

Ridgway Family Papers, 1864-1950

Overview of the Collection

Title	Ridgway Family Papers
Dates	1864-1950 (inclusive) 1864 1950
Quantity	5 boxes, (2.5 linear feet)
Collection Number	USU_CAINE COLL MSS 8
Summary	The Ridgway Family Papers contain correspondence and illustrations that contribute to the knowledge of scientific research in the American West during the 1860s and of American scientific illustration during the latter part of the 19th century
Repository	Utah State University, Merrill-Cazier Library, Special Collections and Archives Division Special Collections and Archives Merrill-Cazier Library Utah State University Logan, UT 84322-3000 Telephone: 435-797-2663 Fax: 435-797-2880 scweb@usu.edu
Access Restrictions	No restrictions on use, except: not available through interlibrary loan.
Languages	English

Biographical Note

Robert was born on July 2, 1850 in Mount Carmel, Illinois to David and Harriet Ridgway. By the age of 14 Ridgway had been sent away from home, to work for an uncle. Thus some of the earliest letters in the collection are from this time period, 1864-65. Even at this early age his correspondence reveals Robert's keen interest in ornithology. This interest in ornithology and illustration also surfaced in letters written to Spencer Baird, chief ornithologist, and second in command at the Smithsonian Institution. By 1865, the two had developed a lively correspondence that revolved around ornithology.

Robert returned to Washington, D.C. in the fall of 1868 and went to work for the Smithsonian Institution. His primary duty was to prepare a report on his fieldwork. In 1869 he returned to the West to rejoin the expedition at Salt Lake City, Utah. He spent the summer of 1869 working on specimen collection around the Great Salt Lake and in the Wasatch Mountains. This short trip to Salt Lake City generated five letters to and from Ridgway and his mother and Baird. The remainder of the correspondence is mainly between Robert and his mother, while he worked at the Smithsonian. The contents of these letters usually involve family matters, local Illinois' happenings, and Robert's work. This set of correspondence ends in 1875. The remainder of the correspondence to Ridgway comes from a variety of people and some are dated as late as the 1920s. Of interest in this correspondence are a group of letters from Amelia Ridgway, an English relative. These letters discussed Ridgway's English family genealogy.

At the tender age of 17, Ridgway accepted an invitation, by survey director Clarence King, to join the expedition as a zoologist. This opportunity became the starting point for an extremely successful career as a naturalist. The expedition was manned by men in their mid 20s and 30s, so a 17 year old was an oddity, even among this group of young professionals. Due to his age, and his boyhood enthusiasm, the thirteen letters that the young ornithologist wrote home, during the two year survey, offer the scholar a point of view of the American West and of the survey work that is extraordinary. These letters range in content from a detailed list of the expedition's equipment, to descriptions of steamship travel through the Caribbean Sea, land travel through Panama, and travel through the Sierra Nevada mountains and through the Great Basin desert.

Born in 1859, John Ridgway rose to prominence in the field of scientific illustration. By the end of his career he had held the position of chief illustrator for the United States Geological Survey, and scientific illustrator for the California Institute of Technology and the Carnegie Institution.

Content Description

The Ridgway papers constitute a significant contribution to the knowledge of scientific research in the American West during the 1860s and of American scientific illustration during the latter part of the 19th century. The collection spans a period from 1864 through the early 1940s and chronicles the lives of two important American naturalists, John and Robert Ridgway. The fact that the two were brothers, and that their collection contains a great deal of family material, adds a unique perspective to the collection. A portion of the collection relates to the preparation and participation of Robert Ridgway as a zoologist on the 1867-68 United States Geological Fortieth parallel Survey. The material on Robert also covers his work at the Smithsonian Institution during the 1870s. Unlike the material pertaining to Robert, the papers that belong to John Ridgway are illustrative. Because of these two distinct differences within the collection it has been organized into three areas: correspondence, miscellaneous, and art.

The correspondence selection pertains totally to Robert Ridgway. This early correspondence with Baird gave Ridgway an entree to be included in the U.S.G.S. Fortieth Parallel Survey of 1867.

In contrast to these letters, the correspondence that Ridgway received from his family portrays different concerns and interests. First and foremost, in the minds of his parents was a concern for his well-being. They worried about him falling off cliffs, being chased by Indians and other images that his parents conjured up about the wild West. The letters also desired to share in Robert's excitement, as they asked for photographs and fresh reports on his work. This correspondence clearly demonstrates the strong sense of family ties between the Ridgways.

