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## **Finding Aid to the George M. Wright papers MVZA.MSS.0007**

Finding aid prepared by Greg Borman

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Museum of Vertebrate Zoology Archives

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Berkeley

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September 2014

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**Title:** George M. Wright papers

**Identifier/Call Number:** MVZA.MSS.0007

**Contributing Institution:** Museum of Vertebrate Zoology Archives

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 0.5 Linear feet

**Date (inclusive):** 1926-2000

**Abstract:** The George M. Wright papers consist of field notes completed throughout the United States and Canada between 1926-1933. There is also a folder of biographical materials containing an issue of *The George Wright Forum*, the George Wright Society's journal.

**Conditions governing access**

The collection is open for research.

**Conditions governing use**

Copyright restrictions may apply. All requests to publish, quote, or reproduce must be submitted to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology Archives in writing for approval. Please contact the Museum Archivist for further information.

**Preferred citation**

[Identification of item], George M. Wright papers, MVZA.MSS.0007, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology Archives, University of California, Berkeley.

**Biographical note**

George M. Wright (1904-1936) was born in San Francisco. At UC Berkeley, he studied both forestry and vertebrate zoology and worked with Joseph Grinnell. Not long after graduating, he served as a ranger and junior park naturalist with Yosemite National Park. In 1929, Wright, Joseph Dixon, and Ansell Hall began work on a wildlife survey program for the National Park Service, which Wright initially provided funds for. As a result of this work, the first two monographs with the series title *Fauna of the National Parks of the United States* were published in 1933 and 1935. These publications, co-authored with Joseph Dixon and Ben Thompson, provided both detailed information about park vertebrates and policies for the National Park System that were ecologically sound. Wright also contributed writings to *The Condor*, *Journal of Mammalogy*, *The Scientific Monthly*, and the *National Park Service Nature Notes* series. In 1933, Wright was selected as Chief of the newly formed Wildlife Division of the National Park Service. In this role, he hired biologists and looked into new national park locations. And in February 1936, Wright was selected to be part of a group that was to plan the development of parks, reserves, and refuges along the United States-Mexico border. Not long after, he was killed in an automobile accident near Deming, New Mexico. In 1980, the George Wright Society, an organization made up of individuals working to improve conditions in protected areas, was formed.

Sources Consulted:

Bryant, Harold C. "George Melendez Wright. Roger Wolcott Toll." *Journal of Mammalogy* 17, 2 (1936): 191-192. Accessed September 22, 2014. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1374197>

"George Melendez Wright (1904-1936)." *WETA, Washington, DC and The National Parks Film Project, LLC*. 2009. Accessed September 22, 2014. <http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks/people/nps/wright/>

Linn, Bob. "George Wright 1904-1936." *National Park Service*. 2000. Accessed September 22, 2014. [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/sontag/wright.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/sontag/wright.htm)

Shafer, Craig L. "Conservation Biology Trailblazers: George Wright, Ben Thompson, and Joseph Dixon." *Conservation Biology* 15, 2 (2001): 332-344. Accessed September 22, 2014. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2641831>

**Scope and contents note**

The George M. Wright papers include two standard-bound volumes of field notes, including map and habitat sketches. These volumes, one of which has been reproduced and bound as two separate volumes, cover the years 1926-1933 and contain localities in Alaska, Arizona, California, Canada, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. This collection also includes a folder of biographical materials, which contains an issue of *The George Wright Forum*, the George Wright Society's journal. It is a 20th anniversary issue and celebrates Wright's life.

**Related archival materials**

Materials relating to this collection within the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology Archives include the [Museum of Vertebrate Zoology historical correspondence 1908-1930 collection](#) (MVZA.MSS.0117).

**Arrangement note**

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The collection has been arranged in the following series: Field notes and Biographical materials.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Biological specimens--Collection and preservation.  
Biological specimens--Identification  
Biology Fieldwork  
Cataloging--Specimens.  
Field notes  
Mammalogy--Fieldwork.  
Scientific expeditions--Alaska  
Scientific expeditions--Arizona  
Scientific expeditions--British Columbia--Pacific Coast.  
Scientific expeditions--California  
Scientific expeditions--Canada  
Scientific expeditions--Colorado  
Scientific expeditions--Idaho  
Scientific expeditions--Montana  
Scientific expeditions--Nevada  
Scientific expeditions--New Mexico  
Scientific expeditions--Oklahoma  
Scientific expeditions--Oregon  
Scientific expeditions--Utah  
Scientific expeditions--Washington  
Scientific expeditions--Wyoming  
University of California (1868-1952). Museum of Vertebrate Zoology

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**Field notes 1926-1933**

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 4.0 Volumes

Volume 1

**Volume 1 1719 1926**

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 150.0 Pages

Volume 1,  
Section 1

**Mt. McKinley District, Alaska 1719\_s1 1926-1926**

**Physical Description:** 149.0 Pages

**Related materials**

Specimens collected in this section include accession #2755. These specimens can be found in [Arctos](#), the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology's specimen database.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

North America, United States, Alaska

Box 1

**View digitized field notes.** 

**Volume 2 1930-1933**

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 467.0 Pages

**Existence and location of copies**

Photocopied, bound reproductions (v1720 and v1721) of this volume are available for use in the Grinnell-Miller Library.

