

A HISTORY OF ORNITHOLOGY IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION



PREPARED BY KARAH BINKOWSKI FOR THE AIKEN AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 12TH, 2022

Introduction

Since the establishment of the city of Colorado Springs in 1871, nature's creatures have been of great interest, sparking curiosity amongst city residents and nature enthusiasts. This history explores some of the key figures that contributed to ornithological study in the Pikes Peak Region, including Charles Aiken, William Sclater, and W.W. Arnold, while establishing connections between these figures and reviewing the history of the Aiken Audubon Society. Following the biographies and primary sources related to these individuals, historical documents related to the Aiken Audubon Society are featured. It is of particular interest throughout this work to show how these individual's legacies continue to be an important part of birding in the Pikes Peak Region. While there is likely a wealth of information on this topic that is not covered in this work, the intention is to provide the Aiken Audubon Society with an overview of their history and to provide sources and resources for historical study.

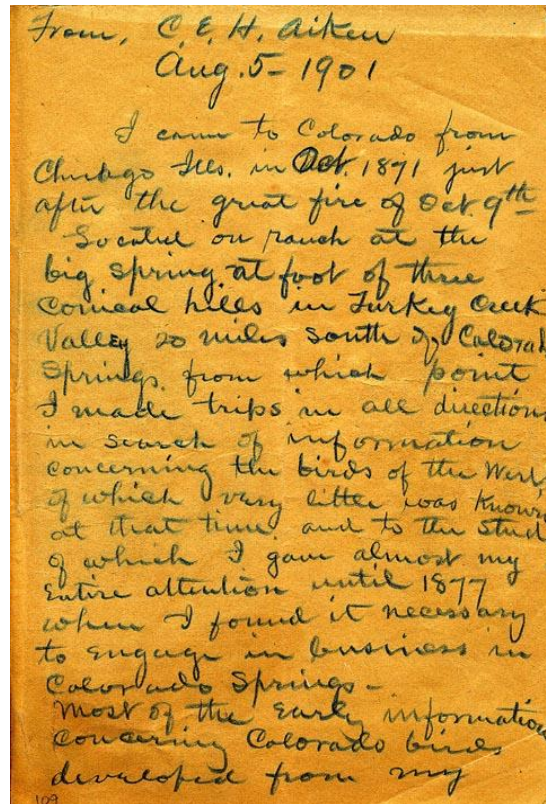
A history covering this scope could easily become a book, and in light of the nature of this project, some areas of interest have not been explored. For instance, E.R Warren, friend, contemporary, and fellow naturalist of Charles Aiken's, is not covered extensively here. This paper primarily focuses on Charles Aiken, partially because materials related to him and his life have been preserved in local archives, while those of Sclater and Arnold have been preserved to a lesser extent in the Colorado Springs area. An additional intention of the work is to feature the research that members of Aiken Audubon have already completed, and to supplement their work with relevant source material. This paper is targeted towards exhibiting relevant primary sources in lieu of operating as an interpretive history. In this sense the photographed sources are included to tell the history, rather than to have an authored history, leaving interpretation to those who will

reference this work. In this sense, this paper should be considered as a compilation of source material rather than as an academic historical analysis.

Charles Aiken

From C.E.H. Aiken
August 5, 1901

"I came to Colorado from Chicago Ills. In Oct. 1871 just after the great fire of Oct. 9th. Located on ranch at the big spring at foot of three conical hills in Turkey Creek Valley 20 miles south of Colorado Springs from which point I made trips in all directions in search of information concerning the birds of the west, of which very little was known at the time and to the study of which I gave almost my entire attention until 1877 when I found it necessary to engage in business in Colorado Springs. Most of the early information concerning Colorado birds developed from my investigations."¹



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Image Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado

¹Charles Aiken's note to future residents of Colorado Springs, August 5th, 1901, MS0349, folder 109, Colorado Springs Century Chest Collection 1901, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO. <https://libraryweb.coloradocollege.edu/library/specialcollections/CenturyChest/ch109am.html>.

The subsequent article is a biography written by Leslie Holzmman and posted on the Aiken Audubon Society's website. This highlights important aspects of Aiken's life, particularly his contributions to ornithology. This thoughtful article serves as an introduction to Aiken. Following are images of source material, joined with explanations, with the intention of enriching understandings of Aiken.

"The name "Aiken" seems to pop up all over. There is the Aiken Audubon chapter with its logo, Wes, based on the Aiken (a.k.a. Western) Screech Owl. There's Aiken Canyon and the subspecies *Junco hyemalis aikenii*. Just who was this Aiken that we commemorate in so many ways? Charles Edward Howard Aiken himself says it best, "Most of the early information concerning Colorado birds developed from my investigations."

Born in Vermont, on September 7, 1850, Charles was the oldest of five surviving children born to James Edward and Harriet Ann Howard Aiken. They relocated to Chicago when he was a young boy. At the age of 18, he began to study birds according to the methods of that time—by shooting and collecting them. When the Chicago fire of 1871 destroyed his father's business, the family moved to Colorado Springs. Charles took up residence on a ranch his father purchased in Turkey Creek Valley, the present site of Aiken Canyon. He eventually owned a taxidermy business and a house at Weber and Huerfano Streets in Colorado Springs.

In 1871, little was known about the birds of the West. Over the next 65 years Aiken contributed greatly to western ornithology through his repeated journeys through Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico, making notes and collecting and mounting bird and other animal skins. You can find an [online version](#) of Aiken's *The Birds of El Paso County, Colorado*, published in 1914. Aiken was a skilled naturalist. "His hearing was keen, and he could not only recognize the notes of birds when heard, but could imitate them closely by whistling. He was well acquainted with the habits of birds and various other animals. He had a sharp eye for the variations in plumage and other characteristics of birds."*

An article that appeared after his death in 1936 includes a description of a May, 1878 trip to Horse Creek, about 75 miles east of Colorado Springs: "He mentions Skylarks (Horned Larks), Grass Finches (Vesper Sparrows), Meadowlarks, White-winged Blackbirds (Lark Buntings), these in large flocks. Mountain Plover were not seen the first 15 miles but became common as they proceeded eastward. Small flocks of Brewers Blackbirds haunted all the ranches. Pond Creek and Horse Creek were each the home of two or three pairs of Whitenecked Ravens. Other species were observed wherever there were trees or bushes. Along Horse Creek were water holes and marshy places, where shore birds of several species were seen."*

In 1907, Aiken's collection of bird skins was sold to Colorado College. By the time of his death, the collection numbered over 5,700 skins, in addition to a number of mounted specimens, as well as nests and eggs. The collection includes an exceptionally complete series of Juncos subspecies. *Junco aikenii* was named after him. Aiken joined the AOU in 1898, but eventually allowed his membership to lapse. However, in 1926, at the age of 76, he was made an Honorary

Life Associate, a gesture which meant a great deal to him. It's clear why he means a great deal to Colorado birders today.”²

Various aspects of Aiken's life are highlighted in the sources that follow. The featured sources demonstrate his work as an ornithologist.

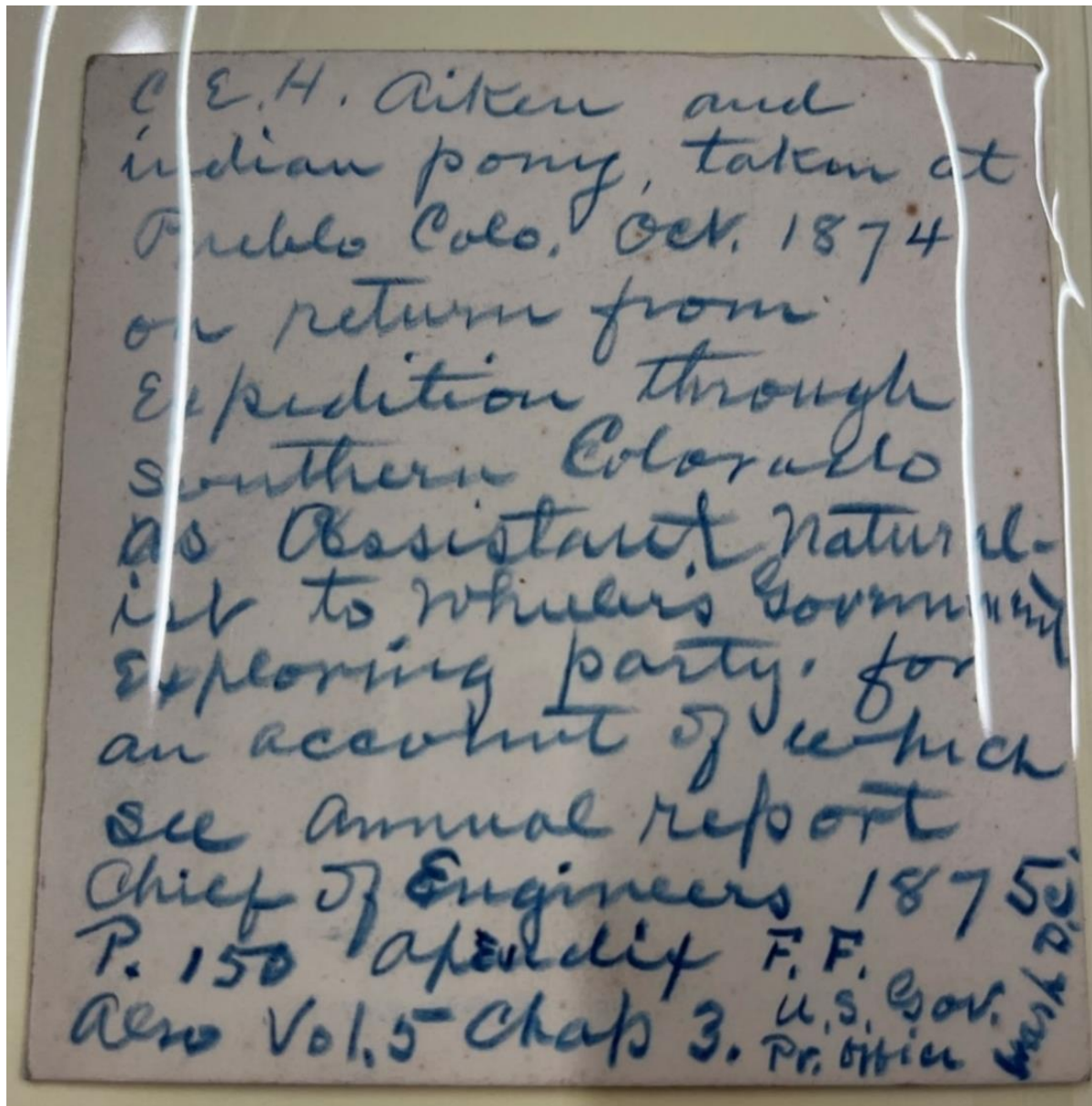
Wheeler Expedition



Photograph of Charles Aiken, *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado* ³

² “Who was Charles Aiken?,” Aiken Audubon, accessed October 11th, 2022, <https://www.aikenaudubon.com/about-aiken-audubon-2/who-was-charles-aiken/>.

³ Photograph of Charles Aiken, October 1874, Ms 0349, box 3, folder 109, Colorado Springs Century Chest Collection, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.



Backside of the Previous photograph, Charles Aiken's Note, *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs*⁴

Transcription: "C.E.H Aiken and Indian pony, taken at Pueblo Colo. Oct. 1874 on return from expedition through southern Colorado as assistant naturalist to Wheeler's government exploring party, for an account of which see annual report chief of engineers 1875, p.150 appendix F.F. also vol. 5 chap 3. U.S gov. pr. Office Wash D.C."

⁴ Back of Photograph of Charles Aiken with note, October 1874, Ms 0349, box 3, folder 109, Colorado Springs Century Chest Collection, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.

The expedition that Aiken is referring to is called the Wheeler Survey. The CSPM describes Aiken's role on the survey, "He served as assistant ornithologist on the governmental Wheeler Survey along the Colorado-New Mexico border and most of his skillfully prepared taxidermy specimens from this expedition were sold to the Smithsonian"⁵

According to an article commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Wheeler Survey on the U.S Army Corps of Engineers website, "In spring 1871, a group of scientists, soldiers, and surveyors gathered on the dusty plains of northeast Nevada, near the town of Halleck on the transcontinental railroad, to participate in the first U.S. Army Engineer survey in the American West since the outbreak of the Civil War ten years earlier. The group's goal was to map the entirety of the western half of the United States, a monumental task. Over the next nine years, the members of the United States Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian would crisscross the West on foot, horseback, muleback, trains, and wagons."⁶ As an assistant ornithologist and naturalist on the expedition, Aiken was responsible for recording and surveying wildlife on the expedition. This allowed Aiken to collect many birds and to advance his profession as an ornithologist.

⁵ "Charles Aiken," Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, accessed October 11th 2022 <https://www.cspm.org/cos-150-story/charles-aiken/>.

⁶ "Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Wheeler Survey, 1871-1879," US Army Corps of Engineers, accessed October 11th, 2022, <https://www.usace.army.mil/About/History/Historical-Vignettes/Parks-and-Monuments/142-Wheeler-Overview/>

Aiken's Museum

Aiken opened his own “museum” and curio store in downtown Colorado Springs in 1878. This museum contained a variety of objects, many of which were crafted by Aiken. He sold taxidermy and Native American arts and crafts amongst other items.



Interior of Aiken's Museum, *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*⁷

⁷ Photograph of Aiken's Museum, n.d., Ms 0001, box 3, folder 7, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.

VII. THE FRONTIER.

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WHEN YOU WRITE, PLEASE MENTION THE FRONTIER.

Advertisement for Aiken's Museum, Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, Colorado Springs, Colorado⁸

⁸ Aiken's Museum Advertisement from *The Frontier*, May 1904, Ms 0001, box 3, folder 28, Charles Aiken Papers, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.

Aiken's Notebooks and Sketches

Aiken recorded his thoughts and observations of wildlife and particularly birds in notebooks. In some he is careful to record all of the details of a sighting to include, location, gender, behavior, and season. In others, he quickly jots down the sighting. In some notes, he detailed identifying traits of birds, noting their preferred habitats as seen in the following transcription.

HUMMERS.

Frequent always, I think, a country with more or less timber. Usually breed late, at least this is the case with platycercus (in July). Rufus has young fully feathered by the last of July. At this season they commence migrating, or at least they then become plentiful in localities where there had previously been none. Platycercus found at Willow Spring, A. T. extremely abundant July 8, but rarely met with afterward to August 25. Rufus most abundant species in August ~~in the~~ frequenting open woods where there are an abundance of the tall red honeysuckle-shaped flowers (Pentstemon barbatus torreyi). Moults about the first of August without becoming ragged. Habit in common with platycercus of chasing others of its species. Said to be pugilistic but I do not think enmity is the cause, but rather exuberance of spirit, or a desire to display themselves to the females. Or a kind of sport or pastime. Hummers are not formed for offence or defence.