The correspondence has been arranged in an alphabetical and chronological order. The outgoing correspondence, from Robert Ridgway, has been placed in chronological order, while the incoming correspondence has been arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Folders 1a, 1b, and 1c are an addendum to this collection and consist of twenty-one letters between Ridgway and Baird from 1844—1866. This correspondence provides a rich view of Ridgway's early artwork, bird watching, and involvement in the sciences. The materials in these three folders are photocopies of the originals housed in the Smithsonian Institute Archives, Record Unit 7167. The Smithsonian's citation numbers have been retained on these letters.

The material about and by John Ridgway is mainly artwork. In this collection are oil paintings, pencil drawings, brush drawings and pen and ink illustrations done by John. The earliest dated piece was done in 1889 and the latest dated piece was finished in 1942. The finest material, done by John, in the collection are a series of drawings and proof prints that have been placed into a scrapbook. Many of these pieces are unpublished.

The remainder of the material is miscellaneous and has been processed topically. The material consists of photographs, printed material, and family items.

Conservation Note: Conservation measures that have been taken for this collection are as follows. With the exception of the art, the remainder of the papers have been de-acidified in a solution of Wei T'O. Where necessary, the letters and other items have been repaired and encapsulated. The Ridgway papers have been placed into acid free folders and then housed in acid free Pohlig Brothers Boxes. Any nitrate photo negatives were removed and placed in cold storage.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain any necessary copyright clearances.

Permission to publish material from the Ridgway Family Papers must be obtained from the [Special Collections Manuscript Curator](#) and/or the Special Collections Department Head.

Preferred Citation

Initial Citation: Ridgway Family Papers USU_CAINE COLL MSS 8 Box [], Fd []. Special Collections and Archives. Utah State University Merrill-Cazier Library. Logan, Utah.

*Following Citations:*USU_CAINE COLL MSS 8, USUSCA.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Incoming correspondence has been arranged in alphabetical and chronological order while outgoing correspondence has been arranged chronologically.

Processing Note

Processed in March of 2005

Acquisition Information

The materials in this collection were purchased in conjunction with the Newel Hart papers in 1984 by USU Special Collections & Archives for inclusion in the Marie Eccles-Caine Archive of Intermountain Americana. The correspondence in Box 1, Fds 33-37 were transferred to USU in 2015 by the Kevin Sheehan, Collections Manager at the Maritime Museum of San Diego.

Related Materials

44 drawings have been removed and placed in the Art and Book Arts Collection and can be found via the online catalog.

Separated Materials

Nitrate photo negatives were removed and placed in cold storage. Patrons must request to view these negatives 3 hours in advance.

Items removed to Art and Book Arts Collection:

One of John Ridgway's notebooks containing artist proofs and original pen and ink drawings that Ridgway drew while serving as the chief illustrator for the United States Geological Survey, and the scientific illustrator and artist for the California Institute of Technology and Carnegie Institution of Washington. (Portfolio Shelf 2-5, Box 251-R1)

Two art portfolios containing: 6" x 10" watercolor of two partridges by Robert Ridgway, 13-1/2" x 18" painting of two road runners by John Ridgway, 15" x 20" painting of two road runners by John Ridgway, 12-1/2" x 15" two red winged black birds by John Ridgway (1941), 13" x 16" painting of three birds by John Ridgway, 14-3/4" x 19" three purple crackles with a California city in the background by John Ridgway (1920), 10-1/2" x 15-1/2" painting of two mockingbirds mounted on a board by John Ridgway (1920), 7" x 10" drawings of a globe mounted on a board by John Ridgway (1920), 10" x 14" brush drawing of a foot-bone of a fossil elephant from a specimen at the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History, 4" x 9" oil painting of a vase with flowers by John Ridgway (1889), 9-1/2" x 4" oil painting of a vase signed "Study" by John Ridgway, 8" x 9" oil portrait of a woman artist by unknown artist, 11" x 15" painting of a northwestern mountain by unknown artist, 12" x 16" painting of two trees with mountains in the background by unknown artist, 10-1/2" x 12" pencil drawing of Mt. Caramel, Illinois, by unknown artist, 10-1/2" x 13" pencil drawing of two men in a newspaper office by unknown artist, 12-1/2" x 13" two drawings sketched on either side of a piece of illustrators paper by unknown artist, and 10" x 13-1/2" pastel of a river scene (probably set in the Midwest) by unknown artist. (Portfolio Shelf 2-5, Box 351-R1 and Box 351-R2)

Detailed Description of the Collection

Correspondence, 1864-1928

1 box, 35 folders

Container(s)	Description	Dates	
Box	Folder		
1	1	Outgoing Correspondence from Robert Ridgway	1864
Box	Folder		
1	1	To Spencer Baird [click to view] Ridgway was inquiring of Baird for the names of several birds that he had observed. Baird returned the letter, dated it August 17, 1864, with the names of the birds in question written into the letter.	1864 August 7
1	1a	Outgoing Correspondence from Robert Ridgway, to Spencer Baird	1864

