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Robert Ridgway Papers, circa 1850s-1919

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Robert Ridgway Papers
Date:	circa 1850s-1919
Identifier:	Record Unit 7167
Creator::	Ridgway, Robert, 1850-1929
Extent:	24.9 cu. ft. (2 document boxes) (1 half document box) (49 12x17 boxes) (2 16x20 boxes) (8 3x5 boxes) (oversize materials)
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7167, Robert Ridgway Papers

Historical Note

Robert Ridgway (1850-1929) was born in Mount Carmel, Illinois. In 1864 he wrote to Spencer Fullerton Baird, asking Baird to identify a bird that Ridgway had seen. Ridgway and Baird began corresponding, and, in effect, Baird became Ridgway's mentor. In 1867 Baird secured an appointment for Ridgway as zoologist on Clarence King's Geological Survey of the Fortieth Parallel. Upon his return to Washington in 1869, Ridgway was put to work by Baird to furnish the technical descriptions and certain of the drawings for a book on North American birds being prepared by Baird and Thomas Mayo Brewer. In 1874 Ridgway was appointed an ornithologist on the staff of the United States National Museum. In 1880 he was appointed Curator of the Department of Ornithology. Ridgway remained Curator until his death in 1929, although after 1915 he resided in Olney, Illinois.

Descriptive Entry

These papers consist of Ridgway correspondence with Spencer Fullerton Baird, drawings of birds, and material collected by Ridgway for his important work, *Color Standards and Nomenclature* (Washington, 1912).

Many of the materials in this collection are available online.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Birds
Ornithologists
Ornithology

Types of Materials:

Manuscripts
Photographs
Scientific illustrations

Names:

Baird, Spencer Fullerton, 1823-1887
Brewer, T. M. (Thomas Mayo), 1814-1880
Clarence King Geological Survey of the Fortieth Parallel
Ridgway, Robert, 1850-1929
United States National Museum. Division of Birds

Container Listing

Series 1: CORRESPONDENCE WITH SPENCER F. BAIRD, 1864-1866, ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY.

Box 1

	Robert Ridgway to Spencer Baird Summary: Robert Ridgway to Spencer Baird
Box 1 of 62	July 4, 1864
Box 1 of 62	September 2, 1864
Box 1 of 62	October 17, 1864
Box 1 of 62	November 2, 1864
Box 1 of 62	December 16, 1864
Box 1 of 62	January 20, 1865
Box 1 of 62	March 13, 1865
Box 1 of 62	April 8, 1865
Box 1 of 62	July 23, 1865
Box 1 of 62	August 5, 1865
Box 1 of 62	October 15, 1865
Box 1 of 62	November 13, 1865
Box 1 of 62	December 23, 1865
Box 1 of 62	January 27, 1865
Box 1 of 62	February 13, 1866
Box 1 of 62	July 13, 1866
Box 1 of 62	August 10, 1866
Box 1 of 62	October 31, 1866

Box 1 of 62

November 6, 1866

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Series 2: MISCELLANEOUS DRAWINGS AND SKETCHES OF BIRDS.

Boxes 2-3

Boxes 2-3 of 62	Drawings on tracing paper, mounted on 4 1/2" x 7" card
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Boxes 4-7

Boxes 4-7 of 62	Tracing paper drawings, mounted and unmounted, various dimensions
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Boxes 8-10

Boxes 8-10 of 62	Miscellaneous drawings and sketches
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Box 11

Box 11 of 62	Drawings dated 1855-1866
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Box 12

Box 12 of 62	Drawings dated 1868, 1874, 1875-1880, and 1880-1885
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Boxes 13-18

Boxes 13-18 of 62	Undated drawings
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Series 3: DRAWINGS AND WOOD ENGRAVINGS OF BIRD HEADS.

Note: This series consists of drawings and engravings of bird heads used in Spencer Fullerton Baird, Thomas Mayo Brewer, and Robert Ridgway's, *A History of North American Birds: Land Birds*, 3 volumes (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1874) and *The Water Birds of North America: Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College*, vols. XII-XIII (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1884). Heads drawn by Ridgway and Henry W. Elliott.