These demonstrations accompanied by chattering or chipping very loud for such small birds. Noise made by wings of Rufus loud sharp hum, approaching to that made by platycercus which is a whizzing noise which can be heard 60 to 100 yards.

Alexandri much less common, less active, or pugilistic, so to speak. Noise by wings plain hum. Female readily distinguished while hovering before a flower by the oscillating (up & down or forward & backward) of the spread tail, which in other species is kept still.

Calliope small, frequents same localities as preceding, but prefers different flowers. Keeps low in air and among the plants where it easily escapes notice. Noise by wings low hum like that of the large bumble bee.

All have the habit of alighting among trees, usually on a small dead twig of a lower branch. Very cute about hiding.

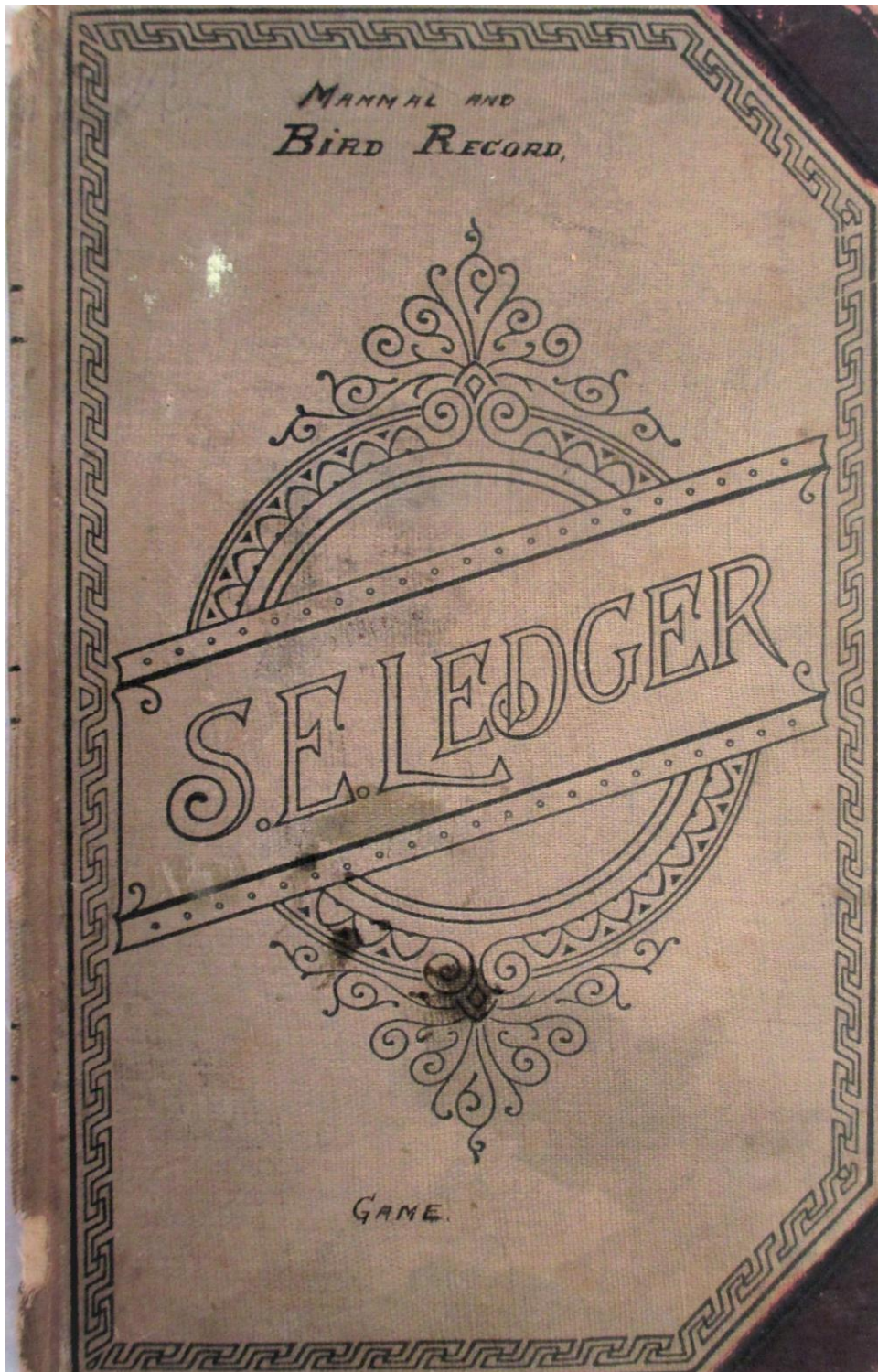
Transcription of Journal Entry about Aiken's Notes on Hummers, Courtesy of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum Starsmore Center for Local History⁹

⁹ Transcription of Charles Aiken's Diary Entry on "Hummers", n.d., The Aiken Family Collection, A44-81, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, Starsmore Center for Local History, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Bear Creek July 25		
Brewer's Black Bird, Redwing do.		
Yellow warbler, Birds seen today		
not noted on 4 th inst. are		
Red Shafted Flicker	2	
Sewer. Wood pecker	1	
Chipping Sparrow (flock)	6	
Clay colored "	1	
Western Savanna do	1	
Swainson's vireo	1	
Saw about a dozen Trills' Fly, &		
M. Yellow thro' Warbler, Killdeer with egg		
in ovaries. Night Hawk sitting		
on a stone, allowed me to walk		
around it. within three feet.		
The Clay Col Sparrow was in a small		
willow tree in a meadow, first		
I saw killed in breeding season.		
3046 Horn Finch (Was smoky but washed clean) ♂ ad		
3047 W. Sav. Sparrow. [auduboni?] breeding (?) ♀ ad		
3048 Clay Col " (?) ♀ ad		
3049 Blk Headed Grosbeak ♂ Jun		
3050 Trills' Flycatcher (testes enlarged) ♂ ad		

Entry from Bear Creek Visit, July 25th, 1897, Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado¹⁰

¹⁰ Notebook Entry "Bear Creek July 25th" by Charles Aiken, July 25th, 1897, Ms 0001, box 2, #1, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.

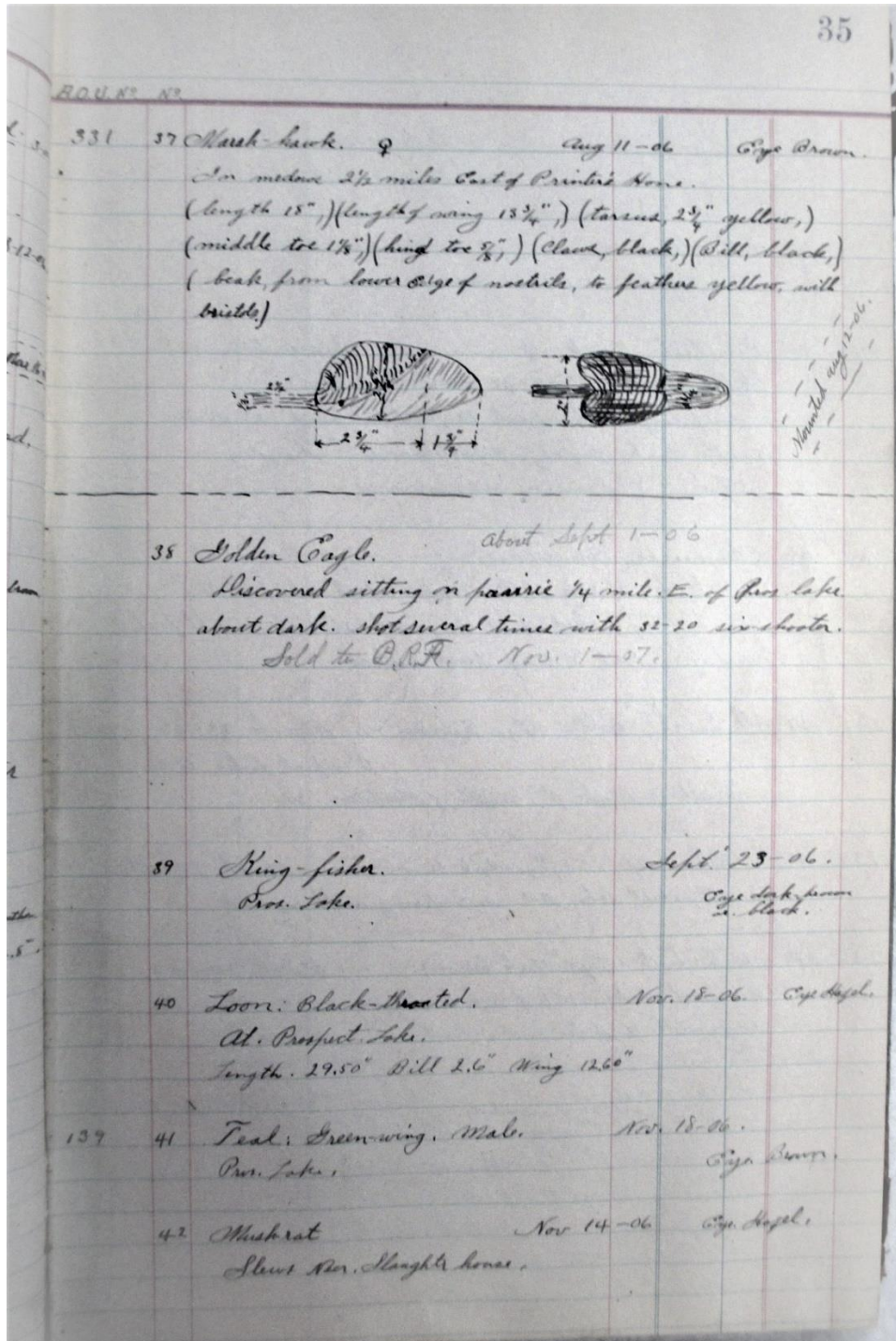


Photograph of Bird and Animal Log, Image Courtesy of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum Starsmore Center for Local History¹¹

¹¹Photograph of A Bird and Mammal Log kept by Charles Aiken, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum Starsmore Center for Local History, Colorado Springs, Colorado, <https://www.cspm.org/cos-150-story/charles-aiken/>.

The following pages features a drawing of a Marsh Hawk that includes measurements of its size. Aiken notes that the eagle was mounted. His record states: “Marsh-hawk. Female. Aug. 11 – 06. Eye Brown. In meadows 2 ½ miles East of Printer’s Home. (length 18”), (length of wing 13 ¾ “,) (tarsus, 2 ¾” yellow,) (middle toe 1 1/8”) (hind toe 5/8”), (claws, black,) (Bill, black,) (beak, from lower edge of nostrils, to feather yellow, with ---.)” Alongside the record and illustration, he noted: “Mounted aug 12-06.” It is clear that Aiken used this particular notebook to track game that he hunted, mounted, or sold, unlike some of his other notebooks which were simply used to track sightings.

Aiken was also a talented artist as is demonstrated in the following sketches from his drawing books housed at the Tutt Library Special Collections at Colorado College.

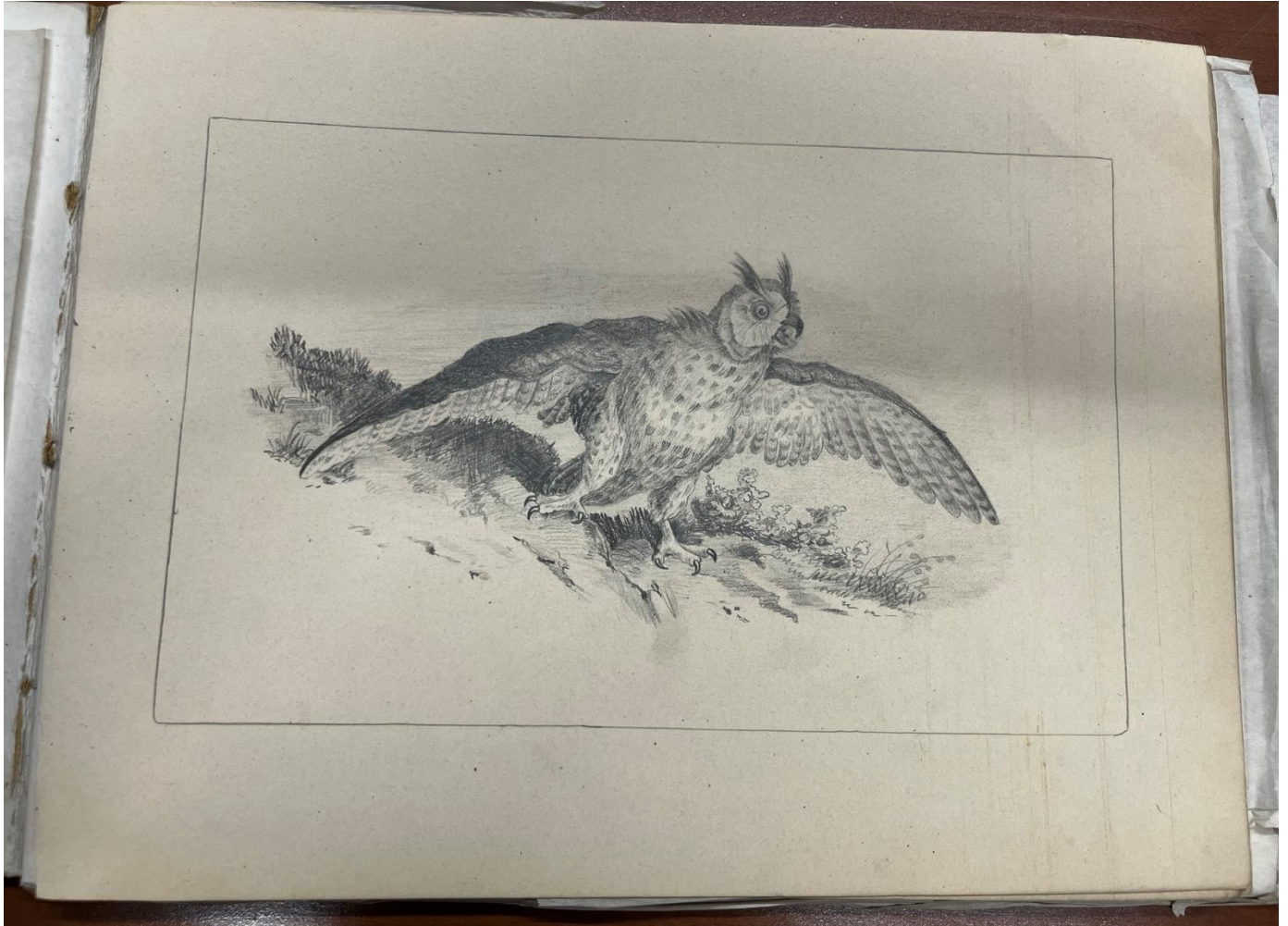


Page from Aiken's Bird and Animal Log, Image Courtesy of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum Starsmore Center for Local History¹²

¹²Photograph Notes from a Bird and Mammal Log kept by Charles Aiken, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum Starsmore Center for Local History, Colorado Springs, Colorado, <https://www.cspm.org/cos-150-story/charles-aiken/>.