Container(s)		Description	Dates
		(photocopies from Smithsonian Institute Archive, Record Unit 7167)	
Box	Folder		
1	1a	To: Spencer Baird Discusses types of birds and the number of eggs found in each bird's nest, he also requests the "Pacific Rail Record Report"	1865 July 4
1	1a	To: Spencer Baird Replies to letter and explains his individual bird drawings	1864 September 2
1	1a	To: Spencer Baird Discusses his individual bird drawings and inquires why he has received no response to his September 3 letter	1864 October 17
1	1a	To: Spencer Baird Acknowledges response to September 3 letter and asks for a catalogue on North American birds	1864 November 2
		To: Spencer Baird Discusses birds and asks why no response has been given his letters	1864 December 23
1	1b	Outgoing Correspondence from Robert Ridgway, to Spencer Baird (photocopies from Smithsonian Institute Archive, Record Unit 7167)	1865
Box	Folder		
1	1b	To: Spencer Baird Discusses his observations on Bald Eagles	1865 January 20
1	1b	To: Spencer Baird Letter explains drawings attached	1865 March 13
1	1b	To: Spencer Baird Criticizes photographer and other artists and then discusses his bird drawings	1865 April 8
1	1b	To: Spencer Baird Reports on summer work	1865 July 23

Container(s)		Description	Dates
1	1b	To: Spencer Baird Discusses his observations of birds	1865 August 5
1	1b	To: Spencer Baird States that he needs paint and attaches a detailed report of his observations and studies	1865 October 15
1	1b	To: Spencer Baird Discusses bird eggs and plans for the next summer	1865 October 31
1	1b	To: Spencer Baird Discusses his upbringing and personal life	1865 November 13
1	1b	To: Spencer Baird Discusses his observations of birds	1865 December 23
1	1c	Outgoing Correspondence from Robert Ridgway, to Spencer Baird (photocopies from Smithsonian Institute Archive, Record Unit 7167)	1866
Box	Folder		
1	1c	To: Spencer Baird Discusses work outlook for the year	1866 January 27
1	1c	To: Spencer Baird Complains for lack of paper to draw on and discusses his observations of birds	1866 February 13
1	1c	To: Spencer Baird Discusses three new egg types not found in bird manual	1866 July 31
1	1c	To: Spencer Baird Discusses his observations of birds	1866 August 10
1	1c	To: Spencer Baird Note concerning a shipment of eggs	1866 November 6
1	1c	To: Spencer Baird, Discusses his artwork	date is illegible
1	2	Outgoing Correspondence from Robert Ridgway	1867

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	2	To Father (David Ridgway) [click to view] The letter, sent from Cincinnati, Ohio gave details to his father about his current trip to Washington, D.C., to meet Spencer Baird	1867 April 18
1	2	To Mother (Harriet Ridgway) [click to view] The letter, sent from the Smithsonian institution, discussed Ridgway's upcoming meeting with Clarence King, in New York City, his trip west to San Francisco on the steamship "Henry Chauncey", and his ornithological work at the Smithsonian.	1867 May 5
1	2	To Father (David Ridgway) [click to view] The letter detailed to Robert's father what kind of equipment he had been outfitted with for the U.S.G.S. expedition.	1867 May 9
1	3	Outgoing Correspondence from Robert Ridgway	1867
Box	Folder		
1	3	To Father (David Ridgway) [click to view] The letter mailed from the steamer "Chauncey" at sea in the Caribbean told his father about his travels in the Caribbean and in the Panama area, with specific attention given to the flora and fauna of the areas	1867 May 17
1	3	To Father (David Ridgway) [click to view] This letter again described to his father his travels through Panama and into the Pacific Ocean. It was mailed from the steamer "Constitution" at sea off of the coast of Oaxaca, Mexico	1867 May 25
1	4	Outgoing Correspondence from Robert Ridgway	1867
Box	Folder		
1	4	To Mother (Harriet Ridgway) [click to view part 1] [click to view part 2] This letter, titled Sacramento, California, Camp no. 1, U.S.G.S. described to his mother the establishment of the survey party's first camp. A second letter is torn in half with no date and no addressee. It was most likely sent to Harriet Ridgway, as the contents mention the word	1867 June 24

