

**MS  
Coll.  
127**

**Baillie (James Little)**

Correspondence with naturalists; a dictionary of naturalists; drafts for a life of Charles Fothergill; bird-watching journals kept by Baillie from 1920-1970; Baillie's weekly columns in The Toronto Evening Telegram, 1931-70 (on microfilm); some material by other naturalists.

Extent: 11 metres; 130 boxes and items

Note: Collection is located at **Downsview Offsite Storage**.

Acquired from Baillie's estate in 1971.

Inquiries about copyright may be referred to:

Debra Dearlove  
David Mason Books  
416-598-1015  
366 Adelaide St W,  
Toronto, ON M5V 1R7

BAILLIE (JAMES LITTLE) PAPERS

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James L. Baillie was born in Toronto, July 4, 1904, and educated at King Edward School and Harbord Collegiate which he attended at night. He joined the staff of the Royal Ontario Museum in 1922 and served in the Department of Ornithology as Technical Assistant, Research Assistant and Assistant Curator successively, until his death.

Beginning in 1955 he conducted a series of lectures for the University of Toronto Extension entitled An introduction to the Study of birds.

His long association with The Toronto Evening Telegram began in 1931 when he started his weekly column on birds. This column ran for 39 years. He undertook many special assignments for The Telegram, writing many feature articles and guiding nature tours for them.

His writing output over the years was phenomenal. Besides writing two chapters of a book on the Saunders family, he was the author of over 300 articles, almost all on birds, but some on the broader concerns of conservation. He wrote scripts for radio and assisted with the preparation of educational films.

Much in demand as a speaker, he lectured all over Ontario. However, his P.R. work for the Museum is what his true disciples remember best. No budding naturalist was ever turned away from the ornithology department, and many of the best known names in natural history to-day are "graduates" of his patient explanations in the bird room & in the field.

He belonged to many organizations. Among them were: The American Ornithologists' Union, the Toronto Field Naturalists, The Federation of Ontario Naturalists, The Canadian Audubon Society, the Toronto Ornithological Club, the Toronto Field Biologists' Club, and the Brodie Club. Of the latter three groups he was a founding member. He held offices in all the Canadian organizations on the list. He corresponded with naturalists all over the world and collected books avidly.

He died on May 29, 1970, one month before what would have been the date of his official retirement from the R.O.M. In the last years of his

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life he had received some official recognition for his great work, and his name is commemorated in the Jim Baillie Nature Reserve near Uxbridge and in the yearly Baillie Birdathon at Long Point, the proceeds of which go to the Long Point Bird Observatory.

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Container Listing

- Boxes 1 - 21 Correspondence  
*Arranged alphabetically.*
- Boxes 22, 23 Photographs of birds and mammals
- Boxes 24 - 36 Biographical dictionary of naturalists.  
Material from many sources collected by Baillie.  
Arranged alphabetically by person.
- Boxes 37 - 38 Charles Fothergill material, collected by Baillie.  
Contains notes, photos and drafts of finished  
portions of the typescript.
- Box 39 Material organized by Baillie for a book to be  
called Ornithological Work in Ontario. Typescript,  
photos.
- Box 40 Articles and speeches by Baillie. Includes a  
bibliography of Baillie's articles, and a list of his  
his speeches.
- Box 41 Biographical material on Baillie. Includes his  
~~curriculum~~ curriculum vitae, certificates, his life-list,  
correspondence received by his family at the time of  
his death, tributes to Baillie, the setting up of the  
Baillie Nature Reserve near Uxbridge, and establishment  
of the Baillie Birdathon at Long Point.
- Box 42 Baillie's columns which appeared in the Toronto  
Telegram, 1931 - 1970. On microfilm. (Originals  
owned by Mrs. Florence Wilson)
- Box 43 Bird-watching notes made by Jim Baillie (samples only)  
Now transcribed into his bird-watching journals by  
Gerry Bennett
- Box 44 Bird-watching journals, 1-19. March 28, 1921 - July 25, 1945
- Box 45 Bird-watching journals, 20-37. July 8, 1934 - March 29, 1945
- Box 46 Bird-watching journals, 38-56. March 30, 1945 - Nov. 28, 1953
- Box 47 Bird-watching journals, 57-73. Nov. 28, 1953 - May 20, 1960
- Box 47 (a) Bird-watching journals, 74 - 87. May 20, 1960 - May 3, 1970
- Box 48 (a) Breeding records of bird species kept by Baillie, 1920-1960. 3 v.
- Box 48 (b) Personal diaries, 1920-1964. 39 v.
- Boxes 49 - 58 Files on bird species - arranged by family
- Boxes 59 - 63 Regional files of Ornithology in Ontario

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Container Listing (Cont'd)