Sketches from Aiken's Drawing Book, undated. *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College Colorado Springs, Colorado.*¹³



Owl Drawing from Aiken's Drawing Book, undated. *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*¹⁴

¹³ Charles Aiken Canada Owl Kingfisher Drawing, n.d., Ms 0001, box 2, Charles Aiken Papers, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado Springs, CO.

¹⁴ Charles Aiken Owl Drawing, n.d., Ms 0001, box 2, Charles Aiken Papers, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado Springs, CO.



Bird Drawing from Aiken's Drawing Book, *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*¹⁵



Bird Drawing with Color from Aiken's Drawing Book, *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*¹⁶

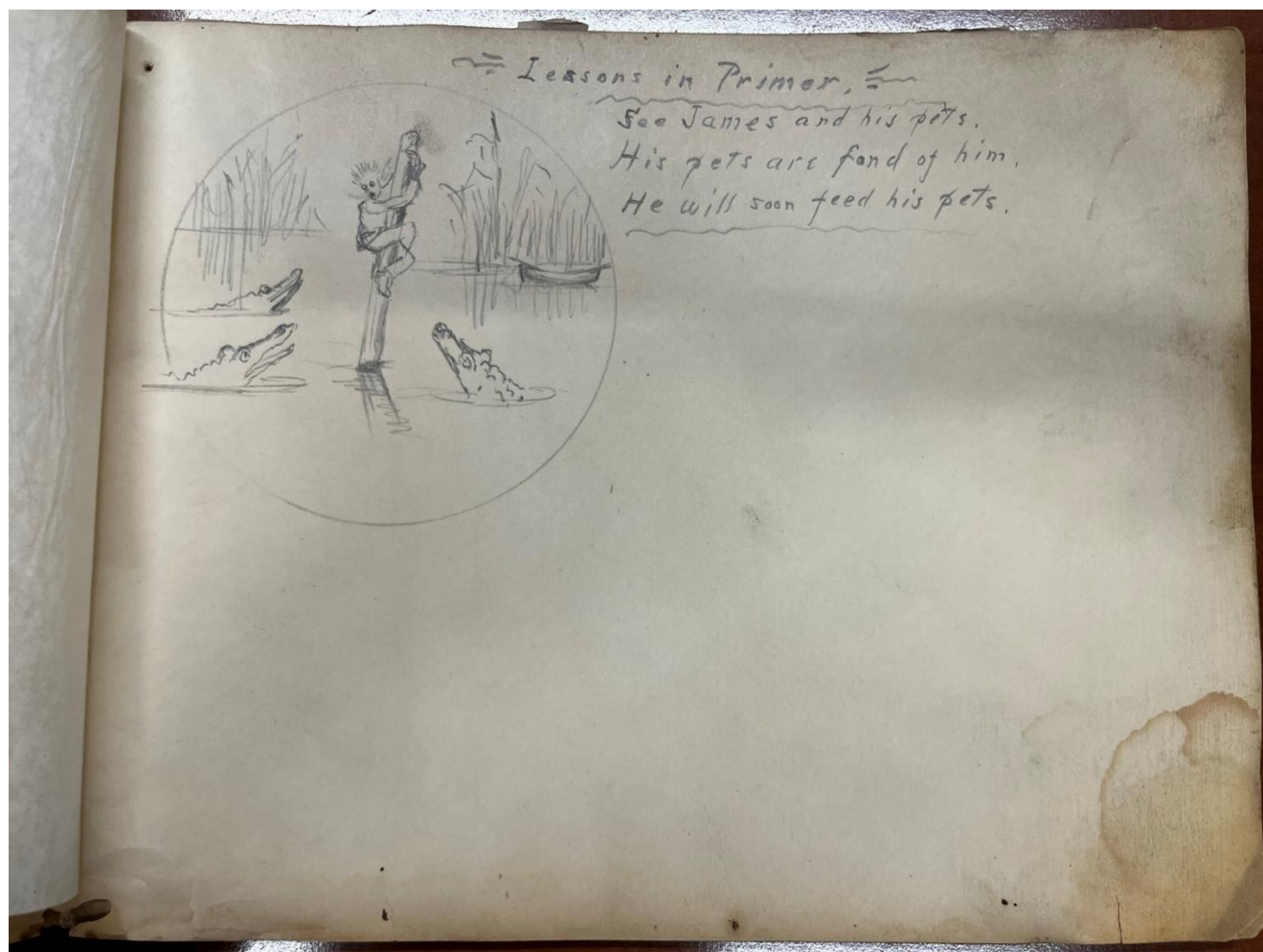
¹⁵ Charles Aiken Bird Drawing, n.d., Ms 0001, box 2, Charles Aiken Papers, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado Springs, CO.

¹⁶ Charles Aiken Bird Drawing with color, n.d., Ms 0001, box 2, Charles Aiken Papers, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado Springs, CO.



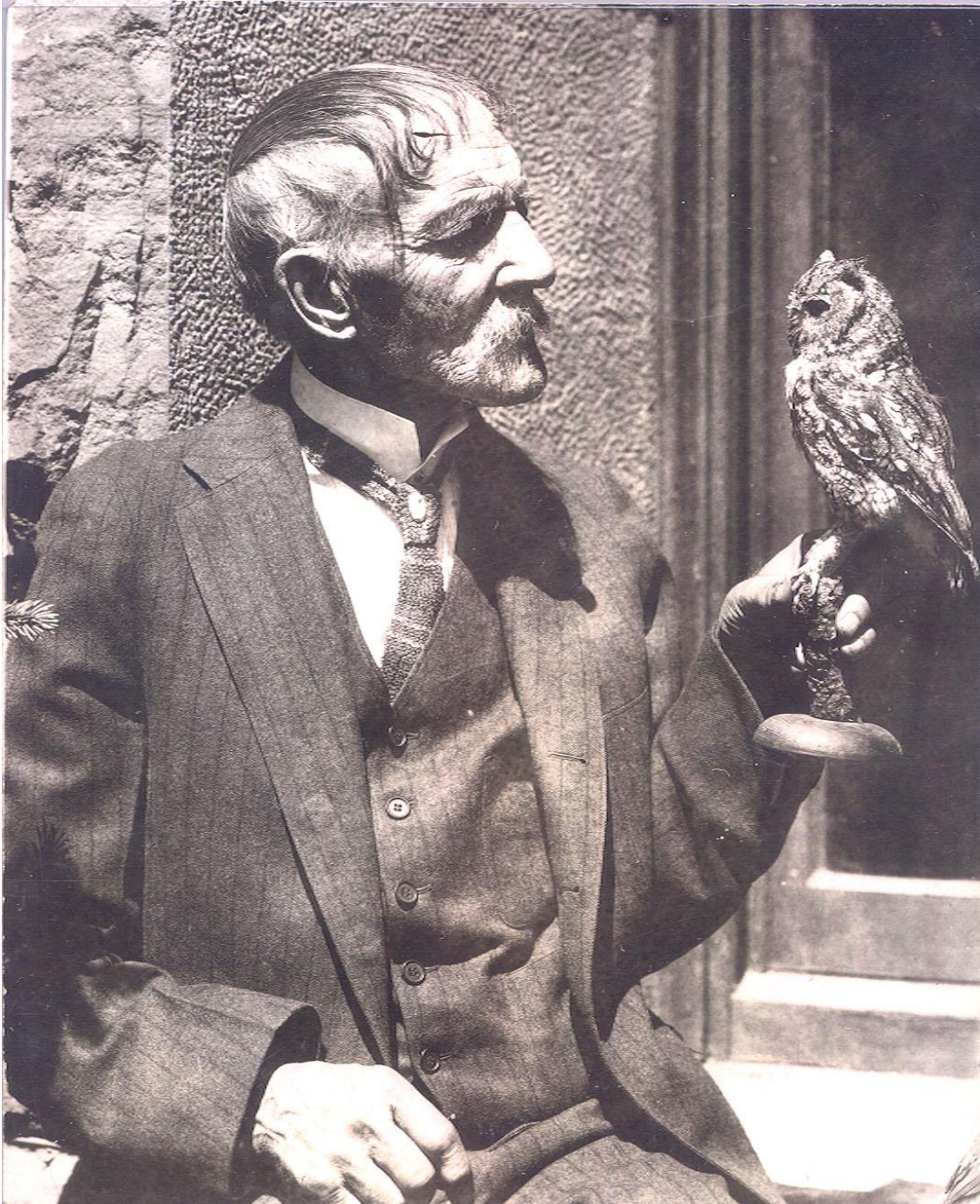
Full page Bird Sketch from Aiken's Drawing Book, *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*¹⁷

¹⁷Full page Bird Sketch from Aikens Drawing Book n.d., Ms 0001, box 2, Charles Aiken Papers, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado Springs, CO.



Cartoon Sketch from Aiken's Drawing Book, *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*¹⁸

¹⁸ Charles Aiken Cartoon Sketch, n.d., Ms 0001, box 2, Charles Aiken Papers, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado Springs, CO.



Charles Aiken with mounted owl, *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado Springs, Colorado*¹⁹

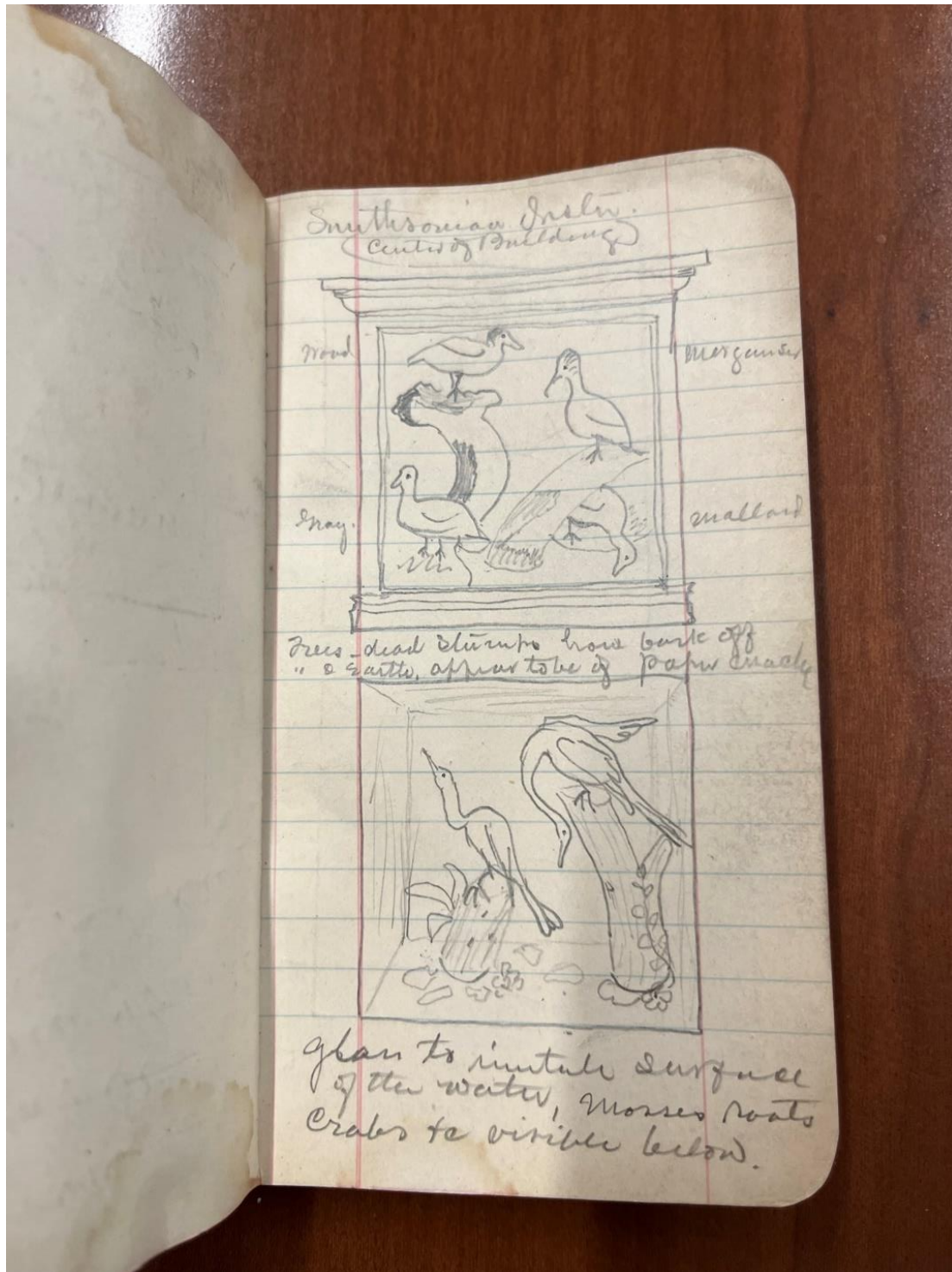
¹⁹ Photograph of Charles Aiken, n.d., Ms 0001, box 3, folder 1, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.

Taxidermy, Skins, and Mounts

Aikens specimens, to include skins and mounts, have been featured in museums across the United States. According to the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, “By 1907, Aiken’s bird collection numbering 4,700 specimens was acquired by General William Jackson Palmer and donated to Colorado College.” Currently the “Natural History Museum at UC Boulder has the most comprehensive collection. After the Colorado College Natural History Museum was closed, they were then donated to the UC Boulder Natural History Museum in the 1960’s.²⁰ Aiken kept records of specimens and installations in museums. An example is found here in a small notebook where he illustrated some of the installations in the Smithsonian. He was careful to record location, and many other elements of these installations. It is unclear whether these were his own installations or crafted by others. A large collection of birds gathered by Aiken during the Wheeler Survey was sent to the Smithsonian.²¹

²⁰ Charles E. Aiken Papers Finding Aid, <https://libraryweb.coloradocollege.edu/Library/specialcollections/Manuscript/Aiken.html>.