Container(s)	Description	Dates	
	mother. The letter was postmarked by Ridgway's hand, from Carson City, Nevada and includes several hand drawn bird stamps		
1	5	Outgoing correspondence from Robert Ridgway	1867
Box	Folder		
1	5	To Mother (Harriet Ridgway) [click to view] This letter was sent from Camp #12 at Big Bend of Truckee, Nevada. The letter described to his mother his trip from Sacramento, California through the Sierra Nevada mountain range, into Nevada. Of particular interest was his description of Chinese railroad workers blasting granite on the Central Pacific railroad grade. He finishes with an outline of his upcoming trip to Pyramid Lake, Nevada	1867 August 11
1	5	To Father (David Ridgway) [click to view] This letter was sent from Camp #17, "Banks of the Humboldt River," and it described, to his father, his trip with Mr. Parker (an Indian agent) and Mr. O'Sullivan (the U.S.G.S. photographer) to Pyramid Lake, Nevada. Part of this letter is missing	1867 September 1
1	5	To Father (David Ridgway) [click to view] This letter was sent from "Camp #19 Buena Vista" and discussed his summer's field work. Of particular interest in this letter was a list of Piute Indian names for birds and simple expressions that Ridgway has put together	1867 October 15
1	6	Outgoing Correspondence from Robert Ridgway	1868
Box	Folder		
1	6	To Sister Fannie (Ridgway) [click to view] This letter was sent from "Headquarters U.S. Geological Exploration 40th Parallel", Carson City, Nevada and detailed photographs that he had sent home with the letter. These photographs were not in this collection	1868 January 14
1	6	To (Harriet Ridgway?) [click to view] postmarked the Great Salt Lake City, Utah. Part of this letter is missing, but the existing piece discussed survey events, and it mentions some of the party members. This	undated

Container(s)		Description	Dates
		letter was likely mailed during the middle of the summer of 1868	
1	6	To Father (David Ridgway) [click to view] This letter was sent from the Smithsonian institution and was his first letter written home after returning to the east. The letter described his three day trip on the Union Pacific Railroad back to Washington, D.C. It also mentioned a discovery that he had made on western hawks	1868 November 21
1	7	Outgoing Correspondence from Robert Ridgway	1869
Box	Folder		
1	7	To Father (David Ridgway) [click to view] This letter was sent from the Smithsonian Institution and it discussed specimen collecting that was done the previous year on the survey	1869 January 19
1	7	To Father (David Ridgway) [click to view] This letter was sent from the Smithsonian Institution. It discussed the report that he was compiling from his survey work and a book that he was currently preparing about North American raptors	1869 Dec. 13
1	7	To Father (David Ridgway) [click to view] This letter was sent from the Smithsonian Institution . It told his father about Clarence King's decision to drop zoology and botany from the next year's expedition. Ridgway had been offered a trip to the west, anyway, but the only compensation would be to have his expenses paid	1869 January 20
1	7	To Mother (Harriet Ridgway) [click to view] This letter was sent from the U.S.G.S. headquarters, Salt Lake City, Utah. It mentioned family matters, Granville Turner, and Spencer Baird	1869 June 14
1	8	Outgoing correspondence from Robert Ridgway	1871
Box	Folder		
1	8	To Mother (Harriet Ridgway) [click to view] This letter was sent from the Smithsonian institution and mentioned his completed manuscript compiled from his survey trip. He went onto tell his mother that he was	1871 February 11

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	currently helping Baird on the "Manual of the Birds of North America."	
1 8	To Mother (Harriet Ridgway) [click to view] This letter was sent form the Smithsonian Institution and it requested his mother to send him a Black Hawk specimen.	1871 April 28
1 9	Letters of introduction prepared for Robert Ridgway	1867
Box	Folder	
1 9	Spencer Baird to Samuel Hubbard [click to view] The letter asked Hubbard assist Ridgway in preparing for his upcoming trip, with Clarence King, to the West	1867 May 8
1 9	Spencer Baird to Whom it may concern [click to view] Letter includes a sheet of paper entitled "Persons to whom Mr. Ridgway is especially recommended."	1867 May 8
1 10	Incoming correspondence received by Robert Ridgway	1919 and 1921
Box	Folder	
1 10	E.A. Abbott This letter announced that Ridgway had been awarded the Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal and Hornoalum from the National Academy of Sciences	1921 March 24
1 10	William F. Bade The letter congratulates Ridgway on the recent publication of part viii of his Birds of North America publication	1919 August 21
1 11	Incoming correspondence received by Robert Ridgway	1864-1865
Box	Folder	
1 11	Spencer Baird [click to view] This letter explained to Ridgway were he could find a copy of Baird's book, Birds of North America	1864 July 12
1 11	Spencer Baird [click to view]	1865 February 2
1 11	Spencer Baird [click to view]	1865 July 29
1 11	Spencer Baird [click to view]	1865 August 16