- Boxes 64-104 B Miscellaneous notes, record cards etc. .  
Partially sorted newspaper clippings, correspondence,  
notes
- Box 105 Birdwatching notes by;  
G. Bennett - Prescott County  
Northern Ontario  
Franklin Cook - Lambton County  
Hagar - James Bay.  
Knechtel - Waterloo  
J. Satterly - Cochrane Area  
R.H. Smith - Western James Bay  
Twoney - Camrose district  
Adam Watson - Baffinland  
P.A. Taverner - Preliminary list of Birds of Ontario -  
prepublication copy - 1938  
W.E. Saunders - Birdwatching columns in London  
Ontario newspapers.
- Box 106 J.K. Reynolds - Bird-watching columns in London  
Ontario newspaper  
W.W. Judd's Bibliography of Saunders' and Reynolds' columns
- Box 107 James Baillie; Note book My first observations in the Toronto  
area of mammals, reptiles, wild flowers etc.
- Box 108 Toner, George C. Scrapbooks of newspaper columns on the Bruce.  
Typescripts of columns or perhaps chapters for  
a projected book on the Bruce Peninsula
- Box 109 Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Society.  
Letters re its inception  
Scattered issues, and a few newsletters.
- Box 110 Kortright, Frank H. Album of photos etc, relating to Kortright's  
career, the game reserve etc.
- Box 111 Baillie's life lists; statistics for his Point Pelee trips; his  
Toronto census statistics. 1 vol. Statistics for area  
within 30 miles of the R.O.M. Passerine birds, 1 vol.  
Non-passerine, 1 vol.
- Box 112 Manuscript catalogue of Jim Baillie's library. 2 vols.  
Box 113 Baillie Birdathon - T shirt  
Box 114 Restricted
- Mapcase  
material Jack Miner poster.  
Olin S. Pettingill poster.  
Manuscript map of Toronto, drawn for the F.O.N., 1960,  
by Stuart Thompson.

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Item 115 Log-book of the Kettleby Kabin Klub, Apr. 4, 1925 - Apr. 5, 1942,  
or, The Natural History of King Township, York Co., Ontario.  
192 p.

Manuscript text with various documents and receipts pasted in the  
last 13 pages. One document is the lease for the land, with the  
signatures of the original lessees:

James L. Baillie  
Hubert H. Brown  
E.B. Shelley Logier  
J.H. Fleming  
L.L. Snyder  
W.P. Young

Sept. 1988

Item 116 Baillie bookplates

Box 117 Notes and correspondence for biography file

Box 118 offprints on Birds, articles by others

**1998 ACCESSION**

- Items 119-129 A collection of albums containing clippings of column, "In Birdland" by James L. Baillie, Jr. Column later changed to "Wildlife" and "Birdlife." Other articles by Baillie are included in chronological order.
- Item 119 June 20, 1931 - May 26, 1934.
- Item 120 June 2, 1934 - May 8, 1937.
- Item 121 May 15, 1937 - March 6, 1940.
- Item 122 March 23, 1940 - Jan. 30, 1943.
- Item 123 Feb. 6, 1943 - Oct. 30, 1948.
- Item 124 Nov. 6, 1948 - August 14, 1954.
- Item 125 August 21, 1954 - Sept. 26, 1959.
- Item 126 Oct. 3, 1959 - Dec. 29, 1962.
- Item 127 Jan. 5, 1963 - July 15, 1967.
- Item 128 July 22, 1967 - May 29, 1970.
- Item 129 Wedding album of James and Helen Baillie.

**Box 130 Miscellaneous personal material.**

- Folders 1-11 Correspondence (ALS).  
Martha Jessie Scadding to James L. Baillie, July 9, 1927-July 29, 1931.  
Martha Scadding married Baillie in 1930. Some correspondence signed "Pat" seems to be from Martha.
- Folder 12 Correspondence (ALS).  
James Baillie to Helen Kleon, February 26, 1943. (The date after his proposal.)
- Folder 13 Correspondence (TLS).  
James Baillie open letter, May 19, 1970. (Carbon copy.)  
Regarding the curatorship at the ROM.
- Folder 14 Correspondence (TLS).  
H.J.M. Barnett, Dec. 1971.  
Two pieces (one carbon copy) regarding Baillie's death and the ROM.
- Folder 15 Misc. correspondence.

Box 130 (cont)

- Folder 16 Correspondence.  
Various pieces regarding the Baillie library.
- Folder 17 Correspondence.  
Rachael Grover to Florence Wilson, 1981.  
Re: Fisher exhibition of Baillie papers. With four b/w photos of exhibit.
- Folder 18 Correspondence.  
From "Allan", January 22, 1989.
- Folders 19-23 Ryerson Press Book on Ornithology.  
Drafts. Typescripts and carbon copies, with notes.
- Folder 24 Ryerson Press Book on Ornithology.  
Correspondence.
- Folder 25 Ephemera, personal.  
Marriage certificate, birth certificate, etc.
- Folder 26 Ephemera, naturalists.  
Clippings and photos.  
Baillie, J.L. *Ontario Grouse*. Toronto: ROM, 1956. (Signed "to Flo, from Daddy").
- Folder 27 Glass slide of birds, National Audubon Society, New York, 1974.
- Folder 28 Dore, Jackson. *The descendants of Richard Dore of Oxfordshire, England for five generations since the arrival of the family in Canada and century ago*. Ottawa: Privately Produced, 1974.  
  
Prepared for presentation at the centennial gathering, Ottawa / Manotick, July 5-7, 1974. Copy no. 20, presented to Mr. & Mrs. Bob Wilson.
- Folder 29 Society of Canadian Foresters. *Spruce-Fir Management and Spruce Budworm*. Broomall, PA: Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1985.
- Folder 30 Nagorsen, David. "Ontario Expeditions Past and Present: The ROM's Provincial Mammal Survey." *Rotunda* 12.3 (1979): 20-25.