

**Fitchburg State University  
Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library  
University Archives and Special Collections**

**COLLECTION SUMMARY**

**Collection number:** MS 5  
**Collection title:** Ashby Bird Observatory Collection  
**Dates:** 1959-1981  
**Size:** 4 boxes (4 linear feet)

**Creator/Collector:** Ashby Bird Observatory  
Davis, Frederick (1924-1981)  
**Acquisition info.:** Gift of Dr. Neal Anderson, n.d.  
**Custodial history:** Dr. Neal Anderson, faculty member of the Fitchburg State College  
Biology Department, retrieved the records from one of the buildings  
on the grounds of the Observatory when the program was vacated.  
The personal papers of Dr. Davis were found in a trash bin.

**Accruals:** No accruals are expected.

**Language(s):** Collection materials are in English.  
**Repository:** Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library, Fitchburg State University  
**Processed by:** Janice Ouellette, 1984 and Robert Foley, 1985 ; reprocessed by Kate  
Wells, 2011.

**Conservation notes:** Not applicable.

**RIGHTS AND ACCESS**

**Access restrictions** Collection is open for research.  
**Physical access restrict.:** None.  
**Technical access restrict.:** None.  
**Publication rights** Copyright has not been assigned to the Gallucci-Cirio Library. All  
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must also be obtained by the researcher.

**INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS**

**Preferred citation** [item identification], Ashby Bird Observatory Collection, MS 5,

<b>Related collections</b>	Fitchburg State University, Fitchburg, Massachusetts.
<b>Separated material</b>	None. Twenty-two photographs were removed from the Collection and are housed with the University Archives Graphics Collection. They are filed under “Ashby Bird Observatory” in two folders. The first folder contains 13 color prints of various activities at the Ashby Bird Observatory; the second folder contains 9 b&w prints, dated June 1960, of various Towhee bird nests.
<b>Published descriptions</b>	Items in Series 1.4 are on loan and not currently available for researchers. <a href="http://fitchburgstate.libguides.com/ashbybirdobservatory">http://fitchburgstate.libguides.com/ashbybirdobservatory</a>
<b>Location of originals</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Location of copies</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Publication note</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Subject headings</b>	Ashby Bird Observatory Bird banding-Massachusetts Davis, Frederick, 1924-1981 Ornithology. Towhees. Correspondence. aat Journals (accounts). aat Research notes. aat Technical reports. aat

## **ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY**

The Ashby Bird Observatory, a division of the Ashby Environmental Research and Education Center, was opened on April 17, 1971. The Observatory was located on the grounds of Camp Middlesex in Ashby, Massachusetts and had access to Willard Brook State Forest. Run by Dr. Frederick Davis (1924-1981), of the Fitchburg State College Biology Department, the Observatory’s mission was to conduct environmental research and group education. The bulk of the research was done using bird banding to collect data. The date of closure for the Observatory is unknown, but is likely related to the denial of their non-profit status by the IRS in the early 1980s. Dr. Davis was a full professor of Biology at Fitchburg State College from 1966-1980, was active in conservation and ornithology, and was instrumental in establishing an environmental education program at FSC.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Collection consists of records of the Ashby Bird Observatory and the administrative records of Dr. Davis. The bulk of the records are related to bird banding and include reports, data sheets, and research paraphernalia. Also included are records of Dr. Frederick Davis’ work with the

Pesticide-Wildlife Project, related to the effects of DDT on animals in Amherst, Massachusetts, previous to his employment at Fitchburg State College.

## COLLECTION INVENTORY

### **SERIES 1: Ashby Bird Observatory, 1964-1979**

This series consists of two subseries: 1.1, Banding Records; 1.2, General Files; 1.3., Correspondence and 1.4., Paraphernalia.