Container(s)		Description	Dates
		The above letters all answered Ridgway's ornithology questions	
1	12	Incoming correspondence received by Robert Ridgway	1866
Box	Folder		
1	12	Spencer Baird [click to view]	1866 October 26
1	12	Spencer Baird [click to view] These two letters discussed bird specimens that Ridgway had sent to Baird	1866 November 7
1	13	Incoming Correspondence received by Robert Ridgway	1869
Box	Folder		
1	13	Spencer Baird [click to view] To Ridgway in Salt Lake City, Utah. It discussed Utah specimens that Ridgway had sent to Baird and ones that he was to collect	1869 June 22
1	13	Spencer Baird [click to view] To Ridgway in Salt Lake City, Utah. The letter mentioned items Ridgway had collected in the Wasatch Mountains	1869 July 4
1	14	Incoming Correspondence received by Robert Ridgway	1869-1919
Box	Folder		
1	14	Cora Beauman	[?] May 24
1	14	Frank M. Chapman The letter concerns Ridgway's move toward publishing his work on "Color standards"	1914 April 17
1	14	John W. Daniel A twelve page letter discussing birds that Daniel had seen in Virginia.	1919 September 29
1	14	S.F. Emmons [click to view] The letter explained to Ridgway now he was to meet with Clarence King, in Chicago, in order to receive money to return west	1869 May 6

Container(s)		Description	Dates
1	15	Incoming correspondence received by Ridgway	1866
Box	Folder		
1	15	W.B. Holbrook This letter acknowledges receipt of parts III and IV of the Birds of North America	1919 September 29
1	15	R.H. Howland The letter explained to Ridgway the importance of his book on Color Standards was to his company, Niagra, Lithograph	1921 March 4
1	15	R.H. Howland The letter acknowledges the receipt of Ridgway's Color Standards book	1921 March 12
1	15	John F. Kelley Amateur naturalist living in the Adirondacks of New York State asking for information about ornithology	1917 February 17
1	15	Minnie J. King	1932 Christmas
1	15	da Costa Lima	1927 February 15
1	15	Albert Loius Inquired if Ridgway would be interested in seeing specimens of hawks and owls from Minnesota and Arkansas	1919 Oct. 25
1	16	Incoming correspondence received by Ridgway	1914
Box	Folder		
1	16	Amelia Ridgway, Oct. 19 (received January 30, 1914) Comments on his writings and enquired about his family genealogy. Amelia was writing from Fernbrook College, North Wales.	
1	16	Amelia Ridgway A chatty letter that informed Ridgway about his English family ties	1914 February 14

Container(s)		Description	Dates
1	17	Incoming Correspondence received by Robert Ridgway	1917
Box	Folder		
1	17	Amelia Ridgway This letter discussed the Ridgway family and described her family home in North Wales	1917 January 16
1	18	Amelia Ridgway The letter contained material from Amelia: A photograph of Ellen Ridgway, and essay entitled Sheplegh Court, Blackawton, S. Devon, the Late Colonel's Home, a flyer about Dr. John Ridgway, and a flyer about the Fernbrook school	1922 October 15
1	19	Incoming correspondence received by Ridgway This folder includes three, undated, letters from Ridgway's wife, Evelyn Perkins Ridgway, that describe her last will and testament. Also included in the folder are insurance policy receipts, and the Ridgway's Marriage license	
1	20	Incoming correspondence received by Robert Ridgway	1865, 1867
		Harriet J. and Fannie Ridgway This letter was written to Robert while he was away from home working for his uncle. It discussed primarily family matters	1865 May
Box	Folder		
1	20	Harriet J. Ridgway This letter discussed family concerns	1865 May 25
1	20	Harriet J. Ridgway [click to view] This letter was sent to Robert while he was on the expedition. It outlines the family's concern for his well-being and fills him in on family happenings	1867 August 4
1	20	Harriet J. Ridgway This letter requested photographs from Robert and told him about the family	1867 August 25
1	21	Incoming Correspondence received by Robert Ridgway	1868

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	21	Harriet J. Ridgway	1868 February 23
1	21	Harriet J. Ridgway	1868 March 23
1	21	Harriet J. Ridgway These letters express topics such as their concern for Robert, his brother John, his father's illness, and family financial troubles	1868 August 30
1	22	Incoming correspondence received by Robert Ridgway	1869
Box	Folder		
1	22	Harriet J. Ridgway This letter discussed family matters	1869 January 31
1	22	Harriet J. Ridgway This letter discussed happenings in Olney and Mount Carmel, Illinois and Robert's forthcoming visit home	1869 February 13
1	22	Harriet J. Ridgway This letter mentioned Robert's attendance at the inauguration of President Grant, his work with Spencer Baird, and family concerns	1869 March 14
1	22	Harriet J. Ridgway Ridgway received this letter in Salt Lake City, Utah and it discussed family matters	1869 May 18
1	22	Harriet J. Ridgway	1869 December 26
1	23	Incoming correspondence received by Ridgway	1870
Box	Folder		
1	23	Harriet J. Ridgway	1870 February 7
1	23	Harriet J. Ridgway	1870 March 13