Volume 2,  
Section 1

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**Journal 1930: Miscellaneous locations, California; Utah and Arizona; Yellowstone, Wyoming; Washington; Grand Canyon, Arizona; Mesa Verde, Colorado 1930**

**Physical Description:** 127.0 Pages

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

North America, United States, Arizona, Coconino County  
North America, United States, Arizona, Mohave County  
North America, United States, Arizona, Yavapai County  
North America, United States, California, Alameda County  
North America, United States, California, Mariposa County  
North America, United States, California, Merced County  
North America, United States, California, Santa Clara County  
North America, United States, Colorado, Grand County  
North America, United States, Colorado, Larimer County  
North America, United States, Colorado, Montezuma County  
North America, United States, Utah, Box Elder County  
North America, United States, Utah, Washington County  
North America, United States, Washington, Lewis County  
North America, United States, Washington, Pierce County  
North America, United States, Washington, Yakima County  
North America, United States, Wyoming, Natrona County  
North America, United States, Wyoming, Park County  
North America, United States, Wyoming, Platte County

**View digitized field notes.** 

Volume 2,  
Section 2

**Journal 1931: Miscellaneous locations, California; Death Valley; New Mexico and Colorado; Berkeley; Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Alberta, Washington, Oregon, California; Yosemite 1931**

**Physical Description:** 158.0 Pages

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

North America, Canada, Alberta  
North America, Canada, British Columbia  
North America, United States, California, Alameda County  
North America, United States, California, Inyo County  
North America, United States, California, Lassen County  
North America, United States, California, Mariposa County  
North America, United States, California, San Benito County  
North America, United States, Colorado, Boulder County  
North America, United States, Colorado, Grand County  
North America, United States, Colorado, Larimer County  
North America, United States, Colorado, Montezuma County  
North America, United States, Montana, Flathead County  
North America, United States, Montana, Gallatin County  
North America, United States, Montana, Glacier County  
North America, United States, Montana, Lake County  
North America, United States, Montana, Lincoln County  
North America, United States, Nevada, Lyon County  
North America, United States, New Mexico, Eddy County  
North America, United States, Oregon, Klamath County  
North America, United States, Utah, Cache County  
North America, United States, Utah, Salt Lake County

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Volume 2,  
Section 3

**Journal 1932: Berkeley, California; Wyoming trip, including Montana and Idaho; Berkeley; Morro Bay, California; Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 1932**

**Physical Description:** 135.0 Pages

**Scope and contents note**

Census of vertebrates observed on 4/29/1932 in Mt. Everts, Yellowstone listed on page 389. Census of vertebrates observed on 5/16/1932 from 8:45am-11:30am from Mammoth to Lamar River Bridge, Yellowstone listed on pages 416 and 417. Census of vertebrates observed on 5/16/1932 from 5:40pm-7:25pm from Lamar River Bridge to Mammoth, Yellowstone listed on pages 417 and 418. Census of vertebrates observed on 5/16/1932 from 4:20pm-5:30pm from Trumpeter Lake to small lake just west, Yellowstone listed on page 418. All locations within Wyoming, Park County.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

North America, United States, California, Alameda County  
North America, United States, California, San Luis Obispo County  
North America, United States, Idaho, Fremont County  
North America, United States, Montana, Gallatin County  
North America, United States, Montana, Park County  
North America, United States, Wyoming, Park County  
North America, United States, Wyoming, Teton County

Volume 2,  
Section 4

**Journal 1933: Berkeley, California; Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming; Oklahoma, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho 1933**

**Physical Description:** 42.0 Pages

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

North America, Canada, Alberta  
North America, United States, California, Alameda County  
North America, United States, Idaho, Fremont County  
North America, United States, Montana, Beaverhead County  
North America, United States, Montana, Flathead County  
North America, United States, Montana, Glacier County  
North America, United States, Montana, Park County  
North America, United States, Oklahoma, Murray County  
North America, United States, Wyoming, Park County  
North America, United States, Wyoming, Teton County

**Biographical materials 2000-2000**

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 1.0 Folder

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Box 1, Folder 1

**George Wright Society Journal, Celebrating George Wright: A Retrospective on the 20th Anniversary of the GWS 2000-2000**

**Physical Description:** 1.0 Folder