



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Jackson Miles Abbott Papers, *circa* 1931-1988

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., <i>osiaref@si.edu</i>
Creator:	Abbott, Jackson Miles.
Title:	Jackson Miles Abbott Papers
Dates:	<i>circa</i> 1931-1988
Quantity:	12 cu. ft. (12 record storage boxes)

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 92-117, Jackson Miles Abbott Papers

Descriptive Entry

These are the papers of Jackson Miles Abbott, noted bird watcher and authority on the American bald eagle. Papers include records of his bird sightings, his work on the preservation of the bald eagle, extensive notes on Virginia birds, as well as birds of other parts of the world, and his work to preserve Dyke Marsh.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Birds -- Virginia.
Birds -- Washington, D.C.
Ornithologists
Ornithology.

Types of Materials:

Books
Clippings
Drawings
Manuscripts

Names:

Abbott, Jackson Miles.

Container Listing

Box 1

Breeding Bird Atlas material (Virginia)

"Attracting Birds to Your Yard" - Abbott lecture and handouts

"Bird Migration" - Abbott lecture and handouts

Course in Ornithology, including material on wing and feather structure, why birds sing, bird anting, Audubon Society's Origin of Birds, bird development from beginning of time, photos, etc.

Notebook: Bird Banding Records 1960-1971 (1 of 2)

Box 2

Notebook: Bird Banding Records 1960-1971 (2 of 2)

Check Lists of Birds, 1960s to 1980s. Locations include Chincoteague, South Carolina, Bombay Hook, Fort Belvoir and local spots.

Blue Books - check lists of D.C. Region, Alexandria, Dyke Marsh, etc., 1948-1962

Bird Band Reports

Forms: Birds of Virginia Check List; Life List Data (Blank); Seasonal Abundances; How to Order Vireo Duplicate Slides; NVSO Park Birdlist Project; G.B. Heron & Sandhill Crane Info; Roadside Hawk Counts; Raptor Society of Metro Washington Nest Survey; Breeding Raptor Survey Project; International Shorebird Surveys (Manomet); Birds Frequenting SAV Beds: Hunting Creek Bay; Dyke Marsh and Overlook,- Virginia Shoreline of Potomac River, Dyke to Mount Vernon (8 miles), Little Hunting Creek Bay.

Three cartons of eagle slides & Abbott's lecture "Bald Eagle Nest Sites in the Chesapeake Bay - A History" and "Bald Eagle Slides" numbered with comments.

Snapshots of various birds, many numbered on back.

"Articles to Write." Includes many or all rough drafts for "This Weeks' Migrant"; Coronary: What Mine was Like; plots for stories, etc.

"Sample Natural History Writing" from high school papers 1937-1938 to wartime bird stories, "Birds Under Fire", "Avian Alarm System", etc., to "Death on the Highway," 1957.

Washington National Airport Bird Hazard Survey - December 1962 to December 1964 for U.S. Dept. of Interior. Includes all findings and periodic and final reports and recommendations. Abbott worked through the Audubon Naturalists' Society (ANS) on this project.

Chesapeake Bay - Abbott collection of materials on the health of the Bay.

Mason Neck - various maps and letters and clippings pertaining to Mason Neck including the last brochure with Abbott's eagle drawings in it.

U.K. Birders Visit April 1985 - Several letters from Steve Goodall, Don Peterson, and Abbott's workup of birding side trips in Florida.

Wildfowl Trust of North America

Huntley Meadows Park - maps, clippings, letters, etc. about H.M. and CASH.

Dyke Marsh - Letters, articles, clippings, bird check lists, maps, copies of "The Marsh Wren," etc.

Local Conservation/Environmentalists - Letters to/from Congressmen, etc.

Notebook: Abbott's Life Bird records; list of birds seen in D.C.; Alder and Willow Flycatchers seen at Dyke; "Birds of D.C." by Byron Swift; bird lists from Altadena, California, 1931; lists from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Alexandria area, 1953. Also includes extensive migration records, 1938-1941; notes of birds seen by the month at Belvoir during the 1940s; notes on nests found in California, 1932 and Belvoir, 1955.

