

2018

0841: Mary Lois Garrett Collection, 1941-1954

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FINDING AID
OF THE
MARY LOIS GARRETT COLLECTION

Accession Number: 2018/02.0841



Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
2018

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MARY LOIS GARRETT COLLECTION,
1941-1954

Accession Number: 2018/02.0841
Processed by: Amanda Shaver
Date Completed: March 2018
Location: Special Collections Department, Morrow Library

Corporate Name: N/A
Date: 1941-1954, bulk of content 1950-1954
Extent: 0.25 cu. Ft.
System of Arrangement: File contents are in the original order imposed by the creator of the collection, Ms. Lois Garrett. Folders have been arranged chronologically.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Mary Lois Garrett, born on January 3, 1908, was from Kenova, WV, and taught in the Wayne County School system for 39 years. She was also a first lieutenant in the medical corps of the U.S. Navy WAVES and served during World War II.¹ She was an avid bird-watcher with a specific interest in Indigo Buntings, and was a charter member of the Huntington Audubon Society. Ms. Garrett observed the Indigo Bunting over the course of the years 1950-1954, in Huntington, WV and on South Bass Island on Lake Erie in Ohio. Her interest in birds led her to attend the September 1950 meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club, sponsored by the Brooks Bird Club and the Huntington Bird Study Club, held at the 4-H Camp in Jackson's Mill, WV.² In 1957, she was listed on the Auditing Committee of the Wilson Ornithological Club, and in 1960, she attended the Conservation Education Workshop held at West Virginia University on August 8-23.³ Ms. Garrett was listed as an observer in the 1966 "Bird Breeding Survey" produced by the U.S. Department of the Interior in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Service.⁴ She occasionally collaborated in her work with Dr. Ralph M. Edeburn in the Department of Zoology at Marshall College. Mary Lois Garrett died on September 3, 1991 at the age of 83.⁵

¹ Obituary of Mary Lois Garrett, Huntington, WV, Herald Dispatch, September 4, 1991.

² Harold Mayfield, "Proceedings of the Thirty-First Annual Meeting," *Wilson Bulletin* 62, no. 3 (September 1950): 152, <https://sora.unm.edu/sites/default/files/journals/wilson/v062n03/p0145-p0152.pdf> (accessed March 2, 2018).

³ Fred T. Hall, "Proceedings of the Thirty-First Annual Meeting," *Wilson Bulletin* 69, no. 3 (September 1957): 285, https://archive.org/stream/wilsonbulletin6919wils/wilsonbulletin6919wils_djvu.txt (accessed March 2, 2018). "41 at Workshop on Conservation," Beckley Post-Herald, August 23, 1960.

⁴ Chandler S. Robbins and Willet T. Van Velzen, *The Bird Breeding Survey, 1966* (Washington, D. C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1967), 39, http://www.archive.org/stream/specialscientifi102unit/specialscientifi102unit_djvu.txt (accessed March 2, 2018).

⁵ Obituary of Mary Lois Garrett, Huntington, WV, Herald Dispatch, September 4, 1991.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

This collection spans the years 1941-1954, with the bulk of the research covering the years 1950-1954. File contents were maintained in the way in which they were originally received, but folders have been arranged in a more chronological order. Some notes are entirely handwritten, while logs and records consist of typed templates which have been filled-in by hand. Notes contain illustrations of birds and nests, graphs of bird activity during observance, and descriptions of bird behavior. Nesting logs have mostly been filled out by Mary Lois Garrett, but other authors contributed, including Twila Hessin, Ruth Geib, and an unspecified ornithology class.

- Folder 1 Wild Flower and Bird Logs 1941-1944
- Folder 2 Indigo Bunting Research Notebook 1949-1951
- Folder 3 Indigo Bunting Nesting Records 1950-1954
- Folder 4 Indigo Bunting Handwritten Notes 1951-1954
- Folder 5 Indigo Bunting Nesting Logs 1951-1954
- Folder 6 Indigo Bunting Records 1953
- Folder 7 Birds, Books, and Plant Lists
- Folder 8 Blank Bird Egg and Young Weight Logs