²¹ “Local Naturalist’s Works in Exhibit”, newspaper clipping, Aiken Family Collection, A44-81, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum Starsmore Center for Local History.



Aiken's Depictions of Mounted Installations housed at the Smithsonian, *Courtesy of the Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*²²

²² Aiken's Depictions of Mounted Installations housed at the Smithsonian, n.d., Ms 0001, box 1, #11, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.

The following is an example of a mount created by Aiken that is housed and currently on exhibit at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum. This particular mount includes the following birds: Scarlet Tanager, Maryland Yellow Throat, Cedar Wax Wing, Black and White Warbler, Golden Crown Kinglet, Baltimore Oriole, Summer of Yellow Warbler.²³



Birds under Cloche, *Image Courtesy of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum*²⁴

²³ Accession Record of Birds under cloche, *Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum*, June 12th, 1939.

²⁴ Birds under Cloche by Ornithologist Charles E. Aiken, ca. 1905. <https://www.cspm.org/cos-150-story/charles-aiken/>.

William Sclater

“More familiar perhaps in the east than in the west, the Song-Sparrow is a tuneful bird, enlivening the shrubbery and thicket with his cheerful note.” – William Sclater on the Mountain Song Sparrow, 1912 ²⁵

William Sclater, British Ornithologist and Naturalist, moved to Colorado Springs in 1906. General William Palmer, founder of the city of Colorado Springs and Sclater’s brother-in-law, invited Sclater and his wife to move to Colorado. Palmer built Sclater and his wife Charlotte a home not far from his estate, Glen Eyrie. The home still stands and is located at the Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site and is known as the Orchard house. The Orchard House is now used for tours to educate children and visitors. It has been maintained as an historic house and includes historic furnishings and representations of Sclater’s study to appear as it was when he lived there. When he moved to Colorado Springs Palmer appointed Sclater as museum director of the Colorado College Natural History Museum, later called the Palmer Hall Natural History Museum. Sclater wrote numerous important works for *Ibis*, and wrote several books, including *A History of the Birds of Colorado*, which Palmer supported him in writing. After Palmer’s death in 1909 Sclater and his wife moved back to England. More detail about Sclater’s life can be found in the following documents in this section.

²⁵ William Lutley Sclater, “Photograph of General William Palmer,” in *A History of the Birds of Colorado*, (London: Witherby & CO., 1912), xi.



WILLIAM LUTLEY SCLATER.

Photograph of William Lutley Sclater Featured alongside his obituary in The Ibis ²⁶

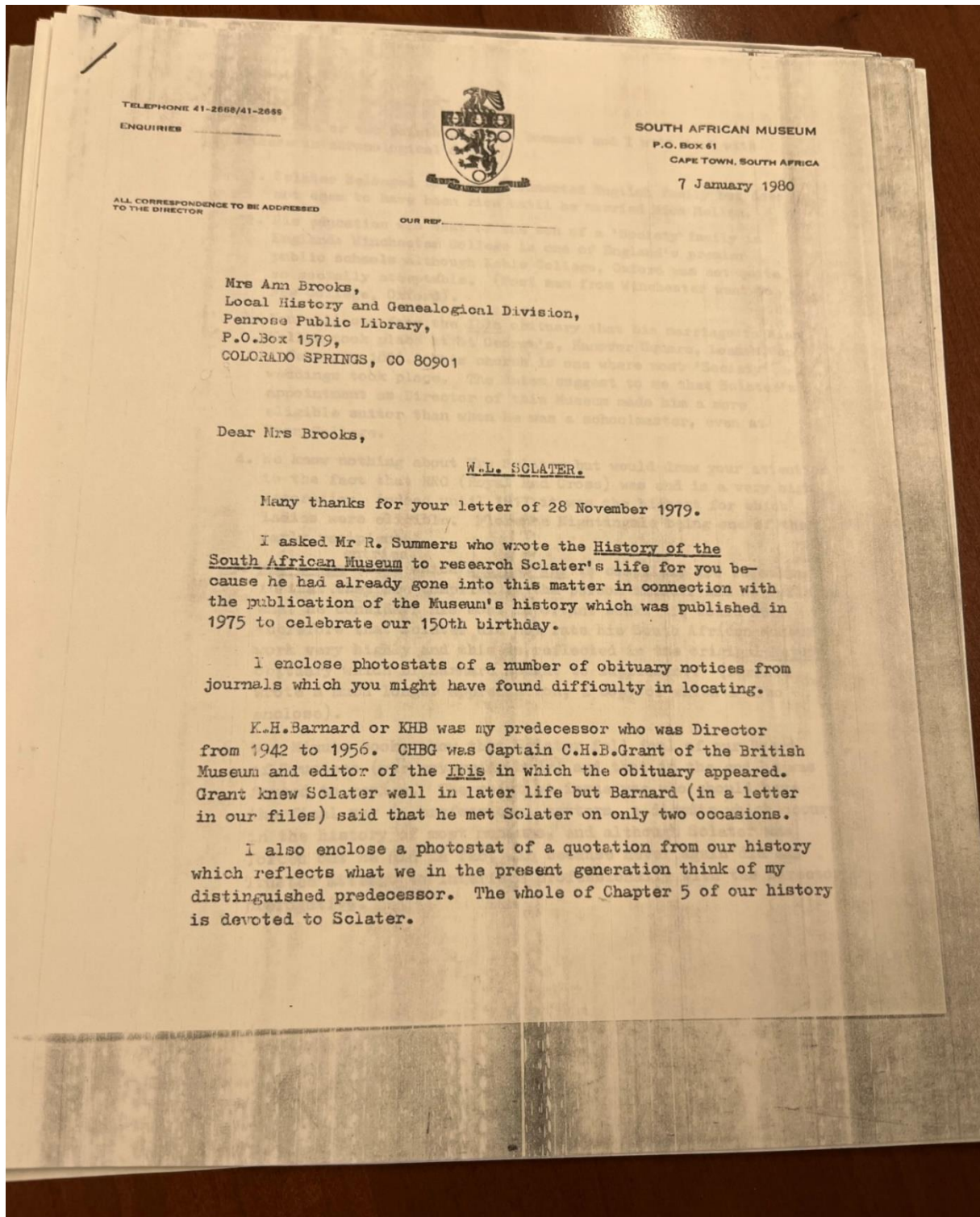
²⁶ Claude Henry Baxter Grant: William Lutley Sclater. In: The Ibis. Vol. 87, No. 1, 1945, S. 115–121 (Plate 1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:William_Lutley_Sclater.PNG and <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/j.1474-919X.1945.tb01364.x>).



Sclater's Study at the Orchard House, Courtesy of the Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site²⁷

The following correspondence and obituary concerning William Lutley Sclater are included to provide a greater understanding and overview of his life.

²⁷Photograph taken by the author. For more information on Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site visit their website <https://rockledgeranch.com/>.



Correspondence concerning the life of William Lutley Sclater, *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*²⁸

²⁸ T.H Barry to Mrs. Ann Brooks, January 7th, 1980, Faculty Bio Sclater, William, box 58, CC Archives, Special Collections, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

-2-

One or two points call for comment and I will deal with these in chronological order:

1. Solater belonged to a well-connected English family but does not seem to have been rich until he married Miss Mellen.
2. His education was that of the son of a 'Society' family in England: Winchester College is one of England's premier public schools although Keble College, Oxford was not quite so socially acceptable. (Most men from Winchester went to New College, Oxford).
3. You will see from the Ibis obituary that his marriage to Miss Mellen took place at St George's, Hanover Square, London, on 1 February 1896. This church is one where most 'Society' weddings took place. The dates suggest to me that Solater's appointment as Director of this Museum made him a more eligible suitor than when he was a schoolmaster, even at Eton College.
4. We know nothing about Mrs Solater but would draw your attention to the fact that RRC (Royal Red Cross) was and is a very high decoration, indeed until 1917 it was the highest for which ladies were eligible. Florence Nightingale being one of the early recipients.
5. Who's Who (from which Who was Who is compiled) are revealing in that they are compiled by the person himself and so reflects what he considers his most important work. It would seem therefore that Solater did not rate his South African Museum work very highly and this is reflected in the original Nature obituary which Dr Barnard sought to supplement. (Barnard wrote a much longer appreciation, a copy of which I also enclose).
6. Our Minute Books show that Solater fell foul of our Board of Trustees (our governing body) and that in the end he was forced to resign. The point at issue was who should have the final say in professional matters, a dispute which occurs in the history of most museums, and although Solater was forced out he did in fact win because never again did any Trustee attempt to interfere professionally with the Director's prerogative.

Correspondence concerning the life of William Lutley Solater, *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*²⁹

²⁹ T.H Barry to Mrs. Ann Brooks, January 7th, 1980, Faculty Bio Solater, William, box 58, CC Archives, Special Collections, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

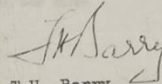
-3-

7. When preparing our history we were perplexed by the variety of dates given for Solater's death (at that time dates were not allowed to be published in newspapers for fear of giving information to the enemy about the fall of 'flying bombs'). We therefore consulted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and were able to confirm that Grant's date of 4 July 1944 was the correct one. A copy of the Commission's letter is enclosed.

We have several photographs of Solater taken during his directorship and can send prints if you need them. The portrait reproduced in the S.A. Museums Association Bulletin obituary must have been taken soon after he arrived in Cape Town.

It is with much pleasure that I send you some biographical details of my distinguished predecessor.

Yours sincerely,



T.H. Barry

Director

Correspondence concerning the life of William Lutley Solater, *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*³⁰

³⁰ T.H. Barry to Mrs. Ann Brooks, January 7th, 1980, Faculty Bio Solater, William, box 58, CC Archives, Special Collections, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa
Vol. XXXI (1948)

Obituary Notices.

xlvi

HERMANN BOHLE, M.V.D.I., M.I.E.E.

Hermann Bohle, M.V.D.I., M.I.E.E., Fellow, was born in Germany on 4th October 1876, and was educated at the Oberrealschule, Hagen, Westphalia. He graduated with honours at the Royal Engineering College, Hagen.

Coming to England, he was employed at various important engineering works in Birmingham and Walsall. He took charge of the electrical classes at the Municipal Technical School, Birmingham, and afterwards was Chief Lecturer in Electrical Engineering at the City of Bradford Technical College.

In 1906 he became the first Professor of Electrical Engineering at the South African College, since 1918 the University of Cape Town. For the next thirty years, until his retirement at the end of 1933, Professor Bohle was actively associated with the rapid and great expansion of the School of Engineering, later the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Cape Town. In 1909 he was largely instrumental in starting evening technical classes at the South African College, out of which grew the Cape Technical College. Among his many publications are textbooks on Transformers and Illumination Engineering.

He died in Berlin in July 1943, leaving a widow, two sons, and three daughters.

WILLIAM LUTLEY SCLATER.

W. L. Sclater was born on 23rd September 1863, and was killed by enemy action in London in June 1944.

Educated at Winchester and Keble College, Oxford, where he took First-Class Honours in 1885, Sclater afterwards visited British Guiana. In 1887 he was appointed Demonstrator under Professor Adam Sedgwick at Cambridge, and later in the same year Deputy Superintendent of the Indian Museum at Calcutta. From 1891 he was Science Master at Eton College until his appointment as Director of the South African Museum in 1896. In this capacity he spent ten fruitful years, reorganising the exhibits in the then newly built Museum, widening the scope of the Museum's activities, and inaugurating its scientific publication "Annals of the South African Museum," and a series of popular standard works on the fauna of South Africa (Mammals and, in collaboration with Dr. Stark, Birds).

From 1906 to 1909 he was reorganising the Museum at Colorado College (Colorado Springs was the home of his wife's people). Returning to London

William Lutley Sclater Obituary, *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*³¹

³¹ William Lutley Sclater Obituary, 1948, Faculty Bio Sclater, William, box 58, CC Archives, Special Collections, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

he became an honorary worker at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), where his tall, spare figure, with monocle, became familiar to all who had occasion to visit the Bird Room. In 1931 he became Hon. Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, and held that office until his death.

His association with the South African Philosophical Society began a month after his arrival in Cape Town, when on 29th April 1896 he was elected an Ordinary Member. His value to the Society must have been immediately apparent, because he was elected to the Council on 30th September of that same year. He continued to serve on the Council until 1904, and was Hon. Treasurer from 1897 to 1903. After the Philosophical Society became the Royal Society of South Africa he continued as a Member until 1913.

At meetings of the Society he frequently exhibited objects of interest, including the photograph of a skull of a Giant Lemur from Madagascar, stating that for the actual skull the extraordinary price of £8500 (*sic.* Min. Proc. S. Afr. Phil. Soc., 12th July 1899) was asked.

He was one of a Committee of five members appointed to discuss with five members of the Cape Photographic Society the formation of a collection of standard-sized photographs as permanent records of Bushman paintings. The Society's Minutes of Proceedings do not record the outcome of this valuable suggestion.

In 1899 Sclater's father, P. L. Sclater (Secretary of the Zoological Society, London), addressed the Society on the desirability of forming a Zoological Gardens in Cape Town. But although the Council was instructed to discuss the question of forming a Cape Zoological Society, the matter seems to have dropped.

Sclater's most important contributions to the Society's Transactions were three papers on the Diaz Cross and Post Office and other inscribed stones, published in 1898, 1901, and 1906, which focused attention on these historical Cape records. In his work on Mammals and Birds the historical background was as carefully recorded as the current literature on the subject.

The present writer only met Sclater on two brief occasions at the British Museum, but from all accounts he had a most engaging personality, and was always ready to help the earrest student from his vast store of information.

