
Inventory to the field notes of Frank Stephens at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley. MVZA.MSS.0240

Finding aid prepared by Christina V. Fidler and Darren Lu
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology Archives
3101 Valley Life Sciences Building
University of California
Berkeley
mvzarchives@berkeley.edu
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Frank Stephens field notes

Identifier/Call Number: MVZA.MSS.0240

Contributing Institution: Museum of Vertebrate Zoology Archives

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 5.0 Volumes

Date (inclusive): 1886-1912

Creator: Stephens, Frank, 1849-1936

Conditions Governing Access note

The collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Inventory to the field notes of Frank Stephens at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley, MVZA.MSS.0240, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology Archives, University of California, Berkeley.

Conditions Governing Use

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Related Archival Materials Note

The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology historical correspondence collection contains correspondence created by and received by Frank Stephens. Please visit the [Museum of Vertebrate Zoology historical correspondence finding aid](#) for more information.

Biographical note

Frank Stephens was born in a log house on a farm in New York in 1849. His interests in natural history traces back to his childhood and he completed his first lessons in taxidermy at the age of 22. Stephens married and moved to Kansas where he became acquainted with and studied under Charles E. Aiken. Stephens and his wife settled in California but had a harrowing journey to their new residence. Settlers were killed before and after their passage, they also had to contend with a depreciated paper dollar in California. They had a hard time passing through the Colorado Desert but they eventually settled in in the San Diego area. Stephens collected intermittently for the Biological Survey and focused his energies in publishing the first book on [California mammals](#). He completed California Mammals in 1906. He and his second wife, Kate Brown, then accompanied Annie Alexander and Joseph Dixon on an expedition to Alaska in 1907. Stephens also accompanied Joseph Grinnell's 1910 Museum of Vertebrate Zoology's expedition on the Colorado River. He was not a prolific writer but he did pen 55 publications and collected well into his early 80s. He was known as a cheerful camp companion and his camping skills were legendary to his students. Frank Stephens died at the age of 89 on October 5, 1937. Sources Consulted:

Stephens, Frank. "Frank Stephens: An Autobiography." *The Condor* 20,5 (1918): 164-166. DOI: 10.2307/1362367.

Huey, Laurence M. "Frank Stephens, Pioneer." *The Condor* 40,3 (1938):101-110. DOI: 10.2307/1363824

Scope and Contents note

The Frank Stephens field note collection consists of five bound volumes spanning the years 1886 to 1912. Frank Stephens created the first listed field notebook and catalog during his 1907 expedition to Alaska. They are in their original binding. The other three volumes are bound in the traditional Museum of Vertebrate Zoology binding.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Alaska--Expedition--1907

Biological specimens--Collection and preservation.

Biological specimens--Identification

Biology Fieldwork

Birds--California--Identification

Cataloging--Specimens.

University of California (1868-1952). Museum of Vertebrate Zoology

Box 1, Folder 1

Alaska field notes 1907**Language of Material:** English**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

North America, United States, Alaska

North America, United States, Alaska, Alexander Archipelago, Admiralty Island

North America, United States, Oregon, Baker County

North America, United States, Washington, King County

Box 1, Folder 2

Alaska catalogue 1907**Language of Material:** English**Related Materials Note**

Specimens collected in this section belong to MVZ specimen accession #11, #46 and #2914. These specimens can be found in [Arctos](#), the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology's specimen database.

Volume 1

Volume 1 1657 1886-1908**Language of Material:** EnglishVolume 1,
Section 1**San Diego, Imperial, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, California v1657_1 1886**http://bscit.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/mvz_volume_query?special=page&scan_directory=v1657_s1§ion_order=1**Language of Material:** English**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

North America, United States, Arizona, Yuma County

North America, United States, California, Imperial County

North America, United States, California, Riverside County

North America, United States, California, San Bernardino County

North America, United States, California, San Diego County

Volume 1,
Section 2**San Diego County, California (Part 1) v1657_2 1908** http://bscit.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/mvz_volume_query?special=page&scan_directory=v1657_s2§ion_order=2**Language of Material:** English**Related Materials Note**

Specimens collected in this section belong to MVZ specimen accession #19. These specimens can be found in [Arctos](#), the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology's specimen database.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

North America, United States, California, San Diego County

Volume 2


Volume 2 1658 1909Volume 2,
Section 1**San Diego County, California (Part 2) v1658_1 1908** http://bscit.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/mvz_volume_query?special=page&scan_directory=v1658_s1§ion_order=1**Language of Material:** English**Related Materials Note**

Specimens collected in this section belong to MVZ specimen accession #19 and #139. These specimens can be found in [Arctos](#), the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology's specimen database.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

North America, United States, California, San Diego County

Volume 2,
Section 2

San Diego and Imperial Counties, California (Part 1) v1658_2 1909 

http://bscit.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/mvz_volume_query?special=page&scan_directory=v1658_s2§ion_order=2

Language of Material: English

Related Materials Note


Specimens collected in this section belong to MVZ specimen accession #39, #77 and #187. These specimens can be found in [Arctos](#), the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology's specimen database.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

North America, United States, California, Imperial County
North America, United States, California, San Diego County

Volume 3
Volume 3,
Section 1

Volume 3 1659 1910-1912

San Diego and Imperial Counties, California (Part 2) v1659_1 1909 

http://bscit.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/mvz_volume_query?special=page&scan_directory=v1659_s1§ion_order=1

Language of Material: English


Related Materials Note

These specimens can be found in [Arctos](#), the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology's specimen database.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

North America, United States, California, Imperial County
North America, United States, California, San Diego County

Volume 3,
Section 2

Colorado River, California, and Arizona v1659_2 1910 

http://bscit.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/mvz_volume_query?special=page&scan_directory=v1659_s2§ion_order=2

Language of Material: English

Related Materials Note

Specimens collected in this section belong to MVZ specimen accession #163. These specimens can be found in [Arctos](#), the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology's specimen database.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

North America, United States, Arizona, La Paz County
North America, United States, Arizona, Mohave County
North America, United States, Arizona, Yuma County
North America, United States, California, Imperial County
North America, United States, California, Riverside County
North America, United States, California, San Bernardino County
North America, United States, California, San Diego County

Volume 3,
Section 3

Humboldt County, California v1659_3 1910 

http://bscit.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/mvz_volume_query?special=page&scan_directory=v1659_s3§ion_order=3

Language of Material: English

Related Materials Note

Specimens collected in this section belong to MVZ specimen accession #172, #188, #209 and #216. These specimens can be found in [Arctos](#), the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology's specimen database.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

North America, United States, California, Humboldt County

Volume 3,
Section 4

San Diego County, California v1659_4 1912 

http://bscit.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/mvz_volume_query?special=page&scan_directory=v1659_s4§ion_order=4

Language of Material: English

Related Materials Note

Specimens collected in this section belong to MVZ specimen accession #373, #409, #1177, #1191, #1308, and #2305. These specimens can be found in [Arctos](#), the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology's specimen database.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

North America, United States, California, San Diego County