Container(s)		Description	Dates
1	23	Harriet J. Ridgway	1870 November 7
1	23	Harriet J. Ridgway These letters follow a similar theme of family and local happenings	1870 November 20
1	24	Incoming correspondence received by Ridgway	1871
Box	Folder		
1	24	Harriet J. Ridgway	1871 February 5
1	24	Harriet J. Ridgway	1871 February 21
1	24	Harriet J. Ridgway	1871 March 11
1	24	Harriet J. Ridgway	1871 April 9
1	24	Harriet J. Ridgway Again these letters revolve around the themes of family and local occurrence	1871 December 24
1	25	Incoming correspondence received by Robert Ridgway	1872-1873
Box	Folder		
1	25	Harriet J. Ridgway This letter discussed deaths in the family and the family drugstore	1873 February 2
1	25	Harriet J. Ridgway This letter discussed Robert's brother John's talent for drawing and the family's financial troubles	1872 March 17
1	25	Harriet J. Ridgway This letter addressed family matters	1872 November 24
1	26	Incoming correspondence received by Robert Ridgway	1874-1875
Box	Folder		
1	26	Harriet J. Ridgway	1874 October 17

Container(s)		Description	Dates
		This letter discussed Robert's brother John's schooling and work with biological specimens	
1	26	Harriet J. Ridgway This letter discussed family matters, brother John and Miss Perkins, Ridgway's future bride, and Lucien Turner's trip to Alaska	1874 April 12
1	26	Harriet J. Ridgway	1874 May 19
1	26	Harriet J. Ridgway	1874 August 20
1	26	Harriet J. Ridgway These last three letters discuss family and community matters	1875 April 11
1	27	Incoming correspondence received by Robert Ridgway	1876
Box	Folder		
1	27	Harriet J. Ridgway	March 6, 1876
1	27	Harriet J. Ridgway	July 15, 1879
1	27	Harriet J. Ridgway These letters discuss family issues and local matters	July 25, 1879
1	28	This folder contains nine letters from Harriet Ridgway to Robert. They primarily discuss family and community matters	Undated
1	29	Incoming correspondence received by Robert Ridgway	1875
Box	Folder		
1	29	J.C. Ridgway This letter thanks Robert for his hospitality in showing his cousin Lydia around Washington, D.C. It also gives an excellent account of the Ridgway family in America	1875 March 22
1	29	Nannae ("from your sister")	[?] December 13
1	30	Incoming correspondence received by Ridgway	1867, 1919-1920

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	30	B.H. Swales This letter discussed a shipment of bird eggs and birds from a Dr. Abbott and a Mr. Duln. The specimens were sent from Haiti	1919 May 17
1	30	J. Wymans This letter acknowledges the receipt of Ridgway's book on color standards	1920 April 28
1	30	Name illegible	1867 March 10
1	31	Miscellaneous items	1874
Box	Folder		
1	31	1: Letter/poem written by C.W. Ridgway at Kirkwood, MO	1874 Sept. 27
1	31	2: Written to his friends and co-workers upon his retirement	
1	31	3: Second page of a letter, no date, name illegible	
1	32	Incoming correspondence received by Mrs. Palmiter (Robert's sister) in care of Robert Ridgway	1928-1929
Box	Folder		
1	32	1: Harriet W. Cory	1928 Aug. 28
1	32	2: Letter mailed to Mrs. Palmiter, c/o of Robert Ridgway, thanking addressee and Robert for hospitality during a recent visit	
1	32	3: Mrs. R.D. McDorman	1929 March 20
1	32	4: Letter mailed to Mrs. Palmiter expressing wished to visit her and her brother (Robert)	
1	33	Incoming correspondence to John L. Ridgway from Agnes [Ridgway] (daughter)	undated