Miscellaneous - Abbott's letter during early 1950s to ANS asking to be qualified as senior field trip leader for birds, animals and plant life, and forms Abbott filled out detailing his knowledge and background and the resulting shoulder patch he received from ANS; List of life species, 1929-1973 (566); letters from Ray Chapman, Summerville, South Carolina, etc.

Box 3

Duck Hunting Along Potomac - clippings; letters to dignitaries, Endangered Species Act, etc.

Hydrilla - clippings about Abbott, about hydrilla, Abbott's report on hydrilla for the Waynewood Newsletter, September 1987; maps; publications.

SAV - Abbott's article "Dramatic Return of Waterfowl to the Potomac Estuary: January 1986; clippings and publications including US Fish & Wildlife, Annapolis, Maryland dated 5-16-1986 - An Ecological Study of Hydrilla in the Potomac River, Waterfowl Segment (Abbott and Ed Wiegel supplied information and are quoted).

Loon Sightings - Abbott's sighting October 27, 1983, Ft. Washington Overlook, George Washington Parkway of an Arctic Loon; Carl Carlson's writeup of Pacific Loon sighting at Ocean City, Maryland, 10 January 1971; Abbott's writeup of Arctic/Pacific/Black-throated Loon, Ocean City, Maryland on 3 April 1971; Abbott's writeup of Pacific Loon sighting at Assateague Island, Virginia, on 3 April 1976; Erika Wilson's letter to Abbott saying his Arctic Loon sighting 10-27-1983 was not accepted by the MOS Records Committee dated 18 August 1987; Abbott's hand-written pages of Records of Arctic Loons in Eastern USA since 1968 and Abbott's letter to Teta Kan, VSO, dated 18 August 1987 requesting his sighting of the Arctic Loon be reconsidered for inclusion in the VSO checklist; the July 1987 VSO Newsletter; a copy of the March 1938 Massachusetts Audubon Society Bulletin mentioning Abbott as a new contributor and references to sightings of Pacific Loon by Ludlow Griscom.

Fort Belvoir - Abbott's "Birds of Fort Belvoir" checklist; Abbott's article, "Animal and Bird Life at Fort Belvoir" February 1971; Program for Earth Day, April 24, 1980, for dedication of Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge with copies of photos' and General Kelly's remarks (Abbott was keynote speaker) and final staff study for the refuge; clippings about Abbott as "Bird Man of Fort Belvoir," articles Abbott wrote; maps, Natural Resources Conservation Reports, etc.

Clippings about Abbott, articles he wrote, illustrations for articles, letters, Duck Stamp materials, photos of Abbott paintings, copies of Christmas cards, author index of Abbott articles in Atlantic Naturalist, etc.

Publicity - Photos of Abbott; articles by and about him; letters; Abbott article, "World War II Service in England"; Abbott reviews of books about eagles; January 1979 Swarthmore Magazine with article about Abbott; Pennsylvania Game News Magazine of May 1951; bird charts by JBA; letters and Certificates of Appreciation for talks on birds; Virginia Wildlife Magazine June 1958 with article, "Death on the Highway" and of July 1961 with article, "The Effects of Owl Predation on Rodent Populations," etc.

Bird Artists - Slides, lecture notes, list of slides by number, list of type of work and dates for each artist.

Publications

Chesapeake Bay Region Bald Eagle Recovery Plan, First Revision, dated September 27, 1990, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Region Five, Newton Corner, Massachusetts.

1988 Annual Report on the Environment. Office of Comp. Planning, Fairfax County, Virginia. 1986 Annual Report on the Environment.

Chesapeake Bay Bald Eagle Banding Project, 1981, National Wildlife Federation, 2 copies.

Riverwork Book, no date, U.S. Dept of Interior.

Predator Control , 1971, published January 1972, Dept of Interior.

Birds of Dahlgren by E.C. Freiling, September 1982. Naval Surface Weapons Center.

Maryland Rivers Study - National Park Service (NPS), Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources, 1985.

Working Bibliography of the Bald Eagle by Jeffrey Lincer, William S. Clark and Maurice N. LeFranc, Jr. Published by Raptor Information Center, National Wildlife Federation, Washington, D.C., 1943.