Box 19	
Box 19 of 62	Drawings numbered 56, 60, 120, 121, 147-155
Box 20	
Box 20 of 62	Drawings numbered 155-170
Box 21	
Box 21 of 62	Drawings numbered 172-190
Box 22	
Box 22 of 62	Drawings numbered 191-208
Box 23	
Box 23 of 62	Drawings numbered 209-226
Box 24	
Box 24 of 62	Drawings numbered 227-241
Box 25	
Box 25 of 62	Drawings numbered 243-257
Box 26	
Box 26 of 62	Drawings numbered 258-271
Box 27	
Box 27 of 62	Drawings numbered 273-291
Box 28	
Box 28 of 62	Drawings numbered 293-306

Box 29

Box 29 of 62 Drawings numbered 307-320

Box 30

Box 30 of 62 Drawings numbered 320-331

Box 31

Box 31 of 62 Drawings numbered 331-347

Box 32

Box 32 of 62 Drawings numbered 348-366

Box 33

Box 33 of 62 Drawings numbered 366-381

Box 34

Box 34 of 62 Drawings numbered 381-398

Box 35

Box 35 of 62 Drawings numbered 399-415

Box 36

Box 36 of 62 Drawings numbered 416-435

Box 37

Box 37 of 62 Drawings numbered 435-453

Box 38

Box 38 of 62 Drawings numbered 454-471

Box 39

Box 39 of 62 Drawings numbered 471-493

Box 40

Box 40 of 62 Drawings numbered 499-512

Box 41	
Box 41 of 62	Drawings numbered 513-535
Box 42	
Box 42 of 62	Drawings numbered 535-556
Box 43	
Box 43 of 62	Drawings numbered 556-623
Box 44	
Box 44 of 62	Drawings numbered 620-672
Box 45	
Box 45 of 62	Drawings numbered [673]-718
Box 46	
Box 46 of 62	Drawings numbered 719-738
Box 47	
Box 47 of 62	Unnumbered drawings

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Series 4: COLOR PLATES AND PIGMENT SAMPLES USED IN *COLOR STANDARDS AND NOMENCLATURE* (Washington, 1912).

Box 48

Box 48 of 62 Folder 1 Original Plates Used Color Plates I-VI

Box 48 of 62 Folder 2 Original Plates Used Color Plates VII-X

Box 49

Box 49 of 62 Folder 1 Original Plates Used Plates VII-X

Box 49 of 62 Folder 2 Original Plates Used XIII-XXVI

Box 49 of 62 Folder 3 Original Plates Used XVII-XXXVIII

Box 50

Box 50 of 62 Folder 1 Original Plates Used Unnumbered

Box 50 of 62 Folder 2 Original Plates Used XVII-XXXVIII

Box 51

Box 51 of 62 Folders 1-2 Original Plates Used XLV-L

Box 51 of 62 Folder 3 Colors of original scheme, not published

Box 52

Box 52 of 62 Folder 1 Colors of original scheme, not published

Box 52 of 62 Folder 2 Miscellaneous

Box 52 of 62 Folder 3 Color comparisons between: Ridgway, Hering, Rood, Standard Dictionary, Bradley, Prang (Book), and Prang (Papers) - REMOVED TO OVERSIZE

Box 53

Box 53 of 62 Maxwell discs used by Ridgway; spectrum standards; spectrum hires

Boxes 54-61

Boxes 54-61 of 62 Index cards containing samples of the pigments used by Ridgway

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Series 5: LARGE FORMAT MATERIALS.

Box 62

Box 62 of 62	Miscellaneous drawings, watercolors, and lithographic prints of birds
Oversize	
Oversize	Photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Ridgway, Larchmound, 1919
Oversize	
Oversize	Color comparisons between: Ridgway, Hering, Rood, Standard Dictionary, Bradley, Prang (Book), and Prang (Papers) [From Box 52]

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