



Amos W. Butler Papers, 1877-1947

MSS 7

Overview

Creator: Amos W. Butler
Title: Amos W. Butler Papers
Collection Number: MSS 7
Collection Dates: 1877-1947
Size: 2 boxes
Repository: Hanover College Archives
Duggan Library
P.O. Box 287
Hanover, Indiana 47243-0287
Phone: (812) 866-7181

Collection Information:

Scope and Content Note

Documents and correspondence documenting the ornithology research of Amos W. Butler, specifically Butler's travels and birdwatching throughout Mexico in the winter of 1879-1880. It includes his notes on the migration patterns for birds throughout Indiana (mainly Brookville), Latin names of birds, and general observations about the birds, as well as the correspondence from notable names in natural science such as Prof. John James Bowrey, Robert Service, and Prof. Edwin Rockstroh, in which they discussed exchanges of specimens distinct to their locations and possible trades between them for further examination.

Historical Information

Amos W. Butler was born in Brookville, Franklin County, Indiana on October 1, 1860. He attended Hanover College from 1877-1878 and is considered to be one of the greatest naturalists of Indiana. In late 1879, he traveled to Mexico to learn more about the migration patterns of certain specific birds. In 1898, he published his *Encyclopedia of Indiana Birds*.

Organization

The collection is organized chronologically.

Administrative Information:

Related Items:

Related materials may be found by searching the [Hanover College online catalog](#).

Acquisition:

Donated by Charles Keller.

Property rights and Usage: This collection is the property of Hanover College.

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Preferred Citation: [identification of item], Amos W. Butler Papers, MSS 7, The Joseph Wood Evans Memorial Special Collections and Archives Center, the Duggan Library, Hanover College.

Finding Aid Updated: June 6, 2016.

Container List

| Box | Folder | Folder Title | Dates | Notes |
|-----|--------|--|------------|--|
| 1 | 1 | Ornithology Personal Notes | 1873-1880 | Butler's notes on ornithology in Brookville IN that include observations as well as documentation of different classifications of birds |
| 1 | 2 | Journal | 1878-1880 | Log that tracks money and number of birds Butler has in his collection |
| 1 | 3 | Notes and Correspondence | 1879- 1896 | Anthropoidea by A.J. Howe, M.D.; postcard to Mamie Reynolds (whom he later marries) in 1879 trying to organize the sending of items; letter dated from Nov. 8 th 1879 detailing his travels to Mexico; copy of a letter for W.T. Van Dyck of Syria containing an additional list birds from U.S.; notes from Mexico on birds; collection of letters to Jamaica Institute, Robert Service, and the National Museum of Guatemala pertaining to the trading of specimens; postcard addressed to Butler from 1895 double checking info; postcard addressed to Butler from 1896 thanking him for crediting him in his research |
| 1 | 4 | Birds of Franklin County IN Volumes I-II | 1875-1885 | Notes on the birds of Franklin County, IN tabulated |
| 1 | 5 | Purdue University File | 1882-1947 | Notes on work done at Purdue; a list of the Trochilidas of Butler; correspondence with people such as those working in the U.S. National Museum, tag of a bird from 1882 |
| 1 | 6 | Notes for a Catalogue of Indiana Birds | Ca.1890 | Notes for a Catalogue of Indiana Birds volume 1 |

| Box | Folder | Folder Title | Dates | Notes |
|--------|--------|--|-----------|--|
| 1 | 7 | Notes for a Catalogue of Indiana Birds | Ca. 1890 | Notes for a Catalogue of Indiana Birds volume 2 |
| 2 | 1 | Testimonial to Amos W. Butler | 1922 | Published in recognition of Butler's 25 years of service as secretary of the board of State Charities of Indiana |
| 2 | 2 | Butler Bird Collection | 1931-1941 | The green notebook contains identifies and gives names the birds of North America; the letter details this and gives information in regards to foreign birds as well as how they are tagged |
| 2 | 3 | Catalogue of Books, Bulletins, and Publications from the Collections of Amos W. Butler | Ca. 1937 | Catalogue of Books, Bulletins, and Publications from the Collections of Amos W. Butler |
| 2 | 4 | Miscellaneous Papers | n.d. | 8 papers containing a list of birds in collection of Butler in Brookville IN; list of summer migration of birds in southern IN; changes of fauna; pages 2-4 of a letter containing observations about migration; more lists of birds and observations; pages 1-2 of a letter discussing notes that Butler wrote; check list duplicate to send off; American Forestry Congress; Latin composition |
| Vol. 1 | | Research notes | n.d. | Large volume containing notes on bird species of Indiana. Includes index. |