Book - "Birds of Trinidad, B.W.I, observed by Jackson M. Abbott 14 March 1942-26 May 1942; 14 Sept 1942 - 1 May 1945." Principal areas of observations: Port of Spain, Chacachacare Island, Green Hill, Icacos Point, Fort Read. Map of Trinidad - Birds, write-up and dates from #1-#171. Illustrations in colored pencil.

Notebook - Birds Seen in Australia & New South Wales. 28 September-10 October 1968; 9 October-29 October 1971; 14 January-25 January 1978; Notes and illustrations and lists of birds seen at SME, Casula, NSW & to be seen at NSW.

Box 4

Notebook - Dyke Marsh Observations for 1955, 1956 (1 page 1954). Reproduced form giving date, time, weather and code for showing on map (on reverse) all info on each bird by number (58 listed) and other symbols, including nesting info and other birds seen (not listed).

Bird List Central Atlantic States. Abbott's 1988 Bird List, January-April and Abbott's Yard Bird List seen 8501 Doter Drive, Alexandria, Virginia from July 1958 to November 1987. 187 species. Manomet International Shorebird Surveys for 1987.

Articles on Communism

Copy of application and papers for the J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conservation Prize.

Waynewood Citizens' Association - Executive Board Meetings. Contains the first and some subsequent copies of the Waynewood Newsletter, and all of those during the time Abbott was President, early sixties.

Letters to Congress about the environment, etc.

Notebook - Combination List for Birds of North America -Abbott's life list, USA & worldwide, 986 species.

Notebook - VSO - Abbott on Board of Directors 1986-1988 and other mentions. By-laws, minutes, general correspondence including request for details of his sightings of Western Tanagers in May 1956 & April 1974. Also VSO Newsletters and Northern Virginia Chapter Newsletters. 5 July 1987 nesting record of a Pine Siskin was accepted 13 March 1988.

Bird Notes

Notecards: 1931 Pasadena California - 48 species Christmas census, 12/21; 3/27-30/1933 Pasa Robles California, 46 species; 5/27-29/1934 - Salton Sea, California, 51 species; 4/21-22/1934 Escondido, California, 61 species; 6/19-30/1934 California to Pennsylvania 105 species.

Notebook: "Daily Bird List 1/24/1939-5/29/1940" Daylesford, Pennsylvania, Boston, New Hampshire, etc.; 1 page no date Swainson's Warbler Pokomoke Swamp.

Notebooks: "Birds Seen on Daily Hike from 8501 Doter Dr 24 July 1982 - 30 January 1983" and Traveler's List and Checklist-San Diego 1972 (ABA).

Notebooks: 1 page Martha's Vineyard Birdlist Christmas Count? 12-22-1940; 15 checklists 13 April 1946-28 December 1947, all Port Belvoir except 2 - Turkey Point, New Jersey 18 May 1946 & 17 May 1947, and 1 - Newburyport, Massachusetts - Hampton Beach, New Jersey 31 Aug 1946.

Notebooks: Daily Bird List 6/14/1940-1/23/1942; 27 January 1942-20 Oct 1945; "Ornithological Notes from St. Lucia and Trinidad, BWI 1942-1943. Cpl. Jackson Abbott 637 Eng Co. Det. Fort Read" notes of birds, seen, some pencil sketches, some loose pages, etc.; Camp Button, Monroe, North Carolina 12/13/1943-9/15/1948, Port Belvoir, Virginia (includes crossing the ocean, Britain, Paris, Germany, Belgium. Bird lists-British Isles, Prance, Belgium, Germany and the States); article, "Birds Under Fire".

Notebook: Bird Notes from Southern California 1931-1942 and Bird Notes from the Eastern States 1934-1939; notes, photos of birds/eggs/nests; map of Gilmanton, New Hampshire, where nests were found (1938); sketches, June 1939 column "A Royal of Swans" by Sam Scoville; "Index to Volume I 10/26/1931-12/31/1939; clippings from 1940 on the sighting of rare European white-eyed duck; watercolor by Abbott of White-winged Crossbills at Harrisville, New Hampshire 3/26/1941; list of birds seen in Southern California 1929-1931; etc.

