

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

Collection Title: William Dreuth Papers

Creator: Dreuth, William (1874-1944)

Dates: 1903-1943, undated

Language: English

Extent: 2.92 Linear Feet (4 manuscript boxes, 1 flat storage)

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], William Dreuth Papers, Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.

Acquisition Information: Accession 1946.1. Donation from Mrs. Grace Berg on March 14, 1946.

Processor and Date: Amber K. King, September 2010

Processing Note: Found with related but separate materials. These materials may be found in the Winnifred Smith Papers and in the Institutional archives with materials related to Clark and Nice's article summarizing and publishing Dreuth's field notes.

Biographical Sketch: William Dreuth was born on September 11, 1874 in Chicago, Illinois. He completed grammar school but did not receive any other formal, higher education. Instead, he began working as a store clerk at Montgomery Ward about the age of sixteen and worked for them for twenty-five years.

Although he never married he was close to his family, living with his brother and assisting him to purchase the family home.

He loved the natural world and in particular, birds. He translated this love into a long-term study of their habits. He rose early almost every day of his life, as early as three or four o'clock in the morning, to monitor birds in the Chicago area. Through self-study, Dreuth worked hard to keep to standard ornithological practices and to eventually publish his findings as a book. This desire remained unfulfilled by his death in 1944, but others took his field notes and published those findings, namely Charles T. Clark, a fellow ornithologist, and Margaret Morse Nice.

Scope and Content: The majority of the collection consists of notebooks that record Dreuth's study of birds with a focus on the Chicago area. Additionally are some notebooks that detail some of Dreuth's travel across the United States.

Series Description:

Series 1: Field Notebooks (1903-1943)

This series contains field notebooks that detail various bird species, observation and migration notes, from primarily the Chicago area, particularly Lincoln Park. Two of the notebooks are stored separately from the rest of the series.

Series 2: Ornithology Notes (1912, undated)

This series contains one list of birds and an illustrated publication of birds from North America.

Series 3: Travel Notebooks (1928-1931, undated)

This series contains three notebooks, either in narrative or diary form, that detail trips taken by Dreuth. In addition to listing birds, he notes weather and geological conditions, as well as noting other worthy specimens. He also writes about the towns in which he stops, often describing the physical layout.

Series 4: Photography

This series contains one black and white photographic print, card-mounted, of William "Will" Dreuth.

Container List:

Box 1			
Series 1: Field Notebooks (1903-1943)			
	1	Volume 1	1903-1906
	2	Volume 2	1907-1910
	3	Volume 3	1911-1914
	4	Volume 4	1915-October 21, 1917
	5	Volume 5	October 28, 1917- May 22, 1920
	6	Volume 6	May 23, 1920-

			October 8, 1922
	7	Volume 7	October 15, 1922- September 16, 1924
	8	Volume 8	September 17, 1924- June 6, 1926
	9	Volume 9	June 8, 1926-June 26, 1928
Box 2			
Series 1: Field Notebooks (1903-1943)			
	1	Volume 10	June 27, 1928- September 25, 1929
	2	Volume 11	September 26, 1929- October 13, 1930
	3	Volume 12	October 14, 1930- 1931
	4	Volume 13	1932
	5	Volume 14	1933
	6	Volume 15	1934
	7	Volume 16	1935
	8	Volume 17	1936
Box 3			
Series 1: Field Notebooks (1903-1943)			
	1	Volume 18	1936
	2	Volume 19	1937
	3	Volume 20	1937
	4	Volume 21	1938
	5	Volume 22	1938
	6	Volume 23	1939
	7	Volume 24	1939
	8	Volume 25	1940
Box 4			
Series 1: Field Notebooks (1903-1943)			
	1	Volume 26	1940
	2	Volume 27	1941
	3	Volume 28	1941
	4	Volume 29	1942
	5	Volume 30	1943
	6	Bird Summary by Species	1903-1943
Series 2: Ornithology Notes (1912, undated)			
	7	"Western Species" Bird List	undated
	8	"Illustrated Bird Dictionary and Note Book"	1912

Series 3: Travel Notebooks			
	9	Diary – Alaska	undated
	10	Diary – Various Parts of United States of America	ca. 1928
	11	Diary – “To Maine and Back,” Volumes 1-2	1931
Series 4: Photography			
	12	Photographic Prints	1910
Box 5			
Series 1: Field Notebooks (1903-1943)			
		Bird Summary sorted by AOU number (Volume 1-2)	1903-1943