Papers of Victor E. Shelford, professor of Zoology (1914-46), including correspondence, mimeographed committee reports and statements relating to the Ecological Society of America and the Committees for the study of Plant and Animal Communities, on the Preservation of Natural Conditions and on Applied Ecology; plant, animal and aquatic ecology; scientific meetings, lectures and papers, field trips and contributions to the Naturalist's Guide (1924); listing nature sanctuaries, natural areas and biotic and animal communities; listing, describing and increasing the number of natural areas for wild animals; predatory animal control and wildlife research; preservation of natural conditions for ecological study, especially the biologically primitive in national parks; the commercial use of national parks and construction of a tunnel in the Rocky Mountain National Park (1933); study of grasslands areas (1931); American entry into World War I and family matters.

Significant documents relate to the organization, development, membership and functions of the Ecological Society (10/5/37 & 11/30/39); the Grassland Research Foundation (1939-58); the Foundation for the Study of Cycles (1943-45, 1949); a sabbatical leave report (2/23/45); a discussion of the organization and emphasis of the Ecological Society and its committees resulting from an Executive Committee proposal to limit the Committee on the Preservation of Natural Conditions to identifying and studying natural areas and providing information and advice without attempting to influence legislation (6/6/45, 12/16/45 & 12/20/45) - The Executive Committee said unbiased scientific experts should not engage in political activity, while Shelford said federal employees and National Research Council members were under unusual restrictions in working to protect natural areas - ; the University Committee on Natural Areas and Uncultivated Lands, especially the care and use of Brownfield and Trelease Woods and a history of the Committee, 1918-47 (3/14/47) (1946-49); (1948-49); retirement pensions and scholarly activities of emeriti (1951, 1954, 1956); the Wildlife Management Institute (1952-54); a proposed plant and animal life sciences building (1952, 1954-55); botany and zoology as biological sciences (1953); editing of biological monographs (1954-56); an article about Shelford (1955); Shelford's lecture on "The History of Ecology" (1958); a history of Ecology to 1919 (1960) and a note about the influence of Shelford's writings (1961).


Professor Shelford's research and teaching interests included the life histories and color pattern of tiger beetles; ecology of aquatic animals; physiological life histories; relations to climate; climate stimulation apparatus; marine communities; light effects and measurement; bioecology; fluctuations in number and fecundity of organisms; animal ecology; cycles; bioecology of North America; paired factors and the administration of biological sciences.
Box 1:

Correspondence File:
1896-1909
   School documents, letters of recommendation, scholarship offers, University of Chicago (1902-09), W. Bateson (1/31/08)
1906
   Letter to C.H. Haberer from Shelford
1910-19
1914-46
   University of Illinois Appointments
1920-23
   G. Pinchot (4/15/20), B. Uvarov (6/16/22) (Digital Surrogate)
1924
   Publication, "Naturalist's Guide to the Americas" (Digital Surrogate)
1925-30
   W.T. Grenfell (7/15/25), publications, field work (Digital Surrogate)
1931-35
   Ecological Society of America committee reports, H.A. Wallace (8/3/33)
1936
   U.S. Departments of Interior & Agriculture
1937-39
   Ecological Society of America, especially 11/30/39 letter to W.C. Allee, 6/23-8/4/39 animal ecology field trip
1939-58
   Grassland Research Foundation (Digital Surrogate)
1940, 1946-49
   University Committee on Natural Areas & Uncultivated Lands
1941, 1943-45
   Ecological Society of America (Digital Surrogate)

Box 2:

Correspondence File:
1942-46
   Animal Ecology Field Studies Inc. (2 folders) corporation to provide bus service for field work during wartime rationing
1946-47
   Conservation Council, Vivarium research equipment, retirement
1948-49
   Chinch Bug outbreaks
1950-52
Retirement benefits research
1953-54  
   Life Science building, manuscripts
1954-56  
   Editing of Biological Monographs
1955-56  
   Publications, Trelease & Brownfield Woods
1957-58  
   Ecology of North America

Box 3:

1960-61  
   "History of Ecology" by Richard Brewer
1964-65  
   The Ecology of North America reviews
1965 
   Tape recording (Digital Surrogate)

SUMMARY OF TAPE RECORDING OF MARCH 24, 1965:

0-4 Identity of Tape.
5-7 Youth in New York.
8-19 West Virginia University; William E. Rumsey.
20-41 University of Chicago; President Jerome Raymond; scholarship. Faculty Frank R. Lillie, C.B. Davenport, H.C. Cowles and Whitman.
42-51 Interest in ecology. Cowles and Brehm "influenced me most....Brehm wrote descriptions such as I wanted to do."
52-93 Ecological Society of America; vice chairman of organizing committee; midwestern universities; Ecology of North America references to Stephen A. Forbes and Charles M. Child and history in introduction.
94-111 University of Illinois. Forbes was responsible for my coming to Illinois. He liked the papers that I had written. Forbes told Ward that if he did not take Shelford in Zoology, Forbes would take Shelford in Entymology.
112-123 Stephen A. Forbes - scientist.
124-130 Henry B. Ward - founded parasitology. They attempted to fire him in
172-185 the 1920's. Roger Adams persuaded him not to fight.

