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**Collection Overview**

**Repository:** Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu  
**Title:** Records  
**Identifier:** Record Unit 7294  
**Date:** 1893-1980 and undated  
**Extent:** 22.67 cu. ft. (45 document boxes) (1 3x5 box) (1 microfilm reel)  
**Creator:** Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States.  
**Language:** Language of Materials: English

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**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation**  
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7294, Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States., Records

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**Historical Note**

The Audubon Society of the District of Columbia was founded on 18 May 1897 "...for the protection and study of birds..." The original by-laws placed governing authority for the Society in a fifteen member Executive Committee which supervised the election of officers, appointed committees, managed finances, and arranged for publications and meetings. Officers of the Society included a President, Honorary Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. When the Society was incorporated in 1947, new by-laws were instituted which abolished the Executive Committee and replaced it with an annually elected Board of Directors. In December 1959, the name of the Society was changed to the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, Inc. (ANS). In 1969, the Society moved into its headquarters at Woodend, a thirty room mansion on forty acres of land in Chevy Chase, Maryland, which was bequeathed to ANS by Mrs. Chester Wells. The *Atlantic Naturalist*, the Society's official organ, was published from 1950 to 1976. In 1976, *Audubon Naturalist News* became the primary ANS publication.

Although the Society was founded "for the protection and study of birds," it has been active in all areas of wildlife protection, the preservation of natural areas, and pollution control. The Society has lobbied for environmental legislation, promoted environmental education, and disseminated environmental information through its publication program. Conservation efforts of the Society have included blocking the construction of highways along the C & O Canal and through Rock Creek and Glover-Archbold parks; the preservation of Dyke Marsh in Virginia; assistance in the formation of the Potomac Valley Conservation and Recreation Council; and the protection of bald and golden eagles.
Descriptive Entry

These records document the history, operation, and activities of the ANS (before 1960, the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia). They also help to illustrate the evolution of the local and national conservation movement; environmental legislation and issues supported by ANS; the development of environmental education; and the natural history of Washington, D. C. and vicinity. The records include correspondence, scrapbooks, minutes, announcements, circulars, publications, reports, fiscal records, photographs, newspaper clippings, field notes, manuscripts, tape recordings, phonograph records, drawings, and memorabilia.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Conservation of natural resources
- Ornithology

Types of Materials:
- Audiotapes
- Black-and-white photographs
- Clippings
- Drawings
- Field notes
- Manuscripts
- Phonograph records
- Photographs

Names:
- Audubon Society of the District of Columbia
- Barnes, Irston R. (Irston Robert)
- Briggs, Shirley A. (Shirley Ann), 1918-2004
- Potomac Valley Conservation and Recreation Council
- Shoemaker, Clarence R.
- Wells, Chester, Mrs.
- Woodend Mansion

Preferred Titles:
- Atlantic naturalist
Series 1: SCRAPBOOKS, 1897-1960. ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY.

This collection division consists of eight scrapbooks containing records documenting the organization and early history of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia (after 1960, the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, Inc.). The scrapbooks were compiled by the late Society member Joseph S. Wade. Records include correspondence of Society members; minutes of the Society's organizational meeting, 18 May 1897; minutes of Executive Committee and Annual Meetings, 1897-1910; copies of the Society's by-laws; announcements, circulars, and publications; newspaper clippings; original pencil drawings of birds by Robert Ridgway used for the Society's pin; Annual Reports of the Society, 1897-1907; membership lists; and material concerning the Society's Bird Study Class and field outings.

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Volume 1 1897-1901. Contains materials documenting the organization and early activities of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia. Included is correspondence of Elliott Coues, George Miller Sternberg, William Dutcher, Florence A. Merriam, Clinton Hart Merriam, Frank Michler Chapman, Olive T. Miller, Theodore Sherman Palmer, George C. Maynard, Witmer Stone, Francis H. Herrick, and Richard Sylvester; manuscript minutes of the Society's organizational meeting, 18 May 1897; manuscript minutes of Executive Committee meetings; notes on other state Audubon Societies; notes on Society work in the public schools, 1898; Society by-laws; Society circulars and publications; newspaper clippings regarding early activities of the Society; a copy of the Hoar Bill for the Protection of Song Birds, 4 April 1898; and original pencil drawings by Robert Ridgway which were used on the Society's pin.

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Volume 3 1902-1904. Includes correspondence of William Dutcher, Theodore Sherman Palmer, and Francis H. Herrick; manuscript minutes of Executive Committee and general meetings, 1902-1903; circulars and announcements; membership lists; and newspaper and magazine clippings.

