

J.H. Stansbury 111~
15-May

THE VERTEBRATE COLLECTIONS IN THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY

I know of no written record concerning the general history and care of the vertebrate collections from their beginnings about 1870 to the present. These collections are now housed in The Ohio State University Museum of Zoology. It appears appropriate at this time to give the history of these collections ^{and others and alive} as I have heard it from faculty members ^{now dead}, and from personal acquaintance with the collections since 1921.

On the first page of the constitution of the present Ohio State University the President was charged with obtaining and maintaining adequate teaching and research collections ⁱⁿ of natural history. The vertebrate collections were given serious consideration by the early faculty of the Zoology Department and of related disciplines. By 1880 these collections had attained respectable proportions and were being well utilized.

The birds obtained before 1920 are the best preserved of any of the vertebrates for that period. By 1900 a representative collection of local and foreign birds had been gathered together. Obtaining such a collection of bird skins and mounts was comparatively easy before 1900, and was limited only by the amount of money available. Such places as the Central Market of Columbus sold game and other animals of many kinds for food, living pets, and decorations. This was the heyday of taxidermists and one or more were charged with frequently examining the animals at such a market, with the purpose of obtaining desired specimens for the collection. Dr. James M. Wheaton, one of Ohio's foremost ornithologists and at one time connected with The Ohio State University faculty, lived within a short distance of Central Market and I was told that he frequented this market for the purpose of obtaining specimens. As a possible

A Statement Concerning the Need For and Proposed Working Arrangements for Integrating the Vertebrate Collections of the Ohio Historical Society and the Ohio State University.

There is a need for a centrally located vertebrate collection of representative specimens of Ohio fauna for study and scientific purposes. The Ohio Historical Society and the Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory of the Ohio State University each have a valuable vertebrate collection. The integration and proper care of these collections would make available to students, scientists and the interested public a valuable service not possible under their separate maintenance.

It is proposed that the vertebrate collection now housed at the Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory of the Ohio State University be transferred to and made an integral part of the vertebrate collection of the Ohio State Museum and become the property of the Ohio State Museum. It is further proposed that Dr. Milton B. Trautman, now on the staff of the Natural Resources Institute, College of Agriculture of the Ohio State University, be made curator of this collection, under the technical direction of Dr. Edward S. Thomas, curator of Natural History of the Ohio Historical Society. Administrative supervision of Dr. Trautman would rest with the Natural Resources Institute.

It is understood that if this arrangement is consummated the collection will be available for study