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Introduction

CSU Stanislaus’ natural history collection is primarily used to teach students within the College of Science.

More broadly, natural history collections are a repository for genetic, morphological, and ecological data. They are also used as tangible examples of biological phenomena that are accessible to the public.

Materials and methods

We use a spreadsheet to assign each specimen a catalog number, record its associated information, and organize specimens in phylogenetic order.

We conserve the quality of specimens according to known best practices within natural history museums.

CSUStan-Entomology Coll.

Cat#:

Genus:

Species:

Example of blank insect label

Results

Three students have completely catalogued CSU Stanislaus’s ornithology, mammalogy, and vertebrate paleontology collections. The entire catalog consists of 8,193 entries, one for each specimen.



Taylor Blee examining bird specimen label
Photo credit: Aaron Eden

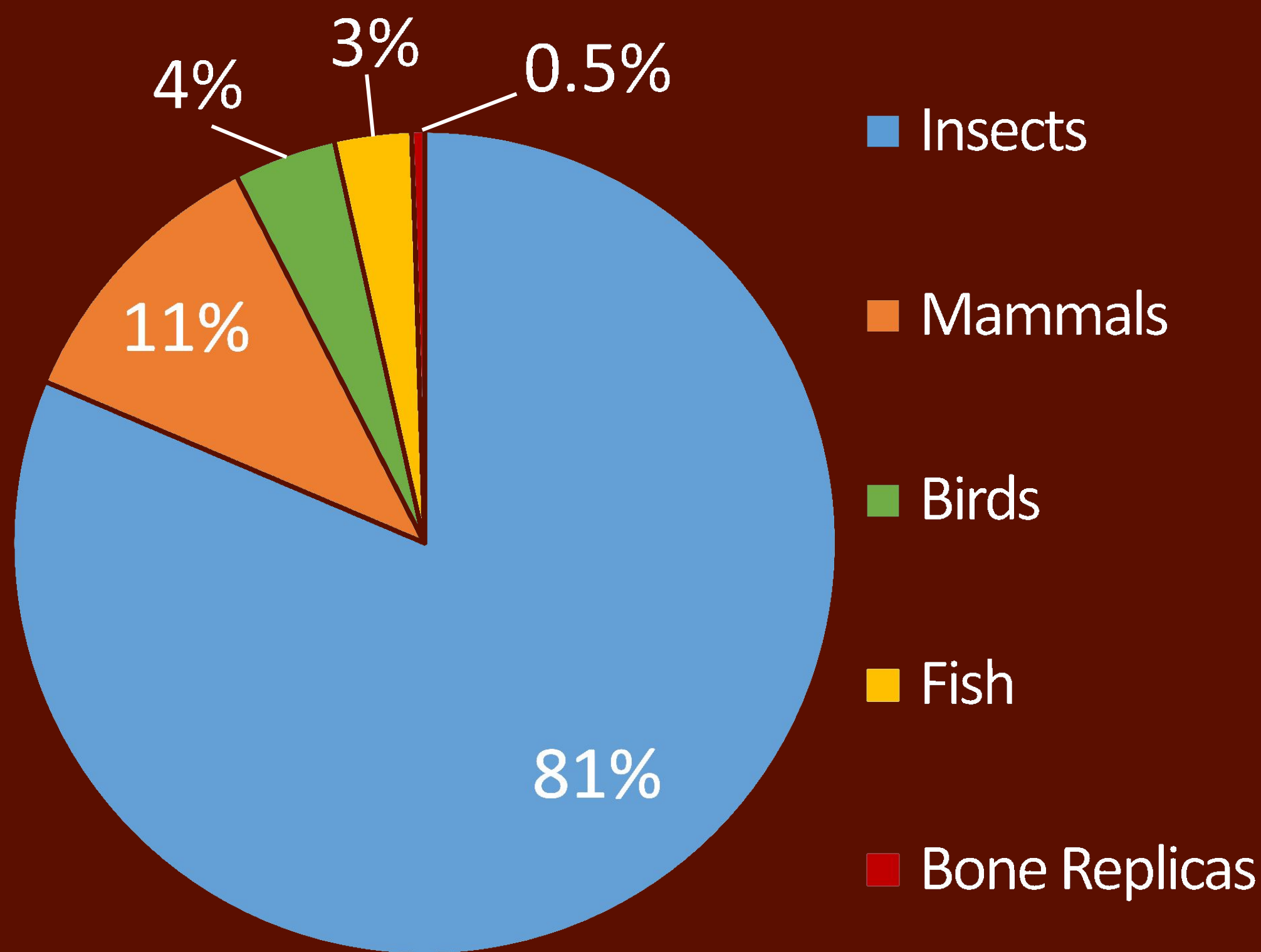
Catalogue number	Storage Location	Order	Family	Common Name	Genus	Species	Date	Country	State	County	Locality	Latitude	Longitude	Sex
44	N213- Cabinet 11, Tray 2	Accipitriformes	Accipitridae	Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo	jamaicensis	29-Jan-1989	United States	CA	Merced	Merced National	37.1	-120.5	F
267	N213- Cabinet 11, Tray 3	Strigiformes	Tytonidae	Barn Owl	Tyto	alba	14-Jan-1967	United States	CA	Stanislaus	Denair	37.52	-120.79	M
266	N213- Cabinet 11, Tray 4	Strigiformes	Strigidae	Western Screech Owl	Megascops	kennicottii	22-Jan-1987	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	M
270	N213- Cabinet 11, Tray 4	Strigiformes	Strigidae	Western Screech Owl	Megascops	kennicottii	9-Oct-1983	United States	CA	Stanislaus	Denair, 3600 N.	37.527	-120.819	NA
269	N213- Cabinet 11, Tray 4	Strigiformes	Strigidae	Great Horned Owl	Bubo	virginianus	09-Feb-1989	United States	CA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
271	N213- Cabinet 11, Tray 4	Strigiformes	Strigidae	Great Horned Owl	Bubo	virginianus	15-Jan-1967	United States	CA	Stanislaus	3 mi SW of Turic	37.44	-120.9	M
272	N213- Cabinet 11, Tray 4	Strigiformes	Strigidae	Great Horned Owl	Bubo	virginianus	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
273	N213- Cabinet 11, Tray 4	Strigiformes	Strigidae	Great Horned Owl	Bubo	virginianus	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	M
265	N213- Cabinet 11, Tray 4	Strigiformes	Strigidae	Spotted Owllet	Athene	cunicularia	xx-Jan-1978	United States	CA	Stanislaus	Clarebel Rd 2 m	37.71	-120.72	F
319	N213- Cabinet 11, Tray 4	Strigiformes	Strigidae	Long-eared Owl	Asio	otus	09-Oct-1983	United States	CA	Stanislaus	Denair, 3600 N.	37.527	-120.819	NA

Entries within the catalog



Pinned leaf beetles within the insect collection

Catalog Composition by Specimen Type



Future Directions

The next step is to optimize our available space and finish cataloging the fish, insect, herpetology, and paleontology collections. Next, is to provide instructors with an accessible way to use specimens for instruction without sacrificing the organization of the collection. Access will also extend to scientific outreach programs like Science in Our Community. Lastly, the natural history collection would be available for students to use for research projects.

Personally, I will continue to search for positions in natural history collections, following my passions for science education, entomology, and conservation.

Acknowledgments

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CSU Stan Dept of Biological Sciences

CSUS-M 0001

Didelphis virginiana

Skull

Stanislaus Co., California, USA

Modern

Suzuki, J.A.

22-Oct-68

Example of Opossum skull label