



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0665

Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City Records  
1905-1991  
15 cubic feet, oversize

*Organizational records including by-laws, minutes, correspondence, clippings, scrapbooks, programs, pamphlets, rosters, field notes and bird censuses, photographs, and glass lantern slides. Also research materials, slides, and papers belonging to A.E. Shirling (1875-1947), noted Kansas City naturalist and author.*

### HISTORY:

The Burroughs Nature Club was started by an enterprising book agent, a woman representative of Houghton Mifflin Co. She promoted the organization of Nature clubs and took orders for sets of books by John Burroughs, she canvassed the schools, seeking subscriptions and memberships.

The climax of her efforts in Kansas City was a highly advertised lecture on John Burroughs, given in the lecture room of the public library on April 15, 1919. Lula Van Nemen, biology teacher at Westport High School, was elected the first president. The early meetings had evening lectures on nature, astronomy, or other natural science topics.

After several years, membership dwindled. The club became affiliated with the National Audubon Society, following the reorganization of the Missouri State Audubon Society. More attention was given to field work and first hand observations, in addition to lectures. The group became a national chapter of the National Audubon Society in 1971, changing its name to the Burroughs Audubon Society.

### PROVENANCE:

The Records of the Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City were received as accession 0551kc from Mary Conrad and as KA0553 from Paul

Williams on March 22, 1990; as accession KA0563 on March 27, 1990; as accession KA0691 from Ruth Gieschen on June 23, 1992; and KA0715 from Mary Conrad on August 19, 1992.

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**PREFERRED CITATION:**

Specific item; folder number; *Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City Records (K0665)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

**CONTACT:**

*The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City*  
302 Newcomb Hall, University of Missouri-Kansas City  
5123 Holmes Street, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499  
(816) 235-1543 [SHSofMO-KC@umsystem.edu](mailto:SHSofMO-KC@umsystem.edu)  
<http://shs.umsystem.edu/index.shtml>

**DESCRIPTION:**

The collection includes correspondence, clippings pamphlets, rosters, scrapbooks, field trip records, glass lantern slides, photographs, by-laws, and programs.

**INVENTORY:**

**BOX 001**

Vertical File A-C.

**BOX 002**

Vertical File D-Q.

**BOX 003**

Vertical File R-Z.

A.E. Shirling papers

Membership lists

**BOX 004**

The society's Library files  
Catalogs.

**BOX 005**

Scrapbooks  
Origin of Society to 1974, by-laws.  
1961 Scrapbook  
Clippings, 1973-1979  
1950 by Henry Harford in the KC Star  
Scrapbook, 1972-1973  
Photograph album - Audubon Urban Renewal, 1975-1978  
Historian's Scrapbook, 1981-

**BOX 006**

Paul Williams' Files.  
Field Trip books  
Photographs  
Rosters  
Stamps  
Photos, ca. 1940's, 1960's (KA0691)  
Correspondence, 1975; Invitation, 1984; By-Laws, 1963  
Bird Census book (three sightings noted)

**BOX 007 (KA0715)**

Correspondence 1972; Minutes October 1972-January 1973; Financial report, 1971; Reports, 1972  
Correspondence, Information, 1971-1972  
Club History, 1948, 1956, 1969  
Shirling Memorial, 1947-1954, 1981  
Bird Census Reports, 1941-1945  
"Nature Book"--Clippings about birds, John J. Audubon, Parks 1931, 1935, Undated  
Burroughs Nature Club Clipping Book 1959-1960 by Ethel Mac Elree, Historian  
Burroughs Club Data, September 1935-1945

Burroughs Club Minutes, 1935-1946  
Burroughs Club Data, ca. 1945-1946, 1949-1955; Membership, 1944  
Burroughs Club Members, ca. 1960's (mostly obits)  
Correspondence-Shirling Sanctuary, 1953-1954 (info collected by Esther O'Connor)  
Burroughs-Nature Sanctuary-Thompson Estate, 1964, 1968, 1970, Undated (info collected by Esther O'Connor)  
Annual Dinner and Breakfast, 1952, 1959-1960, 1962, 1963 (info. collected by Esther O'Connor)  
Committees, ca. 1952-1963; Treasurer's Reports 1954-1957 (info collected by Esther O'Connor)  
Audubon Screen Tours, ca. 1940's-1960's (info collected by Esther O'Connor)  
1952 Christmas Bird Census (info collected by Esther O'Connor)  
Conservation, 1954-1960 (info collected by Esther O'Connor)  
Newspaper Clippings, 1957, 1962, 1967  
Photos of Birds  
"A Nature Guide for the Rocky Mountains" Albert E. Shirling (2 f.)  
1975 Cunningham Material  
"Birds in the Kansas City Area", 1978  
Guides by Richard Dawson-"Ecology of the Prairie," "Life Along the Ozark Waterways," "Field Guide (Swope Park)" Undated  
"Birds of Swope Park Fifty-Seven Years Later...", 1974  
Burroughs Club Rosters, 1953, 1961, 1964

**BOX 008**

Club History  
Flowers and Plants, 1984, 1985  
Board Minutes, 1947-1972  
Esther O'Connor - Correspondence and Advertisements, ca. 1970's, 1980's  
Photos-Members, ca. 1970's, 1980's  
Photo Album - members photos and information, 1978-1981  
Photo Album - birds and outdoors, 1982  
Photo Album - members photos and information, 1981, 1985  
Photo Album - members and birds, 1985, 1987