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	33	1: Incoming letter from Agnes [Ridgway]	Wednesday (year unknown)
1	33	1: Incoming letter from Agnes [Ridgway]	1927, May 21
1	33	1: Incoming letter from Agnes [Ridgway]	1928, February 28
1	33	1: Incoming letter from Agnes [Ridgway]	1929, June 6
1	33	1: Incoming letter from Agnes [Ridgway]	1929, June 6
1	33	1: Incoming letter from Agnes [Ridgway]	1931, February 5
1	33	1: Incoming letter from Agnes [Ridgway]	1933, August 17
1	33	1: Incoming letter from Agnes [Ridgway]	1933, September 5
1	33	1: Incoming letter from Agnes [Ridgway]	1933, October 6
1	33	1: Incoming letter from Agnes [Ridgway]	1934, July 29
1	34	Incoming correspondence to John L. Ridgway from Lida R. Palmatier (sister)	undated
Box	Folder		
1	34	1: Incoming letter from Lida R. Palmatier	1928, July 22
1	34	1: Incoming letter from Lida R. Palmatier	1931, June 4
1	34	1: Incoming letter from Lida R. Palmatier	1931, October 13
1	34	1: Incoming letter from Lida R. Palmatier	1932, October 4
1	34	1: Incoming letter from Lida R. Palmatier	1932, August 9
1	35	Incoming correspondence to John L. Ridgway from various relatives	undated

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	35	1: Incoming letter to Uncle John from N.K. Frederick	1935, January 8
1	35	1: Incoming letter Uncle John from John	1936, February 28
1	35	1: Incoming letter Uncle John from Byna Williams	1937, January 9
1	35	1: Incoming letter Uncle John from Lenore Hunt Daly	1944, December 19
1	36	Incoming correspondence to John L. Ridgway from Charles W. Richmond	1929
Box	Folder		
1	36	1: Incoming letter from Charles W. Richmond	1929, April 19
1	36	1: Incoming letter from Charles W. Richmond	1929, May 13
1	37	Other various incoming correspondence to John L. Ridgway	undated
Box	Folder		
1	37	1: Incoming letter from Cecil Trench	1929, Feb 5
1	37	1: Incoming letter from Margaret M. Hughes	1936, August 28
1	37	1: Incoming letter from Jay O. Rich[els]	1939, December 16
1	37	1: Incoming letter to Mrs. Palmatier (in envelope addressed to John L. Ridgway) from Effie J. Keen	1929, April 17
1	38	1 Sketch [currently in Art and Book Arts Collection]	undated
Box	Folder		
1	38	1: A sketch by John Ridgway titled "Sketch of Self Looking Into Double Mirror" (Medium: DR, graphite; 1985.24.1)	ca. 1900

Container(s)		Description	Dates
1	34	Reference material of Robert Ridgway This folder contains 48 pages of hand-written bibliographic cards and reference notes, presumably for his article "Birds of North and Middle America."	Undated
1	35	Envelopes: This folder contains 12 envelopes	undated

Reference material and proofs of articles, undated

1 box, 12 folders

Folders 1-6: Hand written bibliographic information in alphabetical order by folder.

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
2	1	A-C 17 items	Undated
2	2	D-J 10 items	Undated
2	3	L-N 21 items	Undated
2	4	O-R 19 items	Undated
2	5	S 47 items	Undated
2	6	T-Z 11 items	Undated
2	7-11	These folders contain editor or author proofs of "The Birds of North and Middle America", Bulletin U.S. National Museum, no 50, Part III, 8 Vols	undated
2	12	Misc. items 2 envelopes, 2 scraps of letters proof of essay, "The Ligneous Flora of Richland County, Illinois" by Robert Ridgway	Undated

Editors proofs, Robert Ridgway's obituaries, and John Ridgway's Manuscript and sketches, Undated

1 box, 13 folders

[Note: the following folders are in the Art and Book Arts Collection: Fd 9, Fd 10, Fd 11, Fd 12, Fd 13]

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
3	1-6	These folders contain editor or author proofs of "The Birds of North America"	Undated
3	7	News clippings and obituaries about Robert Ridgway, press release about Ridgway from the Olney, Illinois Chamber of Commerce	
3	8	A hand written manuscript by John L. Ridgway on the subject of Scientific illustration. <i>Scientific Illustration</i> . Stanford University, Press. 1938 (33 pages) This is most likely an early draft of John Ridgway's book	
3	9	Miscellaneous sketches, most likely drawn by either John L. or Robert Ridgway 10 items	Undated
Box	Folder		
3	9	Untitled. Two birds, foliage and branches	ca. 1900
3	9	Fig. 4. Sketch showing general scheme of vanishing lines in a perspective vie and a PMT of the Sketch with ink corrections.	ca. 1920
3	9	Untitled. Wing of songsparrow.	ca. 1900
3	9	Untitled. Bird with MS color notations.	ca. 1900
3	9	Untitled. Bird with MS color notations.	ca. 1900
3	9	Untitled. Four sparrows(?)	ca. 1900
3	9	Untitled. Sparrows and woodpecker.	c. 1900