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Volume 4 1905-1910. Includes correspondence of Henry W. Oldys and Charles Wallace Richmond; newspaper and magazine clippings; manuscript minutes of Executive Committee meetings; Society publications including "Spring in the Capital," by John Burroughs; a list of birds of Chevy Chase, Maryland; and records regarding the Society's Bird Study Class.

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Volume 5 1911-1915. Includes newspaper clippings and magazine articles; Society circulars, announcements, and publications; and records regarding the Society's Bird Study Class.
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Volume 6 1916-1925. Includes correspondence of Ned Hollister and T. Gilbert Pearson; newspaper and magazine clippings; Society circulars, announcements, and publications; and records regarding the Society's Bird Class and field outings.

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Volume 7 1926-1942. Includes correspondence of W. C. Henderson; newspaper clippings; Society circulars and announcements; and records regarding the Society's Bird Class and field outings.

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Volume 8 1941-1960. Includes newspaper clippings; Society circulars and announcements; records concerning Society field outings; records of the Society's Library Committee; proposed changes in the Society by-laws; and a membership list, 1948.

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Series 2: MINUTES, 1901-1976. ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY.

This collection division consists of minutes of Board of Directors (before 1947, the Executive Committee) and Annual Meetings, 1901-1976. Some of the minutes contain Treasurer's records and financial statements. Minutes for 1952, 1953, and 1955 are incomplete; and minutes for 1954 are missing. For other minutes see series 1.

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Box 3 of 46  Folder 2 Minutes, 1907-1909
Box 3 of 46  Folder 3 Minutes, 1909-1925
Box 3 of 46  Folder 4 Minutes, 1923-1932
Box 3 of 46  Folder 5 Minutes, 1933-1940
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Box 4

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Records
http://siarchives.si.edu/collections/siris_arc_217451

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Series 3: IRSTON R. BARNES CORRESPONDENCE, 1946-1965 AND UNDATED. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

Irston R. Barnes (1904- ) was President of ANS (before 1960, the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia), 1946-1961 and Chairman of the Board of Directors, 1961-1968.

This collection division consists primarily of correspondence of Barnes during his tenure as ANS President, 1946-1961. The correspondence is both incoming and outgoing and concerns Society administration and activities; ornithological matters; and environmental issues. Correspondents include ANS officers and members; ornithologists and naturalists; conservation organizations; Congressmen and Senators; government agencies; and the general public. Also included are typed copies of articles prepared by Barnes for “The Naturalist,” a weekly column that appeared in the Washington Post.

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Box 7 of 46 Folder 1 Addison - Audubon Scholarship Committee
Box 7 of 46 Folder 3 Cape May, New Jersey Hawk Shooting Problem, 1952.
Box 7 of 46 Folder 6 Ebert - Fraser
Box 7 of 46 Folder 7 Gabrielson - Guthrie
Box 7 of 46 Folder 8 Hall - Hyde
Box 7 of 46 Folder 9 Interior, Department of - Izaak Walton League
Box 7 of 46 Folder 10 Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary - Kurtze
Box 7 of 46 Folder 11 Lakeman - Lowery. Correspondents include George Hines Lowery, Jr., 1955
Box 7 of 46 Folder 12 McAdoo - National Association of Retired Civil Employees. Correspondents include Waldo Lee McAtee, 1955-1956.

Box 8

Box 8 of 46 Folder 1 National Audubon Society, 1946-1948, 1952-1960
Box 8 of 46 Folder 2 National Bureau of Standards - Nyberg
Box 8 of 46 Folder 3 Oberholser - Phillips, Estelle
Box 8 of 46  Folder 4 Phillips, Neill, 1953-1959

Box 8 of 46  Folder 5 Potomac Appalachian Trail Club - Quielisch

Box 8 of 46  Folder 6 Radford - Russell

Box 8 of 46  Folder 7 Salzberg - Symons. Correspondents include Alexander Sprunt, Jr., 1955, 1957.

Box 8 of 46  Folder 8 Takoma Park Nature Society - Tyrrell

Box 8 of 46  Folder 9 Updegraff - Zahniser

Box 8 of 46  Folder 10 Unidentified correspondence

Series 4: GENERAL FILES, 1902-1978 AND UNDATED. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

This collection division consists of correspondence, announcements, circulars, publications, photographs, and related materials documenting the administration and activities of ANS (before 1960, the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia), 1902-1978. Included are records dealing with fund raising activities; publicity efforts; educational programs; dinners and meetings; environmental issues; field activities; and Society management. Of special interest is correspondence of Society Presidents John Warren Aldrich, Donald E. McHenry, and Edward F. Rivinus; correspondence of ANS Executive Director Gerald Schneider; materials documenting the C & O Canal hike of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, 1954; and records concerning activities commemorating the Society’s seventy-fifth anniversary, 1972.