131-136 Edmund J. James - fine man.

137-140 Charles Zeleny - an enigma.

141-157 David Kinley - an old scoundrel, "blustered and roared."


186-187 Roger Adams - did things.

188-197 Arthur C. Vestal - interested in ideas.

198-203 C.A. Adams was at Illinois; C.C. Adams was a successful ecologist.

204-209 College of Agriculture faculty did what the dean told them to.

210-217 Charles M. Childs' advice is in the dedication of The Ecology of North America; he believed in experiments.

218-221 F. E. Clements wrote ecological books.

222-236 Field Work. I did not follow up the marine field. I travelled in all of the states of the U.S., all provinces of Canada and three-fourths of the states of Mexico.


251-265 Concern for preservation of natural areas.

266-270 Grasslands Research Foundation "didn't amount to anything."

271-288 1945 Ecological Society controversy. I sought to organize a nature retreat and it "disrupted" the Ecological Society. The Society would not get involved in politics.

290-297 Development of Ecology.

298-301 Identification of April 1, 1965 tape.

302-364 Laboratory and Field Ecology (1929) covers ecological methodology and behavior of plants and animals under nature. Work done while assisting Stephen A. Forbes prior to 1929. Book dedicated to Henry B. Ward,

365-375 Carl Oesterling was editor and corrected copy.
376-384 Warder C. Allee - Chicago; my first doctorate.
385-389 Samuel Eddy - Minnesota; doctoral student.
402-418 Jakob Kunz - I was the first to use the photoelectric cell under water. Effect of light on marine life.
419-428 Stephen A. Forbes' "The Lake as a Microcosm" used Möbius' system (German).
429-439 A.H. Wright - I knew him at Cornell as early as 1915. He is still there.
440-444 A. G. Tansley - English ecologist.
445-457 Barrington More was interested in promoting ecology.
458-466 Forrest Shreve - Tucson, Arizona Desert Laboratory.
467-470 A.O. Weese - Oklahoma. Took his degree with me.
471-474 S. Charles Kendeigh.
475-480 12-15 took doctorates with me.
481-538 The Ecology of North America (1963). Financed by the University Press and the Illinois Foundation. I had quarreled with the Foundation head about faculty salaries in public, but he helped support the book anyhow.
539-546 Fracases, rows and controversies - "I enjoyed them all."
547-574 A geographer and Kendeigh read the book for me.
575-617 Field trips in North America. Assistants and classes. Reelfoot Lake. I was there during the intrusion of civilization.
618-643 Vivarium laboratory was used in research for Laboratory and Field Ecology (1929). After its publication, Daniels and Ward gave me assistants.
Brownfield Woods. Surveys and acquisition. Straighten out title with Sveinbjorn Johnson. Received $10,000 from President A.C. Willard. I had sent several written requests to him.

Prairie tract added to Trelease Woods; funds provided by University Research Board. Clean hedge rows.

World War II teaching.

The Ecology of North America has already produced $1,300 in royalties.

World War I teaching.

University did not get buildings in the 1930's because the administration didn't want to take Roosevelt's money. David Kinley.

Ecological Succession and Physiological Geography, reprints by V.E. Shelford, 1911-12
Trip Notes, 1929, 1936
Accession Records, 1913-32
  1925-31, 1942, 1945-46
  Locations and Insect Collections, 1942-45
Ecology - Invertebrates; Collection Data Southern Oak-Hickory, 1942-45
Taxonomic Data
  Ants, Tropical          Flies
  Aphids                   Fulgorids
  Beetles                  Harvestmen
  Butterflies              Hemiptera
  Centipede, Millipede    (Formicides)
  Cicadas
  Collembola
  Crustacea
  Crane Flies
  Earth Worms
  Fish                     Hymenoptera
  Mollusks, Tropical
  Orthoptera
  Spiders
  Termites
  Tree Hoppers
  Wasps

Box 4:

Bulletin of Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History contributions by Shelford, 1917-1932
Scientific contribution by Shelford - reprints - 4 volumes., 1906-46
Scientific contributions by Shelford's students - reprints - 5 volumes, 1912-46
Animal Communities in Temperate America (1913)

Box 5:
The Ecology of North America (1963)
Reprints of 63 articles, 1913-19

Box 6:

Research notes of Victor Shelford (received from Natural History Survey), March 6, 1967
Journal Publication Reprints, 1920-55 (2 folders)
Small Box A:
- Colorado Desert; shrubs, 1944
- Kendeigh Collections, 1944
- Quebec, West Virginia, Kentucky, 1944
- Texas - Mexico, 1942-44
- Illinois, 1944
- Milford, Utah, 1944
- White Rock Mountains, Arkansas, 1944
- Western Indiana, 1944
- Mesa Verde Park, Colorado, 1944
- Coniferous Forest, Alaska, 1926
- Milford, Utah, 1945
- Valentine, Nebraska, 1945
- Ellensburg, Washington, 1945
- Moran, Wyoming, 1945
- McMinville, Oregon, 1945
- Odell Lake, Oregon, 1945
- Yakima Park, Washington, 1945
- South Fulton, Tennessee, 1947
- Reelfoot Lake, 1949, 1952
Small Box B:
- Magnolia Bay, Florida, 1942
- Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee, 1943, 1949, 1944, 1933
- Coleopteral Collected on Reelfoot Lake, April 1949, 1943, 1944, 1947
- Tropical Florida, 1942-43
  - Description of vegetation
- Atlanta, Athens, Georgia, 1942, 1943, 1945, 1944
- Henderson, Texas, 1942
- Mexico, Texas, 1943-44
- Liptonville, Tennessee, 1947, 1944
- Mountain Lake, Virginia, 1943
- Arkansas, 1943
- Urania, Louisiana, 1943
- North Carolina, 1943
- Illinois, 1943
- Carter Cave, Kentucky, 1943
- Halam, Texas, 1943
Rochester, Wyoming, 1943
Marienville, Pennsylvania, 1943
Determinations for Dr. V.E. Shelford, 1943, 1946, 1949, 1947
  Report listing identifications for insects and mites
Field Notes, 1942-45
  Description of locality, stratum and community of trees, grasses and other
  members of the Botanical Kingdom

Box 7:

Small Box C:
  Amphibians - V.E. Shelford, 1942-45
  Annelida, 1945
  Ants - V.E. Shelford, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1942-45
    Identification:
    1) scientific name
    2) locality
    3) date
    4) nature of habitat
  Ant Determination, 1942-43
  Beetles, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1942-45
  Coleoptera, determination
  Centipedes - V.E. Shelford, 1943-45
  Chermids, 1943
  Chironomids Culicids, 1942-45, 1939
    V.E. Shelford, Acting Head of the Zoology Department
  Collembola, 1942-43
  Crustacea, 1942-45
    Amphipoda, Decapods and isopods
  Deptera, 1925-45
  Fish, 1942-45
  Hemiptera, 1928-47
  Homoptera, 1925-47
  Larvae, 1942-46
    Lepidoptera, Beetles, Deptera, Nymphalids, Elaterids, Mayfly Nymphs, Caddis
    Fly Larvae
  Leeches, 1939-45
  Lepidoptera, 1927-43
  Mammals, 1932
    Colorado Mammals
  Millipeds, 1942-48
    Scorpions, Ticks
  Mollusca, Identification of, 1942-47
    Snails, Terrestrial Pulmonates and Slugs, and Aquatic Pulmonates
  Neuroptera, 1943-44
Orthoptera, 1942-48
  Determined for Dr. V.E. Shelford, October 1947 - March 1948; 1942-47
Plankton, 1942
Phalangids, 1943-45
Psocids, 1943-44
Reptiles, 1942-45
Sawflies, 1931-32, 1944-46
Spiders, 1931-32, 1942-47
  Found at New Mexico and south Texas
Scorpions, 1943-45
Termites, 1943-45
Thysanura, 1943
  Sawflies belonging to the family Tenthredinidae (as identified by Herbert H. Ross, a Systematic Entomologist)

Small Box D:
  Ecological Notes: description of mountainous habitats in relation to the plant and animal world, 1910
  Woodchuck in thicket below glacier, Alpine Steppe, as observed in Canada, South Dakota, Nebraska: conifers on mountains, cottonwoods in sort of savannah on stream, 1914-18
  Entomological Notes, 1925
  Coniferous forest, mixed shrubs, natural prairies; British Columbia - topography, 1926
  General Vegetation, 1927
  Great Plains Grassland, Marmouth, North Dakota: grasshoppers, good mixed prairie, 1928-29
  British Columbia Grassland: topographical and ecological notes, 1930
  Low Tundra: Mosquitoes (Scientific name, common name and field notes), Churchill region, mountains - Pikes Peak, Alpine meadow: entomological notes, 1931
  Tundra, Diptera, Hymenoptera, and Homoptera: Churchill, Manitoba, 1932-34
  Chaparral between grassland and forest, Beetles, Ants and Grasshoppers: Rocky Mountain, Colorado, 1936
  Dense Vegetation: Deer, Jaguar, and Honey Bear - Mexico, 1938.
  Grass and Forest Vegetation: ecological notes, 1941
  Deciduous Forest Climes: entomology and vegetation, 1942
  Grassland, tropical and deciduous forest on climax soil: Mexico, 1943
  Fulgarids, Cicadas: determination and locality. Tree Hoppers and Diptera, 1944
  Plants: identification, locality, 1945
  Sulondaue: Scientific name. Leaf Hoppers: Scientific names and locality found, 1947

Box 8:

Shelford Books donated November, 1996 by former a Shelford student, Stanley I. Auerbach of Oak Ridge, Tennessee:
  Naturalist's Guide to the Americas (1926)
  Laboratory and Field Ecology (1930)
Animal Communities in Temperate America, Second Edition (1937)
Bio-Ecology, with Frederic E. Clements (1939)

Shelford Photographs donated April, 2006 by Robert A. Croker as used in Croker's biography
Pioneer Ecologist-The Life and Works of Victor Ernest Shelford, 1877-1968