Photos - Audubon Society, 1986

Check Stubs, 1985-1986

Booklets - "Development of Parks and Recreation Dept." of Kansas City, 1967;  
"Nature Interests About KC", 1935; Bargain Books 1936

Correspondence, 1947, 1948, 1957, 1969

Burroughs Audubon Society Minutes, 1972-1976

### **BOX 009**

Scrapbook, 1978-1980

Scrapbook, 1982-1983

Scrapbook, 1960's (2 of them)

Photo Album – Birds, ca. 1970's

Slides of Wildflowers

### **BOX 010**

Scrapbook of Animal Stories, 1950's

Scrapbook - Burroughs Audubon Society, 1973-1977

Scrapbook - Burroughs Nature Club, 1967-1968

Scrapbook Pages - Burroughs Bird Club, 1964 and 1965

Scrapbook - Burroughs Audubon Club, 1957, 1969-1974 (says 1973 1975 on  
outside of book)

### **BOX 011**

Burroughs Audubon Society Rosters, 1967, 1968, 1986-1987; 1990-1991

Burroughs Club/Nature News, 1921, 1925-1926

Burroughs Club Bulletins, 1951, 1953, 1961, 1964, 1968, 1969

Burroughs Audubon News of KC, ca. 1970-1986 (4 f.)

The Garden Forum, 1980

Garden Center Association Bulletin, ca. 1960's-1980's

Bird Poems by A.E.Shirling, Undated

"Trees of Forest Hill" Undated, ca. 1940's

Burroughs Club/Audubon Society Activities, ca. 1940-1986

Correspondence of Mrs. Robert Isenberger, 1968, 1969, 1985, Undated [includes  
correspondence. to President-Elect Nixon]

**BOX 012**

"Guidelines for Chapter Education Committee", 1975  
Library Notebook, 1979-1980 (activities  
Correspondence of Esther O'Connor, ca. 1940's-1989, Undated  
Spring Meeting Missouri Audubon Society at Kansas City, 1947  
Correspondence, 1943, 1944, 1950, 1952-1954  
The Bluebird newsletter (Audubon Society of Mo.), 1944, 1947, 1948  
Photos-American Ornithologists' Union, 1946; Kansas Ornithological Society,  
Undated, ca. 1940's  
Bird Censuses, 1927-1936, 1941, 1948-1951  
Petition for Swope Park Naturalist, 1950  
Newspaper Clippings, ca. 1940's-1960's, Undated [birds, Burroughs Club]  
Papers and Information on Birds, Trees, Nature, 1916, 1929, 1937, 1964, 1968  
Burroughs Club History, Minutes, 1967-1968  
"John Burroughs In Remembrance"  
Burroughs Schedule, Maps, Miscellaneous, 1932-1970 [Clarence Shuttly]  
Bird Artwork  
KC Museum Lectures, 1951-1952  
Burroughs Club Historical Items, ca. 1940's-1960's  
Conservation Federation of Mo., 1973  
Lake-of-the-Woods - Swope Park - Ecological Analysis Susan Morten and Lorri  
Sipes, 1966  
*Literary America* 1952 [used in literary discussions by members]  
Screen Tours, 1967-1969

**BOX 013**

Burroughs Club Info/Field Trips, 1940-1949 (2 f.)  
Bird and Nature Reports - Pauline Campbell, Undated, ca. 1930's  
Calendars, 1974-1979, 1981-1984  
Bird Photographs of Dr. A. H. Cordier from the library of James Walter  
Cunningham, ca. 1920's (4 f.)  
Trimble and Jackass Bend CBC Areas and Maps  
Spring Birds at Trimble Wildlife Management Area, Sebastian Patti, 1971  
Certificate of Membership in Burroughs Nature Club-Pauline Campbell, 1919

Ledger - A.E.Shirling Memorial Donations, 1947-1952

Shirling Memorial, Rosalee Glenn Memorial Library, Sustaining Fund Financial Records, 1951-1973

Miscellaneous. Newsletters, 1969, 1984, 1989

"Burroughs Nature Club of KC Celebrates Golden Anniversary" Mary Louise Myers, 1969

Audubon Audio-Visual Catalog, 1952; Mo. Town Festival, 1984

#### **BOX 014**

General Fund Ledger, 1952-1974

National Cash Received, 1973

Cash Received Ledger, 1951-1973

Check Register, 1952-1962

Treasurer's Reports, 1951-1957

Wildlife Film Ledgers, 1951-1975

Copies of Records Sent I.R.S. to Apply for Non-Profit Status, 1969-1972

Check Stubs, 1951-1961

Cancelled Checks and Receipts, 1961-1974

#### **BOX 015**

Negatives--birds, nature scenes, ca. 1940's. Large, some glass.

Slides of Nature-trees, flowers, outdoor scenes. 35mm, glass.

Slides of flowers, nature, ca.1970's

Slides-Burrough Members, pictures of library

Audio tape--Caruso, Jeritza, Bori, Elman; Birds; Wolves, Pete Seeger; Sounds of Insects; Voices of the Night

Cassette Tapes--Birds

Film--8 mm. Treetop's Safari

#### **OVERSIZE:**

Two A.E. Shirling Scrapbooks, ca. 1905-1940's (3/D/13)

Food of Bird Chart (Location 110927)

Glass lantern slides (115) of various subjects. Taken by A.E. Shirling. Stored in a wooden case of 4" x 16".

Glass slides (27) on the Congo - commercial, Keystone Company.