Notebook: 1943-1970 - 1942-Caribbean Sea, Canal Zone, Trinidad and St. Lucia, BWI. August 17, 1943 - ready to graduate from OCS, Fort. Belvoir. 8/30-12/19/1943 - Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Camp Sutton, North Carolina,. February 27, 1944 - Embarked from Ft. Hamilton, New York April 23, 1955 - flew to Las Vegas for "Exercise Desert Rock." Daily notes with sketches; bird notes, written accounts of particular birds seen; annual eagle reports.

Notebook: Bird Notes 1970-1984 - records, notes, sketches, letters, articles, clippings recording birds seen,

Notebook: Bird Notes 1985 - bird lists, records, articles, clippings relating to birds seen.

Virginia Birding Spots - Names, locations, maps, directions, habitats, birds to be seen, prepared by Abbott for the following Northern Virginia Birding Spots: Huntley Meadows Park current to 1984; Arlington National Cemetery current to April 1984 and May 1985; Mason Neck to April 1984 and March 1985; The Mount Vernon Trail and The Mount Vernon Estate to April 1984 and May 1985; Hunting Creek Bay and Jones Point Park to April 1984 and May 1985; Dyke Marsh to April 1984 & May 1985; Roaches Run to April 1984 and May 1984; Four Mile Run April 1984 and March 1985; Burke Lake Park April 1984 and March 1985; Daingerfield Island April 1984 and May 1984; Monticello Park April 1984 and March 1985; Chinquapin Park February 1984 and March 1985; Fort Hunt Park April 1984 and March 1985; Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge, Fort Belvoir, to April 1984. Each has checklist with birds counted attached. A list of locations of unique or rare wildlife in Fairfax County is included. Also Virginia Birding Site Guide published 1985 by VSO and "Where to Bird in Virginia" published 1980 by VSO.

Box 5

Audubon Naturalist Newspapers, 1950-1987

Ravens and A Checklist of Birds of Virginia by J.J. Murray for 1952.

Ravens for May-June 1953; July-August 1953; May-June 1957 and June-July 1955.

Wood Thrushes for October 1947-May 1948.

Bird Study and Identification Talks using slides.

Bird Nests., A Guide to the Nests and Eggs of the Birds of Eastern North America (planned Abbott publication); material by Abbott's father on same subject; "The Nests and Eggs of A Hundred North American Birds" by Jacob Bates Abbott; humorous short stories of attempts to bring eggs out of hard-to-reach nests by Abbott; Abbott's watercolor illustration for "Homes Without Manual Labor"; photos of JBA's paintings of Blackburnian Warblers and Nest, Gilmanton, New Hampshire, Great-horned Owl and Nest, Alloway Woods, New Jersey 2-17-1939; color print of JBA's painting of California Condor & nest, Ventura, California.

After his death: Washington/Post obituary and' Washington Times; NPS Volunteer patch; ANS obituary by Ed Risley; Abbott's ANS review of book, Life of the North American Bale Eagle in Naturalist Review, Summer, 1988; ANS article by Abbott on Christmas County May 1988; articles by Nape Shelton Atlantic-Naturalist, Vol 40, 1990 and Vol 39, 1989.

Sympathy Letters from Birding World - other announcements and awards.

ANS Retrospective Art Exhibit February 1989

Dedication of Jackson Miles Abbott Wetland Refuge. Fort Belvoir, October 1989.

Earth Day, 20 April 1990.

Signing Ceremony, early 1991 giving Fort Belvoir use of "Flight Over Belvoir" as its new symbol. Photos, General West's speech and wife's and newspaper with eagle.

Notebooks: Bald Eagle Nest Records - Maryland, east side of Chesapeake Bay and Coastal; Bald Eagle Nest Records - Maryland, west side of Chesapeake Bay and Potomac, Patuxent and Susquehanna Rivers

Box 6

Bald Eagle Nest Records - Virginia-Rappahannock, York, James Rivers & Coastal and Inland Counties; Bald Eagle Nest Records - Virginia-Potomac River.

