



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Robert Ridgway Papers, circa 1850s-1919

Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

Smithsonian Institution Archives
Washington, D.C.
Contact us at osiaref@si.edu

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Historical Note.....	1
Descriptive Entry.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3
Series 1: CORRESPONDENCE WITH SPENCER F. BAIRD, 1864-1866, ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY.....	3
Series 2: MISCELLANEOUS DRAWINGS AND SKETCHES OF BIRDS.....	5
Series 3: DRAWINGS AND WOOD ENGRAVINGS OF BIRD HEADS.....	6
Series 4: COLOR PLATES AND PIGMENT SAMPLES USED IN COLOR STANDARDS AND NOMENCLATURE (Washington, 1912).....	9
Series 5: LARGE FORMAT MATERIALS.....	11

Collection Overview

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

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, 1866
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

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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

Boxes 4-7

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

Boxes 8-10

Boxes 8-10 of 62 Miscellaneous drawings and sketches

Box 11

Box 11 of 62 Drawings dated 1855-1866

Box 12

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

Boxes 13-18

Boxes 13-18 of 62 Undated drawings

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: DRAWINGS AND WOOD ENGRAVINGS OF BIRD HEADS.

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

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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 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

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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

[Return to Table of Contents](#)