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Folder 2 Annual Announcement of Events, 1902-1941

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Folder 3 Annual Dinners, 1960-1974

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Folder 5 Audubon Screen Tours, 1945-1947

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Folder 6 Awards, 1976

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Folder 7 Badges and Stickers, 1956-1966

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Folder 8 Biographical information on Society members and staff, 1967-1977

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Folder 9 Bird Identification for the Blind Program, 1973

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Folder 10 Bird Skin Collection, 1935

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Folder 11 By-laws, 1942, 1946 and undated

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Folder 12 Cape May, New Jersey Bird Observatory, 1976

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Folder 13 Certificate of Incorporation, 1947

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Folder 1 Christmas Bird Count, 1944-1945, 1960

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Folder 2 Conservation Education Workshop, 1966

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Folder 3 Contribution letters, 1970-1977

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Folder 4 Douglas C & O Canal Hike, March 1954

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Box 11 of 46  Folder 4 Fund Raising: Ideas, 1969-1976
Box 11 of 46  Folders 5-7 Fund Raising: Living Garden Calendar, 1972-1976
Box 11 of 46  Folder 8 Fund Raising: Roger Tory Peterson Benefit, February 1968
Box 11 of 46  Folder 9 Fund Raising: Roger Tory Peterson Weekend, March 1974
Box 11 of 46  Folder 10 Fund Raising: Mrs. Ernest Thompson Seton Benefit, 1967
Box 11 of 46  Folder 11 Fund Raising: Seventy-fifth Anniversary Campaign, 1973-1976

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Box 12 of 46  Folder 2 Great Dismal Swamp, 1973-1977
Box 12 of 46  Folder 3 Jones Mill Road Widening Project, 1969
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Box 12 of 46  Folder 5 Karcher Memorial Slide Collection, 1975-1976
Box 12 of 46  Folder 6 Ladies' Day Seminars, 1970
Box 12 of 46  Folder 7 Letters of Commendation and Thanks, 1970-1972
Box 12 of 46  Folder 8 McHenry, Donald E. Correspondence, 1942-1947. Consists mostly of McHenry's correspondence as President.
Box 12 of 46  Folder 9 Management - Assessment Committee, 1973-1974
Box 12 of 46  Folder 10 Management Studies, 1958-1970
Box 12 of 46  Folder 11 Mason Neck Survey, 1971
Box 12 of 46  Folder 12 Membership lists, 1942-1950
Box 12 of 46  Folder 13 Memorial Day Natural History Weekend, 1974-1975
Box 12 of 46  Folder 14 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1942-1951, 1961-1963
Box 12 of 46  Folder 15 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1953-1975 (Accession 06-168)

Box 13

Box 13 of 46  Folder 1 Natural History Field School, 1956-1958, 1966-1967
Box 13 of 46  Folder 2 Officer and Director Workshop, October 1971
Box 13 of 46  Folder 3 Outgoing correspondence, 1976-1978
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Box 13 of 46  Folders 5-6 Publicity: Press releases, 1944-1953, 1971-1978 and undated
Box 13 of 46  Folder 7 Publicity: "Weekends at Woodend," 1969-1974
Box 13 of 46  Folder 8 Publicity: Miscellaneous, 1971-1978 and undated
Box 13 of 46  Folder 9 Requests for Conservation Action, 1969-1972
Box 13 of 46  Folder 10 Rivinus, Edward F. Correspondence as President, 1971-1975

Box 14

Box 14 of 46  Folder 1 Schneider, Gerald. Correspondence as Executive Director, 1969-1971.
Box 14 of 46  Folder 2 Self appraisals and criticism, 1958-1967
Box 14 of 46  Folder 3 Seminars: International Environment, February 1975
Box 14 of 46  Folder 4 Seminars: Land Use, 1976
Box 14 of 46  Folder 5 Seminars: Wildlife as a Reflection of the State of the Environment, 1974

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Box 15 of 46  Folders 1-4 Seventy-fifth Anniversary Dinner, 18 May 1972. Includes correspondence, photographs, a tape recording of the proceedings and miscellaneous materials.
Box 15 of 46  Folder 5 Seventy-fifth Anniversary Lunch, November 1972
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Box 16 of 46  Folder 8 Wood Thrush: Designation as Official Bird of the District of Columbia, 1967

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Series 5: ORGANIZATIONS FILE, 1959-1977 AND UNDATED. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

This collection division consists of records documenting relations between ANS and other organizations, particularly conservation groups. Of special interest is material dealing with the 1976 referendum on whether the Society should become a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