Container(s)		Description	Dates
3	9	Untitled. (2 birds, branches)	c. 1900
3	9	Untitled. Recto: Four birds [sparrows?] foraging. Verso: Bird [roadrunner] with mss color notations.	Both ca. 1900
3	10	Sketches of birds 17 items	undated
Box	Folder		
3	10	Untitled. 15 small line drawings of seabirds, done on tracing tissue mounted on index cards or scrap paper, by John L. Ridgway	ca. 1900
3	10	Poison Ivy, by John L. or Robert Ridgway.	ca. 1900
3	10	Virginia Creeper: American Woodbine, by John L. or Robert Ridgway	ca. 1900
3	11	Sketches 4 items	Undated
Box	Folder		
3	11	Untitled. Recto: study of bird in flight [3 views] with separate graphite, wc color studies. Verso: Mss and color studies, by John L. Ridgway	ca. 1900
3	11	Untitled. Line study of tail feathers, by Robert Ridgway	
3	11	Untitled. Line study of bird in flight and flowers, by John L. or Robert Ridgway	
3	12	Sketches done by John Ridgway 5 items	undated
Box	Folder		
3	12	Samuel Richard Beck.	1876 August 13
3	12	Recto: View in Mt. Caramel. Verso: Nanny drawn from life by JRL	c. 1875

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3 12	Untitled. Man riding horse. Fragment. Torn at right	c. 1875
3 12	Recto: Untitled. Man riding horse, leading another horse with a rein. Verso: Untitled. Portrait of a girl.	1875 June 11 and 1874 May 26 (respectively)
3 12	Recto: Carriage, driver, and passenger. Verso: Untitled. WC washes	Both ca. 1875
3 12	First original bird picture.	1881 July 21
3 13	Various sketches by John L. Ridgway	undated
Box	Folder	
3 13	Untitled. Line drawing of sabre-toothed tiger, head, fore paw	undated
3 13	Untitled. Line drawing of sabre-toothed tiger, head	undated
3 13	Untitled. Line drawing of sabre-toothed tiger, head	undated
3 13	Untitled. Line drawing of sabre-toothed tiger, head	undated
3 13	Untitled. Line drawing of sabre-toothed tiger, haunch	undated
3 13	Untitled. Line drawing of sabre-toothed tiger, head	undated
3 13	Untitled. Line drawing of sabre-toothed tiger	undated
3 13	Untitled. Line drawing of sabre-toothed tiger body and woodpecker	undated
3 14	Various sketches	Undated
Box	Folder	
3 14	Watercolor by DE Wright	

Photographs, and personal items from the Ridgway brother, Undated

1 box, 9 folders

All nitrate negatives from this box have been removed and placed in cold storage

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
4	1	5 cyanotype photographs of a falcon	Undated
4	2	2 photographs of Robert Ridgway [click to view one of two photos] One negative removed and placed in cold storage	Undated
4	3	7 photographs of unidentified people, most likely Ridgway family members One negative removed and placed in cold storage	Undated
4	4	4 photographs, 2 mounted 8x10" pictures of Watkin's Glen, New York; 1 picture of the interior of a Washington, D.C. living room most likely belonging to Robert Ridgway	Undated
4	5	Photograph album that includes a picture of Mrs. Robert Ridgway, and one unidentified tintype	Undated
4	6	Photographs and negatives belonging to John Ridgway. Four negatives removed and placed in cold storage	Undated
4	7	Christmas cards and bird identification cards belonging to John Ridgway	Undated
4	8	A 4"x 6" notebook that was apparently passed through the Ridgway family. It contains notes and drawings by both John and Robert, as well as pharmaceutical formulas written in German	Undated
4	9	<i>Schribner's Ready Reckoner Log Book</i> , George Fisher Publisher. Rochester, New York	1864

Published material, 1886

4 folders

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
5	1	Articles about a proposed bird sanctuary to be developed at Robert Ridgway's Olney, Illinois property	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5 2	Harry Harris, "Robert Ridgway with a Bibliography of his Published Writings and Fifty illustrations, "reprinted from the <i>Condor</i> , XXX, 5-18	1928 January
5 3	Reprints from the <i>Condor</i> in the possession of John Ridgway including an article entitled "Needless Photographic Failures"	
5 4	<i>Book of Common Prayer</i> , with an 1886 insert for Evening Prayer	1881

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Botanists--United States--Archives
 Naturalists--United States--Archives
 Ornithologists--United States--Archives
 Scientific illustrators--United States--Archives

Personal Names :

Ridgway, John (John Livesy) 1859
 Ridgway, Robert, 1850-1929

Corporate Names :

Geological Survey (U.S.)--Western Region

Zachary Jones
 2011