#### **SUBSERIES 1.1: Banding Records, 1971-1979**

This subseries contains the banding records, sheets, reports and research journals related to bird banding research.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Bander's Guide	1	1
Banding Birds Processed	1	2
Banding Manual	1	3
Banding Records, 1971-1973	1	4
Banding Records, 1974	1	5-7
Banding Schedule, 1968	1	8
Banding Schedule, 1971-1975	1	9
Banding Sheets, 1973	1	10
Banding Sheets, 1974	1	11-15
Banding Sheets 1A, 1975	1	16
Banding Sheets O Bands, 1975	1	17
Banding Sheets 1B Bands, 1975	1	18
Banding Sheets Questions, 1975	1	19
Banding Sheets Discrepancies, 1974	1	20
Banding Sheets, May-Oct 1975	1	21
Banding Sheets, 1A Bands, May-Oct 1975	1	22
Banding Sheets, May-Oct 1975	1	23
Banding Sheets, Jan-Sept 1975	1	24
Banding Reports, computer printouts, 1971	2	1
Banding Reports, 1971	2	2
Banding Reports, 1972	2	3
Banding Reports, 1973	2	4
Banding Reports, 1974, 1979	2	5
Journals, 1972	2	6
Journals, 1973	2	7
Journals, 1974	2	8
Journals, 1974-75	2	9
Journals, 1976	2	10
Records Status File	2	11

Bandings Schedule  
 Card Catalog with Descriptions of Birds

**SUBSERIES 1.2: General Files, 1969-1981**

This subseries contains the general administrative files for the Observatory. Also included are copies of the *Records of New England Birds* published by the Mass. Audubon Society.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Articles of Organization	3	1
Bat Binding Program	3	2
Breeding-Captives	3	3
Brick Building	3	4
British Trust of Ornithology	3	5
Catch of 1976	3	6
Checks and Accounts	3	7
Clippings and Publicity	3	8
Color Bands	3	9
Computer Program	3	10
Daily Field Guide	3	11
Ecological Society of America	3	12
Educational Programs	3	13
Feather Emergence	3	14
Freezer & Scavenger	3	15
Grant Proposals	3	16
Housekeeping	3	17
Land Purchases	3	18
Library	3	19
List of Dublin Birds	3	20
Manomet Bird Observatory	3	21
Miller, James	3	22
Minutes, Constitution, Bylaws	3	23
Netting and Banding Methods	3	24
Publications	3	25
Recoveries	3	26
Research	3	27
Rules, Rituals, Rites	3	28
Self-Guided Tree Trail	3	29
Special Reports	3	30
Stamm, Davis Article	3	31
Visitor's Book	3	32
Volunteers	3	33
Weather Bureau	3	34

White-Throated Sparrow Project	3	35
Workshop on National Plan for Ornithology	3	36
<i>Records of New England Birds</i> , Mass. Audubon Society	3	1-2
	4	3-5
Mass. Audubon Society Publications	4	6

**SUBSERIES 1.3: Correspondence, 1969-1981**

This subseries contains correspondence with the Bird Banding Laboratory in Washington, D.C. as well as general correspondence with Dr. Davis.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Bird Banding Laboratory	4	1
1969-1974	4	2
1975-1981	4	3

**SUBSERIES 1.4: Paraphernalia**

This subseries contains various pieces of gear and equipment used in capturing and banding the birds.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Paraphernalia	5	1

\*Note – these items are currently on loan and not available for research.

**SERIES 2: Pesticide-Wildlife Project, 1959-1962**

This series contains Dr. Davis' records and notes related to the Pesticide-Wildlife Project which focused on the effects of DDT and Sevin on animal life in the Amherst, Massachusetts area. They are organized alphabetically by subject.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Amherst Watershed Notes, 1960	4	1
Amherst Watershed Notes, 1961	4	2
Breeding, 1960-61	4	3
Breeding, 1962	4	4
Cadwell Memorial Forest, 1961	4	5
Cadwell Memorial Forest, 1962	4	6-7
Cage Birds	4	8

Cover mapping	4	9
Data Compilation	4	10
Death & Autopsy	4	11
F. Davis notes, 1962	4	12
F. Davis notes, 1963	4	13
Detail observations	4	14
Fighting and Courtship	4	15
Greeley's notes, 1962	4	16
Lynn's notes, 1963	4	17
Maps	4	18
Minutes and Reports	4	19
Mt. Toby notes, 1961	4	20
Mt. Toby II	4	21
Mt. Toby area	4	22
Nest Data	4	23
Observations-Songs	4	24
Publicity & Clippings	4	25
Statistical Analysis	4	26
Towhee Materials	4	27
Towhee Sperm Slides	4	28
Towhee Report	4	29

**SERIES 3: Records of Dr. Frederick Davis, 1961-1977**

This series contains Dr. Davis' published and unpublished writing.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
<i>Life History of the Rufous-Sided Towhee</i> , n.d.	4	30
Miscellaneous manuscripts	4	31