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Accession Number: 2014.2

Collection Title: Chicago Ornithological Society Papers

Creator: Chicago Ornithological Society (COS)

Dates: 1925-2012, undated

Extent: 3 Linear Feet

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.

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

Acquisition Information: The Chicago Ornithological Society donated their papers to the CAS/PNNM archive in March 2014.

Processor and Date: Dawn Roberts, July 2014; updated Dec 2018

Processing Note: Organization of the records is not based upon original order. Staples, paper clips, etc. were removed as was duplicate material. Material removed from three-ring binders and rehoused in archival folders when appropriate. Photocopies are included in the collection and should not be

considered primary source material. These were retained as they were part of the research conducted by COS members into their organization's history.

The collection may continue to grow as materials are generated by the Chicago Ornithological Society and donated to the archives. Information pertaining to individuals associated with the Society, including R.M. Strong and W.J. Beecher, may also be found in other areas in the CAS/PNNM archives.

Biographical Sketch: The Chicago Ornithological Society is a non-profit organization in Chicago, Illinois that was founded in 1912 by Dr. Reuben M. Strong of the University of Chicago, along with other scientists with an interest in ornithology and some of his students at the university. Early membership focused on the study of bird populations in the Chicago region, a focus that continues today with programs, field trips, and habitat conservation initiatives.

Additional references:

Hunt, Chreswell J. "The Chicago Ornithological Society." The Wilson Bulletin. Vol. 33, No. 4, Dec., 1921. Wilson Ornithological Society: pg 198-199.

"About COS." Chicago Ornithological Society webpage, accessed 7/29/2014, <http://chicagobirder.org/about-cos/>.

Scope and Content: The collection includes the administrative records of the Chicago Ornithological Society, general correspondence, and research into the organization's history conducted by members. The bulk of the collection consists of bird sighting data, in the form of checklist cards, ledgers, and compilations of data.

Series Description:

Series 1: Administrative (1935-2008)

Consists of general correspondence, Board meeting minutes and resolutions, membership lists, and programs.

Series 2: Bibliographic References (ca.1946-ca.1975)

A card catalogue of bibliographic references for geology and paleontology, botany, ornithology, science, etc., thought to be attributed to Frances J. Carter, COS Treasurer, and created ca.1946-ca.1975.

Series 3: Ephemera (undated)

This section includes the following ephemera items:

- a badge and window sticker with the COS emblem
- a glass cleaning cloth with the COS name, website, and artwork
- one 35mm slide with "Karls truck" and "* Pete Drine" written on the front. Image is of a white truck with signage on the proper right door: "Karl E. Bartel", "Blue Island III.", "US Fish & Wildlife Bird Bander"
- a "Silver Anniversary Honors" award from the Chicago Audubon Society to the Chicago Ornithological Society

Series 4: Financial (1976-2009, undated)

This section includes annual budget summaries, contributions COS made to other organizations, donations to COS, treasurer notes, and financial correspondence relating to COS events.

Series 5: People (undated)

This section consists of references from other sources about individuals associated with COS collected by COS members as part of research into the organization's history.

Series 6: Printed Materials (1925-2005, undated)

This includes printed materials from the COS, such as announcements, pamphlets, letter head, and newsletters. Also includes references collected by COS members into research of their organization, birding sites, and bird species.

Series 7: Bird Sighting Data (1926-2012, undated)

This series consists of the materials relating to data collected through group or individual field work. Three sub-series are part of this section:

Sub-series 1: Ledgers (1926-1980) – contains ledger books with sighting data from the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and COS field trips

Sub-series 2: Checklists Entered into E-Bird (1927-1979, undated) – these are data cards that COS members have entered into an online database called E-Bird.

Sub-series 3: Checklists Not Entered into E-Bird (1926-1979, undated) – these are data cards that have not been entered into the E-Bird online database.

Container List:

Box 1			
Series 1: Administrative (1935-2008)			
	1	Board – Meetings	1944-1952, 1998-2002
	2	Board – Officers	undated
	3	Board – Resolutions	1946-1950
	4	Correspondence	1958-1995
	5	Correspondence – Colin C. Sanborn	1935
	6	Correspondence – Frances J. Carter (Treasurer)	1975-1978
	7	Correspondence – Wes Serafin (President)	1991
	8	Membership	1955-2008
	9	Programs	1970-2001
Series 2: Bibliographic References (ca.1946-ca.1975)			
	10	Bibliographic Card File Bibliographic references for geology and paleontology, botany, ornithology, science, etc. Thought to be attributed to Frances J. Carter and created	ca.1946-ca.1975

