

**Series Description:**

**Series 1: Oology (1887-1899)**

This series contains notes from Dayton's egg collection. The "Egg Sets" pages do not match any of the specimens found within the Academy's Oology collection. However, there are matching egg sets with these field notes filed within the Oology Data Cards housed in the Collections Department Office. Please see the Collections Manager for possible access to this information.

**Series 2: Ornithology (1886-1898, undated)**

This series contains field notebooks from Dayton's collecting trips often conducted with a fellow enthusiast, E. Spear or Spere. These notes also include information on egg sets that Dayton collected with birds. The "Key" notebooks correlate to larger journal volumes that are not in the possession of the Academy.

**Container List:**

<b>Box 1</b>			
<b>Series 1: Oology (1887-1899)</b>			
<b><i>Sub-series 1: Field Notes (1887-1899)</i></b>			
	1	Journal Pages	April-August 1887
	2	Eggs Sets – Do not correlate to CAS specimens	1898-1891, 1894, 1898-1899
<b>Series 2: Ornithology (1886-1898, undated)</b>			
<b><i>Sub-series 1: Notebooks (1886-1898, undated)</i></b>			
	3	Field Notebook – “Birds Notebook I”	December 1886- September 1887
	4	Field Notebook	September 1887- March 1894
	5	Field Notebook	March 1894- November 1898
	6	Keys – Vol. I-IV	undated