Notebook: Bald Eagle Nest Records-Delaware, eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey

Notebook: Chesapeake Bay Bald Eagle Recovery Team (CBBERT)

Chesapeake Bay Bald Eagle Recovery Plan w/Abbott's eagle on cover. May 1982 (3 copies)

North American Nest Record Card Program, Cornell

Abbott's cards on Bald Eagle, 1981-1986; correspondence and Abbott's handwritten list of nest data sent 1956-1966 on many birds.

Box 7

"Strictly For the Watchers" - Abbott's column on This Week's Migrant that ran in The Sunday Star during the early 1960s

Topo Maps-Virginia, Maryland, Delaware

Potomac River Map

Map-Chesapeake Bay Region

Map-Fall Line, etc.

Alexandria Birding Spots

World Map

E. Bird Forms

E. Bird List Forms

Life List Forms

Bird Song Records

American Bird Artists

Raptor Counts

Shorebird Survey

ABA - American Birding Association

Shorebird Survey

Bird-A-Thon

Partlow, Virginia, Breeding Bird Census

Color Banded Swan/Geese/Duck

State Birds

Letters to Congress

Sample Letters, etc.

Ecology

Eagle Count/Census Forms (and maps)

Thesis by David O. Wallin, 1982. Influence of Environmental Conditions on the Breeding Behavior of the Bald Eagle (William & Mary)."

Thesis by Norman B. Jaffee 1980. Nest Site Selection and Foraging Behavior of the Bald Eagle in Virginia (William & Mary)

Maps

1956-1961 Eagle Nest Data

Bald Eagle Range and Population

Eagle Counts Along Potomac from Helicopter

Winter Eagle Count Form

Detailed Annual Eagle Nest Success Form

Flight Report Form

"Mich Reports"

Box 8

Eagle Data, General

Eagle Data - Chesapeake Bay, general

Year Folders

1988 (2)

1987

1986

1985

1984 Eagle Nest Data

1983 Bald Eagle Data (2)

1982

1981

1980

1979

1978

Box 9

1977

1976

1975 Bald Eagle Nest Survey

1966-1974 Bald Eagle Nest Data

1965 Bald Eagle Nest Survey

1964 Bald Eagle Nest Data

1964 Eagle Census

1963 Eagle Census

1963 Bald Eagle Nest Data

1962 Eagle Nesting Data

1962 Eagle Population Survey

1962 Eagle Nest Report

1936 Bald Eagle Nest Data (Bryant Tyrrel)

Pesticides vs. Eagles, etc.

Ospreys and Peregrines

Writing-Recovery Plan Part 1A

Recoveries of Banded Bald Eagles

Bald Eagle Nest Sites

Eagle Food

Non-Pesticide Disturbances (Eagles/Raptors)

Box 10

Animals Folders

Prehistoric

Currently Rare Animals

Predators and "Vermin"

Most Dangerous Animals

Animal Behavior

Animal Names

Animal Ages

Speed of Animals

Tracks

Natural Camouflage-Animal Coloration

Animal Censuses

Animals in Winter

Animals of Various Geographic Regions

Current Notes and Incidents on Animals

Domestic Animals

Wild Animals

Box 11

Felines

Weasels

Raccoons

Seals and Walruses

VSO By-Laws

Alexandria Sector Count and D.C. Christmas Count Notebooks

Chincoteague-Cape Charles Christmas Count Notebooks

VSO Rarities Committee, Actions from 1985 on

Bird Lore Vols. 6-19 (1902-1917)

Bird Lore 1918-1940

Bird Lore Christmas Census; 33rd - 40th

American Birds - Christmas Bird Count 1971 (April Vol 25, No.2) - 87th
(1987)

Audubon Field Notes - Christmas Bird Counts April 1962, Vol 16, No 2 - 62nd
thru 70th

Audubon Magazine - January-February 1943, March-April 1943, May-June
1943

Audubon Magazine - Christmas Bird Count Issues 1949

Wood Thrush and Atlantic Naturalist Magazines 1949-1976.

ANS Naturalist Notes 1967-1974.

The Raven (VSO publication) 1962-1989.

Fort Belvoir Christmas Bird Counts from Audubon Field Notes, 1942 and
1949-1961.

Box 12

Abbott's Old Eagle Movie - Bought from National Audubon Society I think,
years ago, and shown over and over to groups of all sorts who were
interested in birds and especially in eagles.