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Creator: Wallace, George John, 1906-
Title: George John Wallace papers.
Inclusive dates: 1929-1985
Extent: 10 linear feet
Call number: 2009092 Aa 2

Language: Material is in English
Acquisition: The collection came from Wallace's grandson Charles McGrath (donor no. 10188) in April 2009.
Accruals: No additions to the collection are expected.
Access: The collection is open without restriction.
Photographs: Photographs in box 9
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Processed By: Thomas E. Powers, 2009

Abstract

Ornithologist; professor of zoology at Michigan State University; correspondence, organizational files, collected materials on the use of pesticides, bird lists, and course materials.

Biography

George John Wallace was born December 9, 1906 in Waterbury, Vermont. He graduated from the University of Michigan with degrees in zoology (A.B., 1932; M.A., 1933; Ph.D., 1936). His first professional position was as a biologist with the Vermont Fish and Game Service (1936-1937). He then went to Lenox, Massachusetts as director of the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary (1937-1942). In 1942, he came to Michigan State College (now University) as instructor in zoology. He was made full professor in 1954.

A specialist in ornithology, Wallace was an active member of many professional organizations, including the American Ornithologists Union, the Wilson Ornithological Society, the Michigan Audubon Society, and Michigan Bird Banders. For several years in the 1940s and 50s, Wallace was editor of *Jack Pine Warbler*, the newsletter of the Michigan Audubon Society. A respected teacher of zoology and ornithology, Wallace was the author of numerous articles and *An Introduction to Ornithology* considered by many to be the standard textbook in the field of ornithology. In 1979, he published his autobiography entitled *My World of Birds: Memoirs of an Ornithologist*.

In the course of his research, Wallace became convinced that the mortality of birds on campus and elsewhere was directly related to the use of DDT on trees with Dutch Elm disease. Rachel Carson knew of his research and corresponded with him (unfortunately this correspondence has not survived). Carson respected the work of Wallace and allowed him to read and review the chapter on birds in her indictment of the unregulated use of pesticides *Silent Spring*.

George J. Wallace died March 8, 1986.

Scope and Content Note

The George John Wallace collection is arranged into the following series: Organizational and Topical files; Correspondence; Pesticides / Michigan Pesticide Council; Writings; Course Materials; and Miscellaneous. Within the organizational files are materials relating to his activities with such groups as the American Ornithological Union and the National and Michigan Audubon Society. The topical files concern Wallace's general interest in birds and the study of ornithology. Of some interest are files of documentation collected by Wallace relating to the study of the effect of pesticides on bird populations.

Box No. Description

Organizational and Topical files

American Ornithological Union

Box 1

Conservation Committee

Meetings

Argonne National Laboratory, 1973-1977 (2 folders)

Aretê Publishing Company (regarding publication of articles on birds)

Audubon societies

Lansing Audubon Society

Michigan Audubon Society

Box 2

Michigan Audubon Society (cont.)

Massachusetts Audubon Society

National Audubon Society

Better East Lansing Committee

Bird banding (5 folders)

Bird collections

Bird Control Seminar

Bird records

Michigan, correspondence regarding

Biological Station

Christmas counts

East Lansing campus and vicinity

Eagle and osprey survey

TV tower casualties, Lansing

Birding

Birds

Barn Owl (3 folders)

Box 3

Blue Jay

Chickadees

Hawk and Owl (2 folders)

Kirtland Warbler

Monk Parakeet

Pheasant

Predatory birds

Thrushes

Brewer Research Award

Central Michigan University

Christmas letters

Cooper Ornithological Society

Dutch Elm Disease

Ecology Discussion Group and related

Falconry

Fellowship – South America

Hartwick Pines – birds

Huron Mountains – birds

International Biological Programme

Kalamazoo Nature Center

Kellogg Biological Station

Box No. Description

Organizational and Topical files (cont.)

Box 3 (cont.)

Lectures – Audubon chapters
Lectures – miscellaneous
Lectures – pesticides
Lectures – radio and television
Littlefield Edward
Michigan Association of Conservation Ecologists
Microphthalmic birds
Midwest Wildlife Conference
Myadestes
National Institute of Health
National Science Foundation
Rachel Carson Trust

Box 4

Trout Unlimited
Wells, Carleton
Who's Who / American Men of Science
Wilson Ornithological Club (2 folders)
World Book Encyclopedia

Correspondence

General

1936-1943 A-Z (5 folders)
1941-1943 (miscellaneous)
1944-1947
1948-1949
1951-1955 (3 folders)
1955-1956 (miscellaneous)
1955-1957 (during sabbatical in Colombia) A-Z (5 folders)
1964-1971 (3 folders)

Box 5

1970s-1980 (6 folders)
Jack Pine Warbler editor's files
1940s-1950s A-Z (7 folders)
1954-1955
My World of Birds (fan mail received about GW's book), 1979
Graduate Students
Armstrong, William
Beetley, Bruce
Bernard, Richard F.
Boykins, Ernest
Bradfield, Paul L.
Divoky, George
Duke, Gary
Eyer, Lester E.
Fleming, Robert L.
Fulk, Geoarge W.
Hamel, Paul
Holcomb, Larry

Box No. Description

Correspondence

Graduate Students (cont.)

Box 5 (cont.)

Kee, Tom
Kirkland, Gordon L.
Mahan, Harold
Mehner, John
Osborne, David
Pellerin, George
Shooks, Wayne
Smith, C. Roy
Smith, W. John
Vanden Berge, James C.
Zimmerman, John

Pesticides / Michigan Pesticide Council

Collected information

Box 6

Cereal leaf beetle
Chemicals (mainly dieldrin use)
Coho salmon and pesticides
Conferences, seminars, etc. (mainly Michigan Agricultural Pesticide Conference)
Eagles and Ospreys, effect of pesticides
Egg shells, thinning of
Fire ant control
Fish and Wildlife Service (US), Dutch Elm disease control projects of Graduate Assistants
Richard F. Bernard
Paul L. Bradfield
Gypsy Moth control
Herbicides
Hickey / Hunt (correspondence and research papers of Joseph J. Hickey and L. Barrie Hunt)
Japanese beetle and pesticides
Larson, J. David (president of Normal Soil, Inc.)
Legislation and resolutions
General
HB3911 (pesticide control in Michigan)
Hearings before the Hart subcommittee on the environment
Letters to the editor and other writings (manuscript copies)
Mortality of robins and other birds
Mosquito control
National Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation
PCBs
Predatory birds

Box 7

Reports and miscellaneous articles (3 folders)
Robin census
Robin study

Box No. Description

Pesticides / Michigan Pesticide Council (cont.)

Collected information (cont.)

Box 7 (cont.)

Robin survey
Scientists' Institute for Public Information
Spraying data
Water, contamination due to use of pesticides
Wisconsin, hearings on use of pesticides

Michigan Pesticide Council
Correspondence and material collected for use in MPC newsletter

Writings

Box 8

Drafts of articles and book reviews (unprocessed)
Our Berkshires newspaper column, 1940-1942 (4 folders)
Snowy Egret, 1929-1931 (Berrien Springs, Michigan serial publication containing articles by Wallace)

Course materials

Box 9

MSU classes in zoology and biology (unprocessed)

Miscellaneous

Proceedings: George and Martha Wallace vs. Crawford County Road Commission, 1978
Photographs
Retirement letters
Scrapbooks with clippings from his early career

Box 10

Birds lists (2 card file boxes, binder, and 1 folder)