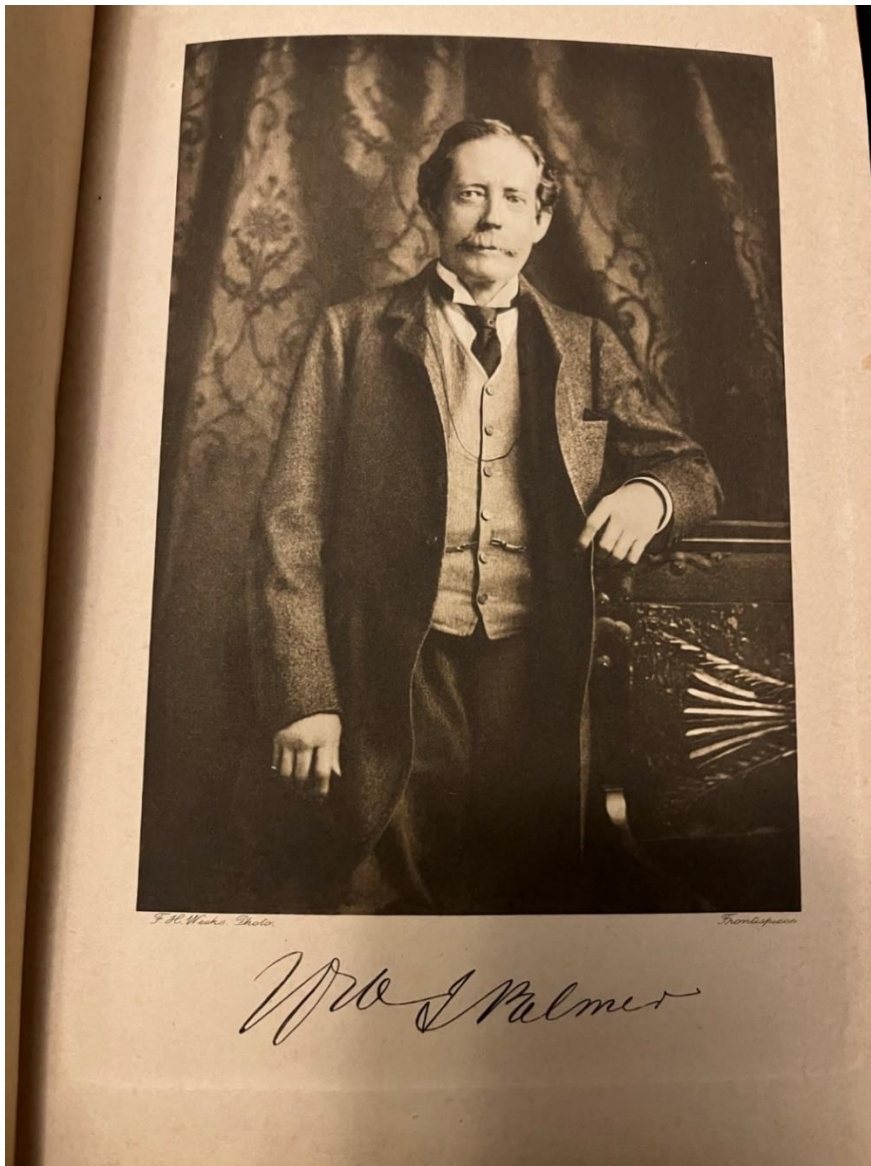
The above biography has been culled from the Proceedings and Transactions of the S.A. Philosophical Society, and Obituary Notices in Nature (vol. 154, 12th August and 23rd September 1944), and S.A. Mus. Assoc. Bull. (vol. 3, September 1944).

K. H. B.

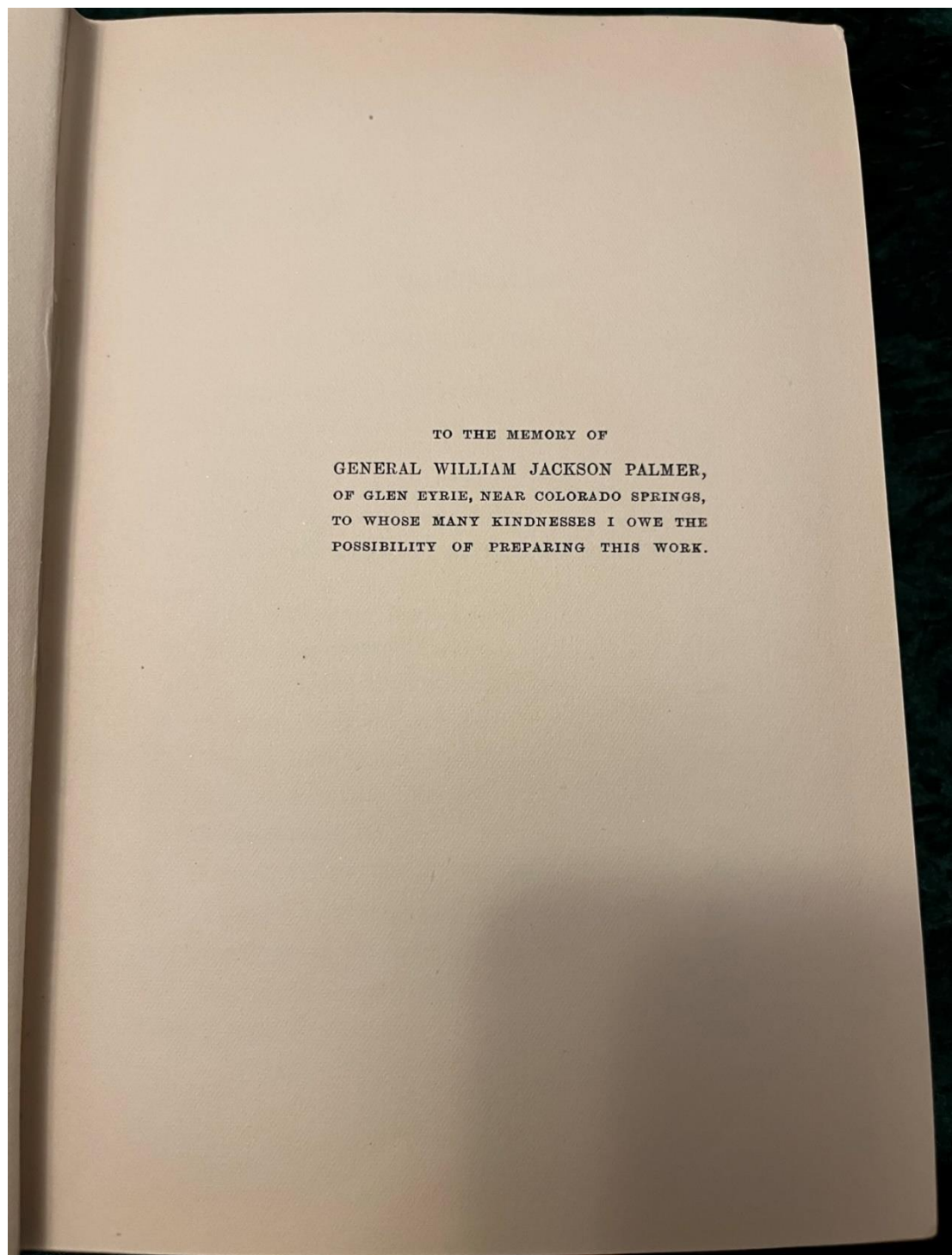
William Lutley Sclater Obituary, *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*³²

³² William Lutley Sclater Obituary, 1948, Faculty Bio Sclater, William, box 58, CC Archives, Special Collections, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

William Sclater's book, *A History of the Birds of Colorado*, written in 1912 while he lived in Colorado Springs, features seventeen plates and a map. It is dedicated to William Jackson Palmer. On the page before the dedication the book features a full-page portrait of William Palmer and his signature, this shows how important Palmer was in helping produce this work.



³³ William Lutley Sclater, "Photograph of General William Palmer," in *A History of the Birds of Colorado*, (London: Witherby & CO., 1912).



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³⁴ William Lutley Sclater, "Photograph of General William Palmer," in *A History of the Birds of Colorado*, (London: Witherby & CO., 1912).

INTRODUCTION.

PERHAPS some apology is necessary for the appearance of a new American Bird-book.

Mine must be that the only complete work on Colorado Birds is that of Cooke, which, though brought up-to-date by successive supplements, is now out of print and very difficult to obtain. Moreover, Cooke gives no descriptions or keys, so that it is not of much use to the tyro who wishes to identify the birds which he has observed or obtained.

The present volume is founded on the very complete collection of Colorado birds formed during the last thirty-five years by Mr. Charles E. Aiken, of Colorado Springs. This collection was recently acquired by General William J. Palmer, and presented by him to the Museum of Colorado College. As was well known to all General Palmer's intimate friends, he was a great lover of Nature, and specially of the wild birds of his adopted State, and it was in accordance with his often expressed desire that I undertook the preparation of this work, and made use of the Aiken collection for the purpose.

Before arrangements could be made for its publication his death occurred.

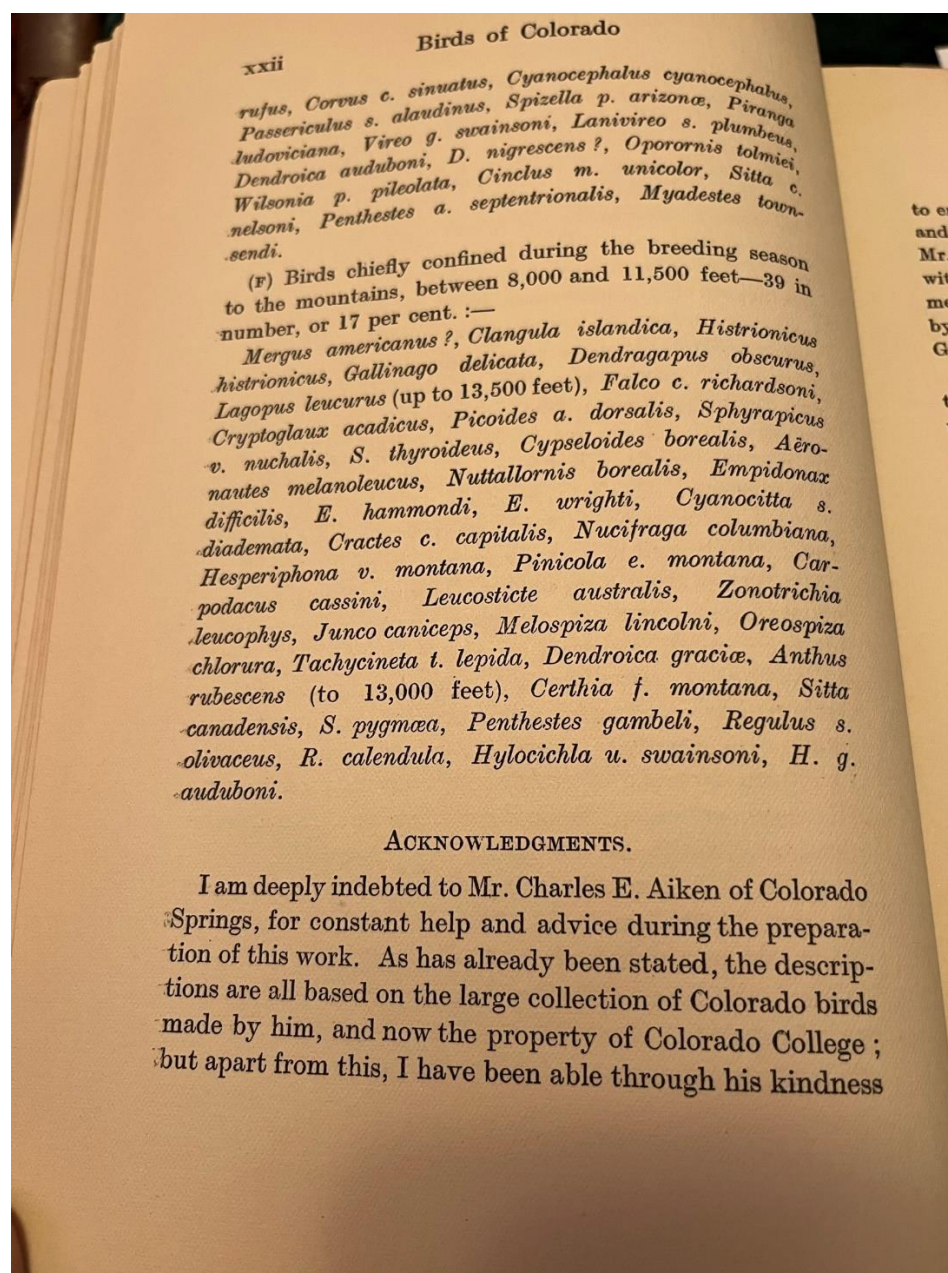
The complete volume has, therefore, been dedicated to him; and, as a personal memorial, the necessary expenses involved in publication have been defrayed by his sister-in-law, Mrs. William Lutley Sclater and his brother-in-law, Mr. Chase Mellen, of New York.

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³⁵ William Lutley Sclater, "Photograph of General William Palmer," in *A History of the Birds of Colorado*, (London: Witherby & CO., 1912), xi.

The introduction and acknowledgements of *The Birds of Colorado* demonstrates that Sclater knew Aiken and worked with him to complete the book.



³⁶William Lutley Sclater, "Photograph of General William Palmer," in *A History of the Birds of Colorado*, (London: Witherby & CO., 1912), xxii.

Introduction

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to embody much information derived both from his notes and from what he has told me from his own experiences. Mr. Edward R. Warren has also helped me in many cases with specimens and information, and has kindly allowed me to make use of several MSS. lists of birds drawn up by him, especially those made in various places in Gunnison county.

To Judge Junius Henderson and to the authorities of the State University of Colorado, I am indebted for the use of the invaluable notes kept during many years of collecting by the late Mr. Dennis Gale, of Gold Hill, Boulder co.

All the information we have in regard to the breeding of a large number of species of Colorado birds is to be found in these note-books, which have been most carefully arranged, indexed and typewritten by Mr. Henderson, and which are now the property of the State University.

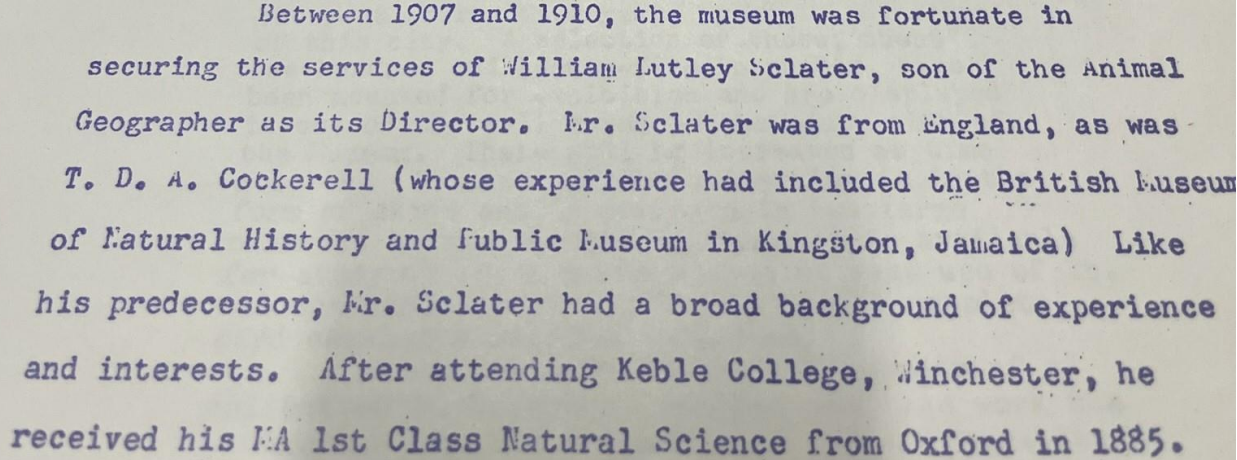
Messrs. R. B. Rockwell, L. J. Hersey, F. M. Dille and H. G. Smith, all of Denver; Mr. C. S. Thompson, of Greenwood Springs; and Messrs. W. W. Cooke, H. C. Oberholser and C. W. Richmond, of Washington, have all helped me in various ways with information or advice, and to all these gentlemen my heartiest thanks are hereby tendered.

