

# Harry Harris Papers (SC18)

## *Introduction*

This collection consists of material related to Harry Harris' (1878-1954) study of birds in the Kansas City area, including a lithograph print of an Harris' finch, article reprints, correspondence, and a photograph of an Harris' sparrow.

## *Descriptive Summary*

Title: Harry Harris Papers  
Dates: 1919-1942  
Size: 0.2 linear feet, 1 box, 5 folders  
Collection Number: SC18

## *Donor Information*

Found in collection.

## *Citation Note*

Harry Harris Papers (SC18), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## *Administrative Information*

Harris' *Birds of the Kansas City Region*, a 2010 book reprint of a 1919 article published first in *Transactions of the Academy of Science, St. Louis*, (v. 2 no. 8) is available for checkout (598.097 H31B).

The original *Birds of the Kansas City Region* article is held by Missouri Valley Special Collections under MVSC 598 H31, as is a reprint of *Historical Notes on Harris' Sparrow (Zonotrichia querula)* under MVSC 598 H31H.

## *Biographical Sketch*

Harry Harris was born in Moberly, Missouri on April 17, 1878 to Joseph H. and Florence E. Harris and showed an early interest in birds. Harris studied at the University of Michigan and Washington University in St. Louis, and worked as a commercial artist from 1897 until 1902. From 1902 until 1921, Harris served as a cashier in the Kansas City Post Office of which his father was Postmaster. Harris then moved to southern California where he served as the curator of the library of vertebrate zoology for the California Institute of Technology. Harris published his first of several ornithological works in 1919 and was actively involved in several birding societies such as the Cooper Ornithological Society. Harris died at Eagle Rock in Los Angeles, California on June 11, 1954.

### *Scope and Content Note*

This collection consists of material related to Harry Harris' study of birds in the Kansas City area, including a lithograph print of an Harris' finch, article reprints, correspondence, and a photograph of an Harris' sparrow. The collection is arranged in its original order, largely by type of bird to which the materials' content relates, and covers the period from 1919 to 1942.

### *Collection Inventory*

- f. 1 Harris' finch: Audubon lithograph print, n.d.
- f. 2 "Historical notes on Harris' sparrow": bound article reprint, 4/1919
- f. 3 Harris' sparrow: black and white photograph, 1924; notecard, n.d.;  
"Kansas City's own bird" article reprint, 6/1942
- f. 4 Sparrows: correspondence, 1920-1924
- f. 5 Warblers: correspondence, 5/1942; "A Tabulated summary of the  
distribution of warblers (Family Compothlypidae) in the Kansas City  
region: article reprint, 5/1942

**Processed by Gloria Maxwell, January 1992. Reprocessed by Melissa Horak-Hern, Special Collections Associate, April 2017.**