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Box 18 of 46   Folder 1 Maryland Conservation Council, 1970-1977
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Box 18 of 46   Folder 4 Mid-Atlantic Bird Banding Group, 1975-1976
Box 18 of 46   Folders 6-8 National Audubon Society: Audubon Naturalist Society Chapter Status Referendum, 1976
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Box 18 of 46   Folder 10 National Center for Voluntary Action, 1970 and undated
Box 18 of 46   Folder 11 National Council of State Garden Clubs, 1969-1970
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This collection division consists of correspondence, publications, photographs, and related materials documenting exhibits presented by ANS. Of special interest are materials concerning "Washington: City in the Woods," an exhibit presented at the Smithsonian Institution in 1953.

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Box 20 of 46  Folder 15 Exhibits and displays away from Woodend, 1972-1977
Series 7: COMMITTEE FILES, 1937-1978. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

This collection division consists of correspondence, reports, notes and related materials created by various committees of ANS, 1937-1978. Committees represented by records include the Archives Committee, the Audit Committee, the Committee on Appraisal of the Atlantic Naturalist, the Conservation Committee, the Exhibits Committee, the Field Trip Audit Committee, the Finance Committee, the Lecture Committee, the Membership Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Program Committee, and the Publications Committee.

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- Box 21 of 46 Folder 2 Archives Committee, 1971-1973
- Box 21 of 46 Folder 3 Audit Committee, 1948-1963
- Box 21 of 46 Folder 4 Committee on Appraisal of the Atlantic Naturalist, 1958
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Box 22

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Box 23

- Box 23 of 46 Folders 1-5 Lecture Committee, 1963-1967

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This collection division consists of correspondence, fiscal records, committee files, publications and related materials documenting the history and operations of ANS headquarters, Woodend, 1967-1977.

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Series 11: PHOTOGRAPHS, 1918-1964 AND UNDATED. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

This collection division consists primarily of photographs of Society members and Society outings. Of special interest are photographs of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas during his C & O Canal hike, 1954.

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Series 13: CLARENCE R. SHOEMAKER PAPERS, 1893-1943 AND UNDATED.

Clarence R. Shoemaker (1874-1958) was a staff member of the Division of Marine Invertebrates, United States National Museum from 1910 to 1944. He joined the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia in 1907 and remained a member until his death.

This collection division consists of field notes kept by Shoemaker on outings in the Washington, D. C. area, 1918-1920; photographs and glass plate negatives taken by Shoemaker, including pictures of Society members and outings; pencil drawings of botanical subjects; and Society memorabilia.

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Folder 1 Field notes, 1918-1920. Notes kept by Shoemaker on field trips in the Washington, D. C. area, including outings of the Society. Most of the notes are botanical or ornithological.

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Folders 1-5 Botanical photographs, 1920-1922 and undated

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Folder 8 Miscellaneous photographs, 1893, 1897, 1919, 1922 and undated. Includes scenes of the Washington, D. C. area; a photograph of Shoemaker; and a photograph of the Smithsonian International Exchange Office, circa 1900.

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Folder 9 Glass plate negatives of early Society outings, undated

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Folder 10 Pencil drawings of plants and leaves, 1923 and undated

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Folder 11 Society memorabilia, circa 1908-1943. Includes correspondence, announcements, circulars, newspaper clippings and publications.

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Series 14: PAPERS ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF WASHINGTON, D. C. AND VICINITY, 1934-1936 AND UNDATED. ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

This collection division consists of unpublished papers on the flora and fauna of the Washington, D. C. area which were prepared by local naturalists and presented before the Biological Society of Washington between 1933 and 1935. A plan to publish the papers in a volume on the Natural History of Washington, D. C. never materialized. It is unclear how the papers came to the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia. Also included are correspondence and notes concerning the papers.

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Box 37 of 46  Folder 10 Samuel Frederick Hildebrand. "The Fishes of the District of Columbia," undated. Includes letter from Leonard Peter Schultz to Egbert Hamilton Walker (1-30-50) regarding the manuscript.


Box 37 of 46  Folder 22 Correspondence and notes regarding the papers, 1936, 1950.

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ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

Shirley A. Briggs (1918- ) served as Editor of the *Atlantic Naturalist*, 1949-1969 and Vice-President for Publications, 1956-1969. She was also a member of the Board of Directors, 1948-1949. In 1972, she was presented the Society's Paul Bartsch Award.

This collection division consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings, publications, notes, and related materials concerning *Atlantic Naturalist* business; Society affairs; and conservation issues. Of special interest are materials documenting ANS activities held in conjunction with the XIII International Ornithological Congress, 1962.

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