For the photographs illustrating principally the nests and eggs of Colorado birds I have to thank again Messrs. E. R. Warren, R. B. Rockwell and L. J. Hersey, as well as Mr. H. W. Nash, of Pueblo. In each case an acknowledgment of the source of the photograph reproduced is given.

³⁷ William Lutley Sclater, "Photograph of General William Palmer," in *A History of the Birds of Colorado*, (London: Witherby & CO., 1912), xxiii.

Colorado College Natural History Museum and Sclater

A paper by Dorothy Mierow about the Colorado College Natural History Museum, provides an overview of Sclater's time as director with some additional information about Charles Aiken.



Between 1907 and 1910, the museum was fortunate in securing the services of William Lutley Sclater, son of the Animal Geographer as its Director. Mr. Sclater was from England, as was T. D. A. Cockerell (whose experience had included the British Museum of Natural History and Public Museum in Kingston, Jamaica) Like his predecessor, Mr. Sclater had a broad background of experience and interests. After attending Keble College, Winchester, he received his MA 1st Class Natural Science from Oxford in 1885.

Excerpts from *A Study of the Colorado College Museum*, by Dorothy Mierow. *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*³⁸

³⁸ Dorothy Mierow, *A Study of the Colorado College Museum*, 1955?, Faculty Bio Sclater, William, box 58, CC Archives, Special Collections, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

For four years he was assistant master at Eton College. Between 1887 and 1896 he was the Director of the South African Museum at Capetown, where he wrote a book on the mammals and birds of South Africa.

He married one of Queen Palmer's half sisters and General Palmer built the White House Ranch near the Garden of the Gods for them. Since General Palmer was greatly interested in birds, he purchased the 5,000 bird skins prepared by C. E. Aiken, in 1907 and encouraged Mr. Sclater to write a book on the birds of Colorado. The book, "A History of the Birds of Colorado", came out in 1912 after General Palmer's death and was dedicated to him. By this time the Sclaters had moved back to England where he became associated with the British Museum and seems to have traveled considerably. He is listed in "Who's Who" from 1916 to 1944 when he and his wife were killed in the London blitz. Besides writing another book on "The Birds of Kenya and Uganda" with Sir F. Jackson and numerous publications in Scientific Journals, he was Editor of the Ibis and Hon. Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society.

The additions to the museum during Mr. Sclater's time include the following interesting notations:

1908 - "During the past year the Museum has acquired through the generosity of General Wm. J. Palmer the unrivalled collection of Colorado and other birds accumulated during the past thirty-five years by Mr. C. E. Aiken of this city. A selection of these, about one hundred and twenty-five in number, have been mounted for exhibition and are displayed in one of the wall cases on the south side of the Museum. These will be increased as time goes on. The rest of the collection is in the form of skins and is arranged in two large cabinets in the Director's room; it is available for study by any one who wishes to make use of it. All the birds are fully labeled and a complete card catalogue has been prepared.

A commencement has also been made of a collection of Colorado mammals. In this work the Museum has had the advantage of the co-operation of Mr. E. R. Warren, through whose generosity some

Excerpts from *A Study of the Colorado College Museum*, by Dorothy Mierow. *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*³⁹

³⁹ Dorothy Mierow, *A Study of the Colorado College Museum*, 1955?, Faculty Bio Sclater, William, box 58, CC Archives, Special Collections, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

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seventeen examples of local forms have already been acquired and mounted. These are exhibited in the same case as the Aiken birds."

Since the Aiken collection of birds has played such an important part in the College Museum and Aiken's name is so prominent in the community, it might be well at this point to give some information about his background.

Charles E. Aiken was a pioneer taxidermist and curio dealer in Colorado Springs, but it would do him an injustice to stop here, for his interests were as varied as Cragins and Sclaters.

Born in Benson, Vermont in 1850, he came to Colorado Springs the year it was founded - 1871. He started as a collector of Natural History specimens and then bought the Will Price Tannery and wool pulling factory where he conducted the Aiken and Johnson fur shop until 1873. After this he became a member of the firm, Tith, Aiken and Hunt, an agency for pianos and sewing machines with a curio store connected. For a while he also managed the old Courthouse and booked traveling shows and other entertainment. He was a member of the volunteer fire department and a charter member of the El Paso Club. In 1874 he was the naturalist with Wheaton's government exploring expedition and discovered new species of birds and fish, some of which have been named for him. "He was a great student and authority on ornithology, paleontology, history of the earth, evolution, heredity, breeding and training. He spent 25 years and \$10,000 developing a strain of bird dogs and also developed many new flowers." (From Obituary in C.S. Gazette Jan. 16, 1936)

Excerpts from *A Study of the Colorado College Museum*, by Dorothy Mierow. Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Dorothy Mierow, *A Study of the Colorado College Museum*, 1955?, Faculty Bio Sclater, William, box 58, CC Archives, Special Collections, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Dr. W.W. Arnold

Do I Love The Birds!

Do I love the birds, you ask?

Love I the sunshine and the flowers?

To love the birds is a pleasing task,

Sweetening all my waking hours.

W.W Arnold 1912.⁴¹

William W. Arnold moved to Colorado Springs from his home in Illinois out of desire to live here. He was a physician by training and practice, but also a dedicated ornithologist. While running a physicians practice in Colorado Springs he also had a bird hospital where he cared for ill and disabled domestic and wild birds. He became a well-known figure in Colorado Springs and consistently advocated for care and understanding of birds. He had a certain gentility and special way with birds, which allowed him to care for and heal them. After significant storms and drastic weather changes he would often have an uptick in the numbers of wild birds that visited his hospital. He was an advocate for the birds, making sure to feature words of warning about human impacts on local bird populations. Arnold died in 1923. His obituary in the *Gazette* states, “In reminiscences of the career of Dr. Arnold, many remember his ever-thoughtful care of birds during the severe winter months, not only of feathered patients in the hospital, but for the free wild birds as well.”⁴² His familiar warning which appeared in the columns of the *Gazette* were seldom forgotten, and he constantly urged householders to “feed the birds.”⁴³ He made it

⁴¹ W.W. Arnold, “Do I love the birds?”, 1912., Ms 0001, box 3, folder 28, Charles Aiken Papers, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.

⁴² Dr. Arnold Obituary. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_W._Arnold_\(ornithologist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_W._Arnold_(ornithologist)) <https://more.ppld.org/SpecialCollections/Index/ArticleOrders/477091.pdf>.

⁴³ Dr. Arnold Obituary. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_W._Arnold_\(ornithologist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_W._Arnold_(ornithologist)) <https://more.ppld.org/SpecialCollections/Index/ArticleOrders/477091.pdf>.

his life's work to not only care for nature's creatures but to educate others, especially children, about protecting wildlife. It is clear that Charles Aiken and Dr. Arnold knew each other and were likely friends. Many of Arnold's writings on birds are featured in the Charles Aiken Papers at the Tutt Library Special Collections and a photograph of Aiken taken outside his Colorado Springs home, displayed in E.R Warren's tribute to Aiken, credits W.W. Arnold as the photographer.



Photograph of Dr. W.W. Arnold with two bird patients at his hospital for disabled Wild Birds, *Courtesy of the Library of Congress*⁴⁴

⁴⁴ Photograph of Dr. W.W. Arnold with two bird patients and his hospital for disabled wild birds, Library of Congress, June 16th, 1919, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3b35358/>.

The following obituary for Dr. Arnold provides an overview of his life and gives a sense of how important he was to the Colorado Springs community and to conservation in the Pikes Peak Region.

Colo Spgs Gazette Sat 3/31/1923 1:6

DR. WILLIAM W. ARNOLD, NATURE LOVER, IS DEAD

Birds and Children All His Friends; Hospital for Feathered Creatures Nationally Known; Adopted by Indian Tribe for Saving Girl's Life in 1869

Dr. W. W. Arnold, whose love for birds and children, has gained for him the affection of a community, died early yesterday at his home, 504 North Nevada avenue, after a short illness, so severe as to prevent him from winning a courageous fight waged with all the vigor of a splendid constitution.

Eighty years old, Dr. Arnold was the pioneer physician in point of active service in Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region, having practiced up until a few days before his death for more than 50 years. A fondness for nature study and a sincere attachment for wild life and its preservation drew the attention of the doctor to caring for feathered patients several years ago, and the reputation of the bird hospital since maintained at his home is nationwide. Pictures of the institution have been shown in Europe as well as this country.

Gentle in character, small in stature, Dr. Arnold won for himself a

(Continued on Page 3—Col. 3)

BIG PLANTING BEE PLANNED FOR MONDAY

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⁴⁵ Arnold Obituary . [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_W._Arnold_\(ornithologist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_W._Arnold_(ornithologist))
<https://more.ppld.org/SpecialCollections/Index/ArticleOrders/477091.pdf>.



Pioneer physician surrounded by feathered patients while confined to his bed thru illness in the early part of the winter. Dr. Arnold recovered only to suffer a relapse several days ago, which caused his death. The picture was taken during the winter months and showed Dr. Arnold with one of his patients in his hand, being treated for a broken wing. Others of his bird friends may be seen grouped on the covers. They are stuffed, and present an unusually fine collection.

DR. W. W. ARNOLD, NATURE LOVER, DIES

(Continued from Page One)

host of friends in Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region among men, women and children, particularly the latter, scores of them having brought wounded and maimed birds to his door for treatment. There is now under way a movement to organize a Dr. Arnold Nature Study and Bird club, in honor of the pioneer physician, sponsored by A. P. Brigham, who has taken over the care of the bird hospital for the last few months.

Members of Family With Him.

Members of Dr. Arnold's family were with him continually for the last few days prior to his death from the time an attack of influenza

part of the winter, to the very end.

Dr. Arnold was born in Connersville, Ind., August 28, 1843, his father, John Arnold, being a physician. He came to Colorado Springs in October, 1886, and practiced medicine steadily up until a few days before his death. He made a practice of compounding his own drugs, and his offices downtown hold an unusually complete collection.

Dr. Arnold married on July 14, 1863,

prior to his arrival in the Pikes Peak region, to Miss Mary Evaline Shaw. He is survived by his wife, a son, Dr. Clarence R. Arnold of this city, and John S. Arnold, a brother, in addition to several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Joined Many Clubs.

He was affiliated with the First Presbyterian church, and was an honored member of the Winter Night club, the American Medical and Colorado Medical associations, the El Paso County Medical association and the Audubon association. He was also an associate editor of Colorado Sky, having conducted a bird department of that magazine, of which Prof. F. H. Loud is the editor, for several years.

Hubbard & Co

DEPARTMENT STORE

17-19 SOUTH TEJON ST.

⁴⁶ Arnold Obituary . [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_W._Arnold_\(ornithologist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_W._Arnold_(ornithologist))
<https://more.ppld.org/SpecialCollections/Index/ArticleOrders/477091.pdf>.

1923

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Dr. Arnold, some few days prior to his death, described his favorite recreations as nature studies and the conducting of a "hospital for the care of disabled wild birds," being the originator of the same.

Dr. Arnold was particularly fond of The Gazette, and during his lifetime sent to its editors many stories of wild life among the birds which he studied so faithfully. The last picture before his death was taken by The Gazette with a collection of live and stuffed birds grouped on his bed.

Adopted by Indians.

An interesting feature of his career was his interest in the American Indian. He was adopted by the Chippewas of Crow Wing reservation in Minnesota in 1869, when he cured an Indian girl of pneumonia, after the magic powers of her grandfather, the medicine man, had signally failed to halt the disease. He was the owner of a bear-claw necklace, a priceless heirloom of the Chippewa Indians, and a long-stemmed pipe; also a famous beaded tobacco bag, presented to him by Puh-quah-je-gay, an Indian queen who ruled a tribe of Indian Amazons.

Dr. Arnold was the author of many magazine articles which appeared thruout the country in various publications, and was himself the subject of many more, which were given prominence thruout the nation.

In reminiscences of the career of Dr. Arnold, many remember his ever-thoughtful care of birds during the severe winter months, not only of feathered patients in the hospital, but for the free wild birds as well. His familiar warnings which appeared in the columns of The Gazette were seldom forgotten, and he constantly urged householders to "feed the birds."

Tribute From Child.

One letter, now carefully preserved by members of his family, received

from one of his girl friends while he was ill, started with this verse as a tribute:

"If I were a bird, I'd sing you a song;

I'd sit by your window the whole winter long."

Dr. Arnold not only loved nature studies himself, but interested scores of children in the doctrine of "preservation of wild life." By the example of his gentle care of injured birds and thoughtfulness for those alive, he has instilled among the children of the public schools of the region an affection for the feathered

tribe second only to his own.

Colorado Springs' birds are safe, not only now, but in the future. The force of his example will go down thru the years.

COUGHS
Apply over throat and chest
—swallow small pieces of—
VICKS
VAPORUB
Over 17 Million Jars Used Yearly



Still Time to Wear

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⁴⁷ Arnold Obituary . [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_W._Arnold_\(ornithologist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_W._Arnold_(ornithologist))
<https://more.ppld.org/SpecialCollections/Index/ArticleOrders/477091.pdf>.

My Epitaph!
When I am dead and laid beneath the sod,
Rear no monumental slabs to tell who
lies here,
But let the flowers and birds, ministers
of God,
Hold their loving revels there.
W.W Arnold 1912.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ W.W. Arnold, "My Epitaph!", 1912., Ms 0001, box 3, folder 28, Charles Aiken Papers, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.

