

Preserve Our Heritage

The Fish and Wildlife Service needs you to save our historic documents and objects before they are lost forever.



Paul Kroegel, Pelican Island, 1905

Preservation Web Sites

For DOI guidance:
<http://museums.doi.gov/>

For information on USFWS history and museum assistance:
<http://training.fws.gov/history.html>

For preservation tips (Conserve-o-grams) from the National Park Service:
http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/publications/consveogram/cons_toc.html

For preservation tips (CCI Notes) from the Canadian Conservation Institute:
<http://www.preservation.gc.ca>

For archival supplies:
<http://universityproducts.com>

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Preservation Contacts

If you have questions about the significance of an object, how to preserve, or how to transfer it if you do not want to keep it on site, you may call any of the following Regional Museum Property Coordinators (MPC):

- NCTC Museum Curator 304/876 7285
- NCTC Service Historian 304/876 7276
- D.C Booth NHFH Curator 605/642 7730
- Service Archeologist 202/358 2382
- Region 1 MPC 503/625 4377
- Region 2 MPC 505/248 7396
- Region 3 MPC 612/713 5439
- Region 4 MPC 912/652 4415 x123
- Region 5 MPC 413/253 8554
- Region 6 MPC 303/236 8103
- Region 7 MPC 907/786 3399

All of these people will have copies of the Museum Property manuals for the USFWS, which are:

DM411 Parts I through III, Interior Museum Property Management Departmental Manuals

126 FW 1 through 3: Policy, Responsibilities and Definitions; Documentation and Preservation Standards; and Planning, Inventory and Reports

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The Department of the Interior is second only to the Smithsonian Institution in holding natural and cultural objects in trust for the American public. With over 117 million objects and documents, Interior's collections run the gamut from art to zoology. As part of DOI, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has its own unique heritage and a prominent place in the country's conservation history to contribute to this collection.

Founding documentation is an integral part of any station's heritage. Some of the unique and antiquated equipment used by the station's staff are also important.

Saving important documents and objects housed in refuge or hatchery offices, regional offices, or other Service facilities is an important task that Service personnel should consider. In addition to holding historical objects in trust for the American public, preservation of the Service's heritage can provide material for education efforts about the Services's mission and accomplishments in conserving the nation's fish, wildlife and plant resources. We need your help to ensure that the remnants and reflections of our proud heritage are not lost forever.



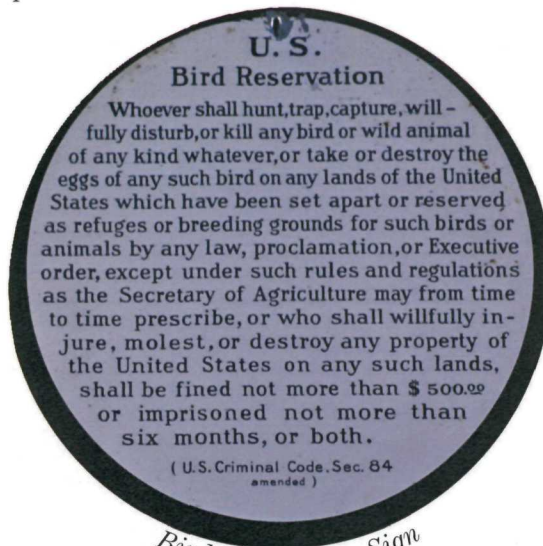
Art Hawkins Hero Plaque



*Ding Darling Artwork
Upper Souris NWR*

Tips for Preserving Historic Objects

The most important step in ensuring the long-term preservation of any object is to place it in a stable, controlled environment. Doing this will protect it from adverse conditions that would promote or accelerate deterioration. Perhaps the most important environmental factor to control is the relative humidity (RH). Objects absorb and release moisture from the air around them, which causes shrinkage and swelling. To avoid the constant movement from swelling and shrinking, the relative humidity should be kept at about 40% to 55% RH. Temperature should be kept as close to 65 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit as possible.



Bird Reservation Sign

The object, especially if it is a document or photograph, should be put into some sort of polyethylene sleeve or protective cabinet, archival box or polyethylene bag. This will help inhibit rapid fluctuation in RH and temperature, and keep out airborne soils, pollutants, and pests. It should be kept out of sunlight, and away from all light if possible.

Hot attics and damp basements are probably the worst places to store objects. Store objects in a cool dry place at all times; free of pests, mold, and airborne pollutants.

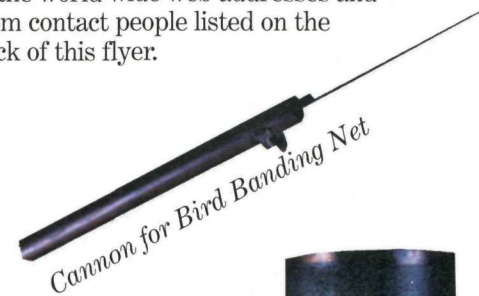


Bureau of Fisheries China



Fearnow Pail

More detailed tips on taking care of objects by specific material types can be found in CCI Notes and NPS Conserve-o-grams. These are available at the world wide web addresses and from contact people listed on the back of this flyer.



Cannon for Bird Banding Net



Rain Gauge