		ca.1946-ca.1975	
Series 3: Ephemera (undated)			
	11	Ephemera	undated
Series 4: Financial (1976-2009, undated)			
	12	Financial – Budget	1994-2001, undated
	13	Financial – Contributions	1997-2009, undated
	14	Financial – Correspondence	1998-2000
	15	Financial – Donations	2000, undated
	16	Financial – Programs – Field Trips	1998-2000
	17	Financial – Programs – Lecture Series	1998-2001
	18	Financial – Treasurer Notes	1976-1978
Series 5: People (undated)			
	19	Biographical Information Includes: Amy Swift Baldwin; Karl Bartel; Isabel Bassett Wasson; William J. Beecher; Coffin family; John L. Devine; Edward R. Ford; Stephen S. Gregory, Jr.; Ruth Halverson Grant; Dr. Alfred Lewy; Margaret Morse Nice; William and Flora Richardson; Dr. R.M. Strong, among others.	undated
Box 2			
Series 6: Printed Materials (1925-2005, undated)			
	1	General	2005, undated
	2	Announcements – Field Trips	1988-2002
	3	Announcements – Meetings	1971-1989
	4	Announcements and Membership (Bound)	1925, 1962-1979
	5	Bird Field Cards (Blank)	1944, undated
	6	Bird Sites	undated
	7	Bird Species	undated
	8	Clippings	1949-1978, undated
	9	COS History	1945
	10	Logo	1948, 1989
	11	Newsletters	1989-1994
	12	Newsletters	1995-1998
Box 3			
Series 6: Printed Materials (1925-2005, undated)			
	1	Newsletters	1999-2003
Series 7: Bird Sighting Data (1926-2012, undated)			
	2	Annual Counts and First Sightings	1992-1993
	3	COS Field Trips Bird sighting cards from COS field trips not included in E-Bird, covering Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin localities. Written description of COS field trip “April 3&4, 1954 to Enos and Morroco, Indiana, Willow Slough Game Preserve”	1953-1960

		by C.A. Wescott.	
	4	COS Field Trips Bird sighting checklists from COS field trips.	1992-1993
	5	COS Field Trips / Al Campbell Includes checklists of COS field trips and personal trips.	1953-1954
	6	Notes Includes compilations of sightings data, bird name changes, etc.	2012, undated
Box 4			
Series 7: Bird Sighting Data continued (1926-2012, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 1: Ledgers (1926-1980)</i>			
	1	Sightings Ledger (green three-post)	1926-1927
	2	Sightings Ledger (black two-ring)	1929-1980
	3	Field Trip Ledger (green three-ring) CBC [Christmas Bird Count] – 1964-1966 Field Trips & CBC 1952-1956, 1958-1959	1952-1966
Box 5			
Series 7: Bird Sighting Data continued (1926-2012, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 2: Checklists Entered into E-Bird (1927-1979, undated)</i>			
	1	Illinois – Beecher	1967
	2	Illinois – Channahon	1948-1975
	3	Illinois – Chicago	1928-1968
	4	Illinois – Chicago – Jackson Park/ Oak Woods Cemetery	1924-1939
	5	Illinois – Chicago – Jackson Park/ Oak Woods Cemetery	1940-1979
	6	Illinois – Cook County, North	1929-1972
	7	Illinois – Cook County, South	1928-1968
	8	Illinois – Cook County, West	1928-1951
	9	Illinois – Deer Grove	1943
	10	Illinois – Des Plaines	1941-1946
	11	Illinois – Dixon, Lowell Park	1928-1940
	12	Illinois – Eggers Woods	1928-1968
	13	Illinois – Jo Davies County	1966
	14	Illinois – Joliet Area	1943-1960
	15	Illinois – Kankakee State Park	1968
	16	Illinois – Lake Calumet	1928-1973
	17	Illinois – Lake County	1944-1972
Box 6			
Series 7: Bird Sighting Data continued (1926-2012, undated)			
<i>Sub-series 2: Checklists Entered into E-Bird continued (1927-1979, undated)</i>			
	1	Illinois – McHenry County	1963
	2	Illinois – Morgan County	1963
	3	Illinois – Morton Arboretum	1936-1977

	4	Illinois – Orland-Palos Area	1927-1972
	5	Illinois – Palos Area	1929-1978
	6	Illinois – Riverside	1928-1942
	7	Illinois – Skokie Lagoons	1942-1969
	8	Illinois – Starved Rock	1937
	9	Illinois – Thatcher Woods	1934-1944
	10	Illinois – Waukegan	1929-1964
	11	Indiana	1946-1967, undated
	12	Indiana – Indiana Dunes Area	1928-1970
	13	Indiana – Jasper-Pulaski FWA	1948-1979
	14	Indiana – Michigan City	1958-1965
	15	Indiana – Rolling Prairie	1965-1968
	16	Indiana – Willow Slough	1955
	17	Indiana – Wolf Lake	1928-1951
	18	Wisconsin	1928-1970
	19	Wisconsin – Lake Geneva	1948-1959
	20	Wisconsin – Milwaukee	1949-1959
	21	Unknown Localities	1956-1967

Box 7

Series 7: Bird Sighting Data continued (1926-2012, undated)

Sub-series 3: Checklists Not Entered into E-Bird (1926-1979, undated)

	1	Illinois – Champaign-Springfield Area Includes Virginia, Champaign, Edinburgh	1943-1966
	2	Illinois – Chicago, Central	1938-1976, undated
	3	Illinois – Chicago, North	1927-1969
	4	Illinois – Chicago, South Note: Feathers found in association with data card, nd.	1927-1968, undated
	5	Illinois – Chicago, West	1938-1969
	6	Illinois – Morris	1958-1979
	7	Illinois – Savanna	1964-1971
	8	Indiana	1926-1974
	9	Michigan	1927-1967
	10	Wisconsin	1956-1966
	11	Canada – Ontario	1963
	12	Multiple Localities	1928-1971, undated
	13	Unknown Localities Note: Moth found in association with data card, 1939.	1927-1974, undated