Aiken Audubon Society History

“Our mission is to promote the enjoyment, study, and conservation of the birds of the Pikes Peak region.”⁴⁹

This section features articles relevant to the Aiken Audubon Chapter of the Pikes Peak Region that were discovered in archival collections upon conducting research for this project. This is not intended to be a comprehensive history of the society, considering the scarcity of documents found, but rather to highlight findings. According to the Aiken Audubon Society website, “Aiken Audubon Society, named for naturalist [Charles Aiken](#) (1850-1936), began in April 1950 as the Aiken Ornithological Society. This Society mainly studied birds and their habitats, wrote papers which are now housed in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and had a series of Wildlife Film-Lectures as a community activity. Aiken Ornithological Society became a chapter of the National Audubon Society in May 1971.”⁵⁰ A description and history of Aiken Audubon with more detail, written by Linda Hodges is quoted below:

Aiken Audubon History

Written by Linda Hodges, 2022

“Early Years and Incorporation

Prior to the Aiken Audubon Society, in Colorado Springs, there was the Aiken Ornithological Society. According to member Sally Sorensen, the group existed when she and Ben moved to Colorado Springs in 1965. It was centered around Colorado College and a few of

⁴⁹ “Aiken Audubon Mission Statement”, accessed October 11, 2022, <https://www.aikenaudubon.com/>

⁵⁰ “History”, accessed October 11th, 2022, <https://www.aikenaudubon.com/about-aiken-audubon-2/>.

the professors. It was a small, close-knit group that birded together, held programs at Colorado College and gathered socially. They put out a newsletter and charged a small membership fee.

On July 13, 1972 the Aiken Audubon Society was incorporated. Signers of the papers were Kenneth Turner Blackshaw (USAFA), R Fred Rebbeck and Susan Reese (possibly now Susan Craig?). The updated “Constitution and By-laws” (Dec 1972) shows that the organization was part of the National Audubon Society. Ken Blackshaw was behind the push to become part of National. At that time, committees consisted of Membership, Publicity, Education and Library, Programs, Field Trips and Courtesy (sending sympathy and appreciation cards). No copy of the original Constitution has been found.

The purposes of the organization were educational, scientific, investigative, literary, historical, and philanthropic and charitable. Student membership was \$6. “Existing members of the Aiken Ornithological Society may retain their membership at \$2 per annum,” per the by-laws. On February 26, 1973, Aiken Audubon Society became a 501(c)3. The address given was 1113 Wood Ave.

Throughout the years, Aiken Audubon has continued to offer field trips, monthly programs (Sept- May) and newsletters, as well as sponsoring the Spring, Fall and Christmas Bird Counts. The organization has given conservation and research grants, and in 2021 initiated both the Foothills and Prairie Grant Program as well as the Young Birders’ Fund. In addition, they’ve helped fund the Pikes Peak Birding and Nature Festival, which was founded by member and Past-President Rise” Foster-Bruder.

Members that have played major roles over the years include Sally and Ben Sorensen, Charlie Campbell, Virginia and John Maynard, Gary Conover and Rise” Foster-Bruder.

Redwing Sanctuary

May 24, 1982: Redwing Sanctuary was donated to Aiken by HHP (?), according to the paperwork. The 18.1-acre parcel was bounded by Academy Blvd to the east, Pikes Peak Ave to the north, Bijou St to the south, and Spring Creek to the east. Aiken raised about \$40,000, which was intended for a nature center on the property. With insurance and property taxes costing ~\$1000/year, however; it became unsupportable. The property was donated to the city of Colorado Springs in 2010 after attempts to sell it via the TOPS (Trails, Open Space and Parks) city program failed.

Kiowa Creek Sanctuary

1992: Janet Faar donated Kiowa Creek Sanctuary, with deed restrictions, to Audubon (not to Aiken). The 1579-acre property is located at 10165 Hodgen Rd in Black Forest. For a number of years it was managed by Aiken Audubon, mainly by member Jeannie Mitchell, who furnished the house on the property. Field trips and Sunday/Sundae gatherings were held regularly, and one Aiken couple was married there.

In 2010, Audubon Rockies took over management of Kiowa Creek, as it was necessary for the property to become income-producing. In 2014, it was leased to Corner Post Meats, which is run sustainably by Adrienne Larrew and Dan Lorenz. Corner Post was the first ranch certified by Audubon's Conservation Ranching Initiative. As of this date, Corner Post continues to lease it, and welcomes Aiken on the property for field trips."⁵¹

⁵¹ Hodges, Linda. History of Aiken Audubon Society.

News Articles Featuring Aiken Audubon

In 1986 the Aiken Audubon Society recognized the 50th anniversary of Charles Aiken's death by creating a checklist of birds. These activities are featured in this news article along with information about Charles Aiken.

Charles Aiken, Charles

Charles Aiken



He was the originator of the method of dressing animal skins with the heads on, a process which became universally used.



Charles Aiken's Music Store and Museum housed, not only his fur and taxidermy business, but subjects of natural history and scientific interest pertaining to the West.

Store a bonanza for tourists

By Dorothy Aldridge
Gazette Telegraph

A live mountain lion named "General Grant" was the star attraction when the area's foremost naturalist, Charles E. H. Aiken, opened his Music Store and Museum in December 1882 at 2 E. Kiowa St.

Viewing the animal in his den in back of the store was free to "all patrons who have ever bought anything at the museum or who expect ever to do so. All others must pay 10 cents for the privilege," announced an ad in the Dec. 23, 1882 issue of the Weekly Gazette.

The Kiowa Street location was one of several for the store which Aiken first established in 1878 to house his fur and taxidermy business. He also used the store as a repository for subjects of natural history and of scientific interest pertaining to the West.

The store also satisfied the demand of tourists for souvenirs and "curious things." It also served as headquarters throughout the West for furs and rugs and the manufacture and repair of fur garments.

The store was so large and diverse that a diagram of it with identification for each department was included in the ad, so patrons would know exactly where to go to take care of their needs. The departments included fur goods, curios, small music goods and sheet music, Pueblo Indian pottery, native jewelry, fossils and minerals, pianos, organs and sewing machines.

By the time he opened his new store, Aiken had become a skillful taxidermist. He was the originator of the method of dressing animal skins with the heads on, a process which became universally used. Among those in Colorado engaged in taxidermy and related pursuits, Aiken was said to be the only one having previous scientific training.

Aiken was born in Benson, Vt., Sept. 7, 1850. He spent his boyhood in Chicago where he associated with members of the National Ornithologists, a society of Harvard graduates. Some of his bird skins

peek in the past

Dorothy Aldridge

from the Chicago area were taken as early as 1868.

After his father's business was destroyed in the great Chicago fire, Aiken pursued his dream of going West, where the field of ornithology was new and unexplored.

He arrived in Colorado Springs in October 1871, only a few months after the town had been founded. He spent that winter on a ranch his father had acquired on Turkey Creek, 18 miles southwest of Colorado Springs, where he began to study and collect birds. Such species as Townsend's Solitaire, Merriam's Turkey and the white-necked raven came to his attention.

He also wrote descriptions of the nests of the scrub jay and Virginia's warbler. In December 1872, his work was published in the proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. In 1875, a description of a gray-headed Junco nest found by Aiken was published.

In 1874 Aiken opened a taxidermist's shop in the back of his uncle's curio store on Pikes Peak Avenue. Much of his time was spent traveling around the Pikes Peak region in pursuit of birds. During the summer and autumn he worked as a naturalist with the U.S. Government's Wheeler Survey, which surveyed and mapped the mountains of Southern Colorado. The various species of birds, fish and mammals he collected were sent to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. as being representative of wildlife in Colorado.

That same year he collected a prairie falcon in the Garden of the Gods and a snow bunting near Colorado Springs. His search for new species took him on

Checklist begins with Aiken's notes

In observance of the 50th anniversary of the death of Charles Aiken, members of the Aiken Audubon Society are compiling a checklist of birds in El Paso County.

Aiken, who came to the Colorado Springs area in 1871, became the leading authority on birds in the Rocky Mountain region in the late 1800s. He continued his ornithological work throughout his life and died on Jan. 15, 1926.

The Aiken Audubon Society's checklist will begin with sightings made as early as 1871 by Aiken, said Ben Sorensen, society president.

"The checklist will be done in a taxonomical fashion from his field notes which we found at Tutt Library," he said, "with the dates of the sightings added."

The checklist will include the names of birds, their habitat, whether they are residents, visitors, summer visitors or migratory birds.

"There will also be an abundance code indicating whether a bird is commonly sighted, fairly common, unusual or rarely seen," said Sorensen. "For example, the designation 'unusual' will indicate that a bird will probably be seen less than 10 times in the course of a year. We will include a time frame for sighting birds — spring, summer, fall and winter."

The checklist, which is almost completed, will be printed on a piece of paper 8 1/2 by 11 inches, folded into pocket size, Sorensen said. The price each checklist will be 25 cents. The lists will be available through the society by calling 635-47.

The checklist project will be discussed at a general meeting of the society at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 15 in Room 201 of Rastall Center at Colorado College.

See CHARLES, next page

Charles Aiken:

From previous page

collection tours as far away as Salt Lake City and Arizona. He sometimes brought back Indian trinkets to be sold in the curio store.

Aiken was described as a man of keen hearing and sight. He could recognize bird calls and imitate them by whistling. He also had a sharp eye for plumage. He identified a smaller, darker-marked race of the screech owl which was later named for him. Aiken also secured the first specimen of the white-winged junco known to science.

By the time his new store opened, Aiken had one of the finest collections of mounted birds and bird skins in the country and had become known as the best informed ornithologist in the Rocky Mountain Region. In his spare time, he continued to search for new species. By 1907, his fine collection totaled 4,700 specimens. It was purchased by Colorado Springs' founder, Gen. William Jackson Palmer, who donated it to the natural history museum at Colorado College. With the demise of the museum at CC, the collec-

tion went on permanent loan to the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Aiken didn't personally collect the entire collection of mounted birds and bird skins. Many were acquired by exchange with other collectors and by purchase. With few exceptions they were all North American species.

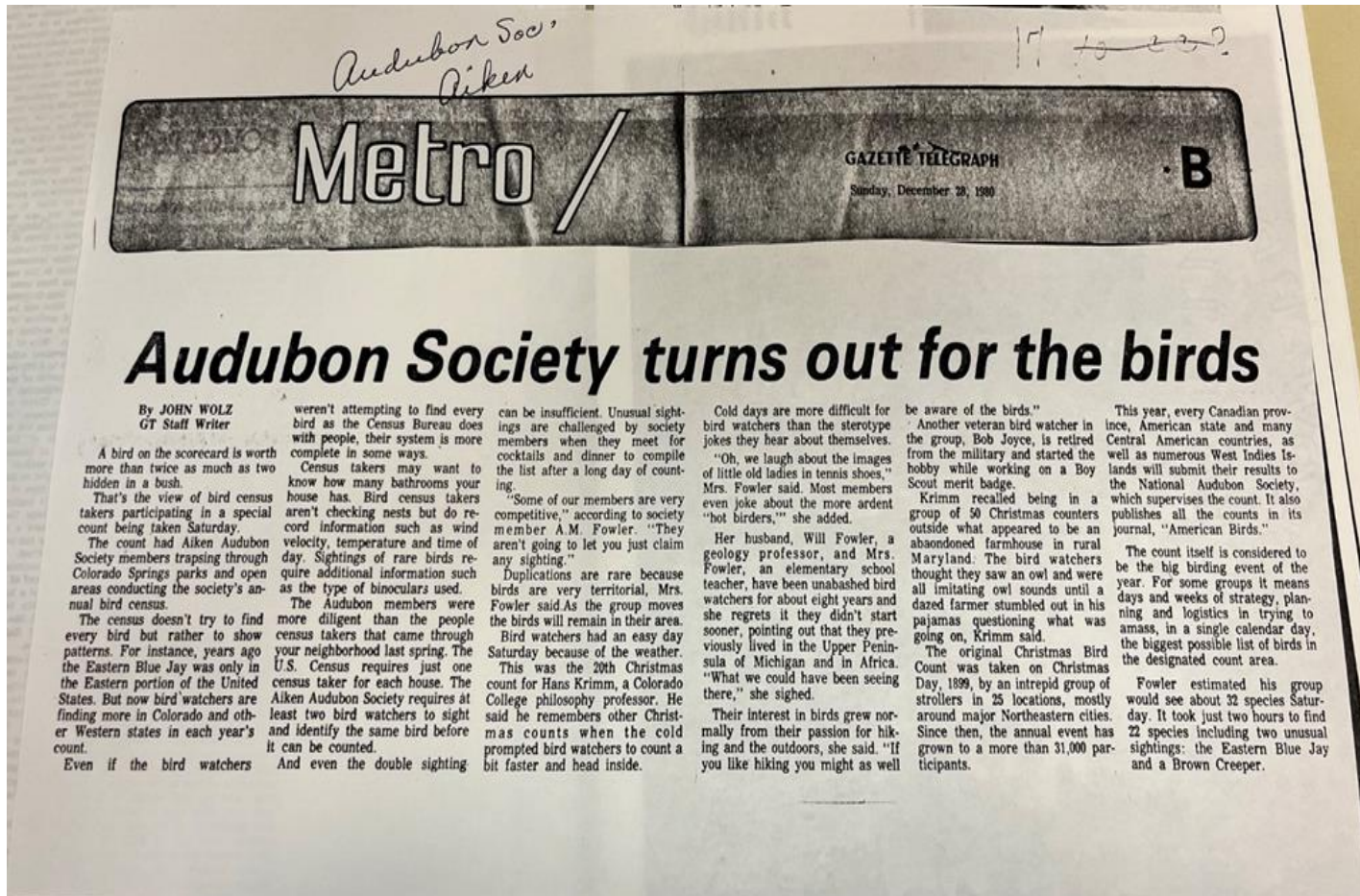
Immediately after Palmer purchased the collection, Aiken began collecting birds and bird skins for a second collection, an activity he continued into his declining years.

Locally, Aiken was a charter member of the El Paso Club and a member of the volunteer fire department as well as being secretary of Babcock Company. He was a member of the American Ornithologists Union. At the annual meeting of the organization in 1926, he was made an honorary life member, which he considered to be a great honor.

After being ill with pneumonia for a week, Aiken died the night of Jan. 15, 1936, at his home, 1523 N. Tejon St., ending approximately 68 years of ornithological work.

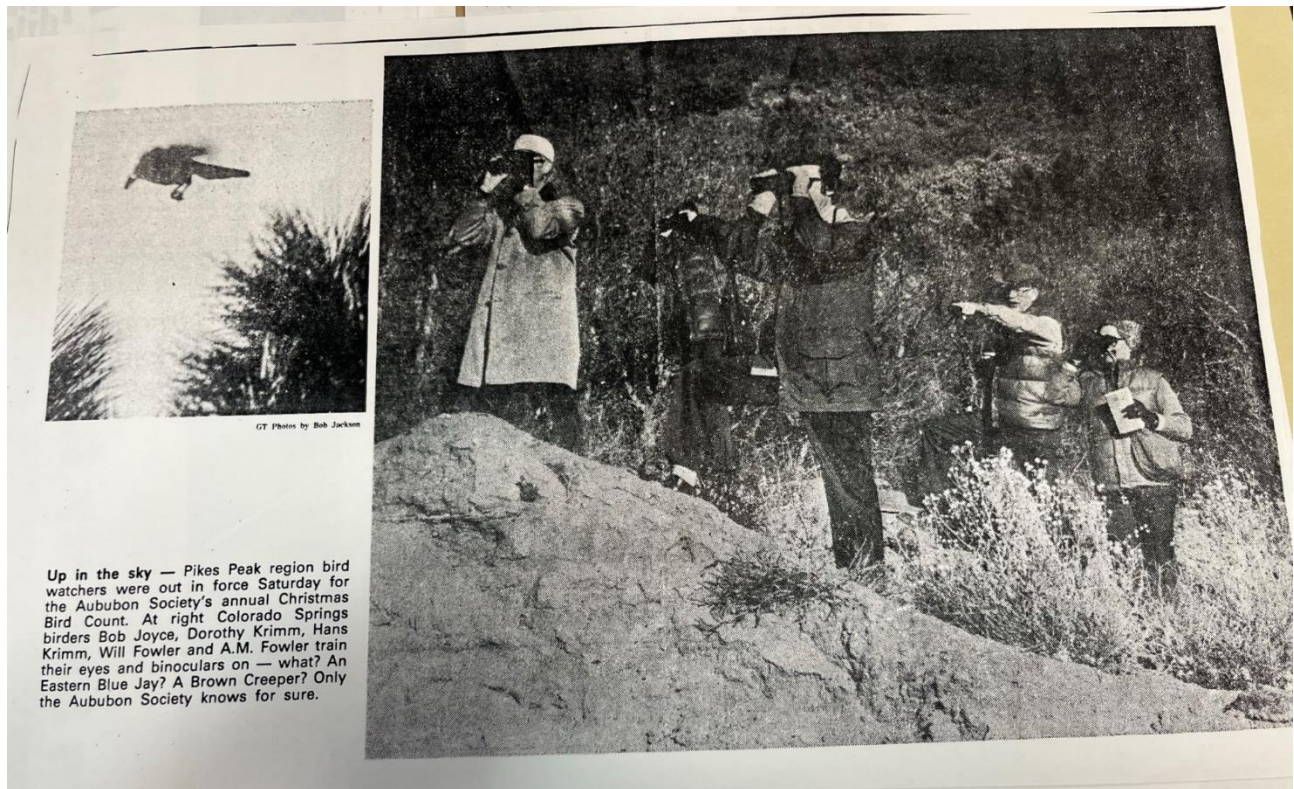
Newspaper Article About Charles Aiken and the Aiken Audubon Society, *Courtesy of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado*⁵²

⁵² "Charles Aiken" 1912., Ms 0001, box 3, folder 28, Charles Aiken Papers, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.



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⁵³ Gazette Telegraph Article about the Aiken Audubon Society December 28th 1980, Aiken Family Collection, A44-81, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum Starsmore Center for Local History.



Gazette Telegraph Article about the Aiken Audubon Society December 28th 1980, *Courtesy of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum Starsmore Center for Local History* ⁵⁴

⁵⁴Gazette Telegraph Article about the Aiken Audubon Society December 28th 1980, Aiken Family Collection, A44-81, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum Starsmore Center for Local History.

Color IF- Aiken Canyon

B2 GAZETTE TELEGRAPH SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1994

CITY/REGION

Canyon to open to public; county OKs visitor center

By Dru Wilson
Gazette Telegraph

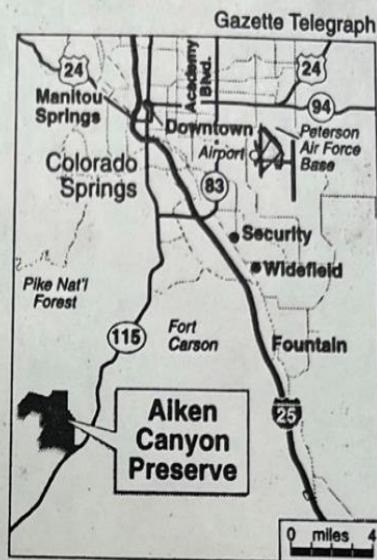
The public will have access to 1,900 acres of canyonland southwest of Colorado Springs starting next month.

The El Paso County commissioners Thursday approved a plan for a visitor center, offices and parking lot that is the last chapter in a nearly 10-year fight to preserve the area known as Aiken Canyon.

The area was named for Charles Aiken, the state's first zoologist, who lived near the canyon in the 1870s.

A proposal for a granite quarry in the 1980s prompted the drive to preserve the canyon, which is owned by the state land board. In 1991, the Nature Conservancy struck a deal for a 99-year lease to create a nature preserve.

Alan Carpenter, spokesman for the conservancy, said the area will be open to visitors only on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays to minimize the impact on the land and animals. The park will be free of charge to hikers, and the visitor center will offer displays, classes and



information on the area's natural history.

A grand opening is planned June 4, Carpenter said.

A \$1.1 million fund-raising drive to pay for the center and other improvements has raised \$950,000. The center is expected to be built later this year on 60 acres of land outside the canyon on the west side of Colorado Highway 115, 16 miles south of Colorado Springs.

Aiken Canyon Gazette Newspaper Article, 1994, *Courtesy of Colorado College Special Collections*⁵⁵

⁵⁵ "Canyon to open to public; county OKs visitor center," *Gazette Telegraph*, 1994, Ms 0001, box 3, folder 28, Charles Aiken Papers, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.

Finally, this study concludes with a transcription of a conversation with members of the Aiken Ornithological Society in October of 1961.

CHAT WITH MEMBERS OF THE AIKEN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

16 Oct 61

If Uncle Charlie were alive he would be extremely pleased to know you had named the bird club after him. He was a rather slight, quiet and very modest man with a sweet smile who had time to talk about birds and animals with anyone who dropped into his shop to find out something they didn't know but were sure he did. In fact, his sisters used to get thoroughly disgusted with him because he let people pick his brains and then take credit in published articles for his findings.

When Dorothy asked me to reminisce a few minutes about Uncle Charlie and the Aiken Family, I hoped she would talk first and I could fill in the chinks, because actually we don't know a great deal. My sister, brother and I have put our heads together over a thousand miles – which in itself is a pretty good stunt if you can get away with it – and we haven't always agreed on our recollections but I believe most of the following details are correct. Uncle Charlie was 20 years older than my mother and by the time I was old enough to take an interest in his activities he seemed like an old man to me. By that time, except for short trips, he had given up hunting and ranging extensively looking for birds.

He was born in 1850 in Benson, Vt, the only boy with 4 sisters. The family moved from Vt to Chicago but the date is not known to me. Uncle Charlie never married but lived with 2 of the sisters who didn't always see eye to eye with his activities. He thought to the last, breakfast was the best meal of the day if it consisted of meat and potatoes and ended with pie.

I believe Uncle Charlie came to Colorado Springs alone about 1869. He was not very well as a result of military service with the Vermont Volunteers in the Civil War. This would have made him pretty young but I saw his moth-eaten uniform in the trunk in the Aiken barn after his death. He went down through Dead Man's Canon where he built a cabin north of the present Juniper Valley Ranch. There was a fine spring and I am told it is piped in to the Hitch Rack Ranch which, so far as we can tell, covers what was once the Aiken ranch. It was the spring where Uncle Charlie was waylaid by an extremely unfriendly Indian. He had gone into the spring house where his exit was blocked by the Indian. After some argument, Uncle Charlie pushed the man inside and started toward the cabin to get his gun. The Indian jumped on his pony and tried to run Uncle Charlie down. He stood his ground until the horse was almost on him, then he hit the horse with a glancing blow on the side of the head, which deflected its forward motion. The Indian tried the same maneuver 2 or 3 times and finally gave up in disgust and rode away.

My grandfather owned a department store in Chicago which he lost – with most of his worldly goods – in the fire of 1871. A young merchant tried to persuade him to pool their resources and open a store but Uncle Charlie had written such glowing accounts of the west that my grandfather decided not to go into business with this man – who was Marshall Field – but to

move his family to Colorado. How different all our lives would have been if he had stayed in Chicago! The train trip west was slow and arduous, as you can imagine. The train stopped at night because of Indian raids, and there were few comforts. The maid they brought with them took one look at the shacks which constituted Colorado Springs in 1871 and took the return train back to Chicago. Uncle Charlie met the family with oxcarts and transported them and their household goods to the ranch where my grandfather became a sheep rancher and my grandmother, who had always been a maid, learned the hard way about life in the west. The cabin was on the direct migration route the Indians followed spring and fall and my grandmother often had the dubious pleasure of cooking for Indians who said not a word but pushed open the door and sat down at the table.

One time Uncle Charlie and my grandfather were away when some Indians walked in. The chief apparently was attracted to my Aunt Kittie who was about 18 at the time. The Indian let my grandmother know in some manner that he was willing to swap his pony for Aunt Kittie. Somehow this seemed like an unequal trade and it was sometime before my grandmother was able to convince the chief that she didn't need the pony but did need her daughter.

We aren't sure just how many years the Aiken family stayed on the ranch although I think it was not more than 2 or 3. A sudden heavy spring snow – such as we all know out here – caught all the sheep and lambs, and my grandfather decided he'd had it and moved the family to Colorado Springs where he built the first 2 story house in town, on Huerfano and Weber. Huerfano is now Colorado Avenue and the lot is presently occupied by a fire station. This part about the first 2 story house may not be factual, as Marshall Sprague indicated in "Newport in the Rockies" that there were others in the vicinity of Cascade and Kiowa.

My mother was 5 when they moved to Colorado and she told me about playing on a large rock, overshadowed by a pine tree, near a cabin on the ranch. One day Uncle Charlie came out, gun in hand, and spoke very quietly to her, telling her to sit still and not be afraid. Then he shot a large bobcat on the branch right over her head.

My brother and I have often recalled the family picnic held at the ranch when he and I were small. I was probably about 5 at the time. All the Aiken Cousins, Aunts and Uncles foregathered in Colorado Springs and by three-seated carriages we drove to the ranch, taking all day for the trip. After all, it was eight miles each way on an extremely rough road, not laid out by expert highway engineers. We found lots of Indian arrowheads on the ground as we played near the big rock.

While they loved at the ranch for many years afterwards, Uncle Charlie went off in a wagon or on horseback looking for birds and animals. He would be gone for months at a time through strange, uncharted country of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, as well as Colorado, collecting eggs, nests and birds which he sent to the Smithsonian Institute. Many years ago I found several hand-written letters addressed to him from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to these specimens. I regret that I can no longer find these. In my many moves apparently they have been lost.

Uncle Charlie always took a dog with him on these trips, particularly a setter named Beach who was extremely intelligent. One time Uncle Charlie discovered he had lost his hunting knife – a very precious article in those days. Apparently he took Beach into his confidence and sent him back along the trail to find it. Sure enough, the dog returned after some time with the knife in his mouth.

There is a story in “Birds of the Southwest”, a Colorado College Bulletin published March 1937, about a favorite dog being stolen. Our recollection of the incident differs slightly from the printed version and is as follows: When he realized the dog was really missing, Uncle Charlie backtracked toward an Indian camp which he had passed, suspecting they had the dog. He met some soldiers and was talking to them when he saw the Indians coming down the trail and tied under the wagon was his dog. The soldiers assisted Uncle Charlie in retrieving the dog.

One day when the family was living on Huerfano St. Uncle Charlie found an unusual rattlesnake in snow and slush in the gutter. He took it home and put it in a mason jar which was placed beside the Franklin stove. Apparently he became very attached to the snake because he called it Percy, and Percy was a member of the family for several weeks; although never welcomed by the sisters. Percy revived with the heat and did a lot of singing in his jar. This so scared Aunt Jessie that the jar was moved to a shelf in the cellar entryway opening off the dining room. One day Aunt Kittie went to the shelf to get a jar of pickles and came out with Percy – every rattle in high gear. The resulting hullabaloo disgusted Uncle Charlie, who couldn’t understand or appreciate the squeamishness of the female members of his family. Reluctantly he killed the snake which he sent to the Smithsonian. It was found to be a rare specimen and they accepted it with alacrity.

One time about 1915 Uncle Charlie disappeared for two days and everyone, including the police, hunted frantically for him. When he returned tired but unharmed he was disgusted with the turmoil. He’d had a hunch about an unusual bird appearing north of Roswell, so he took the street car to the end of the line (without divulging his plans) and walked two or three miles farther. He sat down in a field for 36 hours when he successfully bagged the bird, which was also sent to the Smithsonian. They were delighted once more as that particular species had never been known to come this far south. Unfortunately, the name of the bird is unknown to any of us.

My sister tells about a trip with Uncle Charlie when she was 11 or 12 years old. They went up Hurricane Gulch near Cascade and down the auto road then under construction, taking all day for the trip as they plodded slowly along looking for and occasionally getting the birds he wanted for his collection. He must have been at least 65 years old at this time.

He had a very keen ear for bird songs and calls and used to entertain his small relatives with his accurate imitations.

For several years after the Aikens moved to the Springs my grandfather had a curio store on Pikes Peak Avenue. Uncle Charlie would go on trips into the Indian Country and bring back Navajo rugs, baskets and a variety of gems, in addition to his specimens. There also were many stuffed birds and animal skins on display in the store. This was the first of many stores in

Colorado Springs to display these items. After grandfather's death in 1904 Uncle Charlie gave up the store but continued with the taxidermy shop, which had been located back of the store.

While they lived on Huerfano over a period of several years Uncle Charlie had 20 or more setters and pointers which took many blue ribbons and cups. The neighbors finally objected so strenuously to the constant barking – and who wouldn't – that he was forced to get rid of his dogs.

He died in January 1936. Jos family always hoped he would take time to put into writing for the record many fascinating and unusual experiences he'd had in the early days. It would have been a real contribution to the early history of the west and particularly to Colorado Springs. This brief account is a very inadequate substitute.

Harriet T. Whitehouse ⁵⁶

⁵⁶ Transcription of "Chat with Members of the Aiken Ornithological Society, October 1961, Aiken Family Collection, A44-81, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum Starsmore Center for Local History.

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