



**Bethlehem Area Public Library
Local History Collections**

Papers of Catherine L. Barlieb, 1934-1968

Creator:	Barlieb, Catherine L. (1889-1969)
Title:	Papers of Catherine L. Barlieb, 1934-1970.
Inclusive Dates:	1934-1970
Extent:	1.8 linear feet
Abstract:	The papers of Catherine L. Barlieb (1889-1969) reflect her keen interest in bird watching through numerous notebooks containing detailed accounts of her walks around the city of Bethlehem, meticulous tables chronicling approximately 210 species of birds, and her work with schoolchildren through the Junior Audubon Clubs she organized. Barlieb's passion for wildlife is evident in her papers, offering the researcher an inside view of one woman's efforts to identify and chronicle numerous species, aiding in conservation initiatives and inspiring an interest in birds in the Lehigh Valley.
Access to Materials:	The collection is open to researchers in the Bethlehem Room.
Copyright:	Catherine L. Barlieb's survivors retain all copyrights to items within this collection. Permission to quote and/or publish must be obtained from them directly.
Preferred Citation:	[Item], Papers of Catherine L. Barlieb (1934-1970). The Bethlehem Area Public Library Local History Collections.

Biographical Note

A devoted bird watcher, Catherine L. Barlieb (1889-1969), also known as the "bird lady" spent three decades carefully identifying and recording her observations of approximately 210 species in Bethlehem. An elementary school teacher, Barlieb became fascinated with birding in 1930 and disseminated her passion for wildlife to children by organizing the first Junior Audubon Club in Edgeboro School in 1933, followed by similar clubs in both the Nitschmann and Neisser Schools. In teaching her pupils to observe and identify birds, collect owl pellets and express themselves in dramatic sketches and mock trials, Barlieb inspired in them a deep appreciation for wildlife conservation.

Beginning in 1933, Barlieb began recording her frequent walks in notebooks, detailing bird sightings, weather conditions and interactions with other bird watchers. At the same time, Barlieb kept meticulous records of the species she identified, tracing their appearances chronologically to learn more about the birds' habits and behavior. In 1965, the Moravian College Conservation Association published a compilation of her notes and a chronicle of the species she identified in table form. *Bethlehem's Birds As I Found Them 1933-1962*, characterized by its delightful vignettes and reliable research, is a legacy of Barlieb's passion for the richly diverse birdlife of the

city. It is a captivating precursor to the ecology and conservation movement of the late twentieth century.

In addition to her teaching and bird watching, Barlieb was an active member of the Lehigh Valley Bird Club, National Audubon Association, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, and the Bethlehem Natural Science Association. Always eager to serve her community, Barlieb also dedicated many hours to volunteer work in the YWCA, St. Luke's Hospital and the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind.

Catherine L. Barlieb passed away on January 16, 1969 at the age of 79.

Collection Scope and Contents

The papers of Catherine L. Barlieb (1889-1969) reflect her keen interest in bird watching through numerous notebooks containing detailed accounts of her walks around the city of Bethlehem, meticulous tables chronicling approximately 210 species of birds, and her work with schoolchildren through the Junior Audubon Clubs she organized. Barlieb's passion for wildlife is evident in her papers, offering the researcher an inside view of one woman's efforts to identify and chronicle numerous species, aiding in conservation initiatives and inspiring an interest in birds in the Lehigh Valley.

The papers are organized in five series. The **Correspondence Series** (1965, 1970) consists of two letters, both addressed to Robert P. Snyder and relate to Barlieb's published work *Bethlehem's Birds As I Found Them 1933-1962*. The **Professional Associations Series** (1934-1967) documents Barlieb's involvement with the Bethlehem Natural Science Association, the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association and the Junior Audubon Clubs she organized at the Edgeboro, Neisser and Nitschmann Schools. Reports, newsletters, correspondence and newspaper clippings make up this series. The Junior Audubon Club subseries is of particular interest as it includes Barlieb's reminiscences of her involvement with the three schools, photographs of some of the children, dramatic sketches performed by the children and radio programs in which Barlieb spoke about the clubs. The **Notebooks and Research Series** (1934-1968) consists of Barlieb's carefully documented data on bird sightings. For the most part, records relate to Bethlehem's birds and reflect data compiled for Barlieb's published work on the subject. Incidence tables chronicle the variety of species identified by Barlieb while several notebooks contain observation data by additional observers mentioned in Barlieb's published work. Many of the notebooks contain personal reflections about Barlieb's bird walks combined with newspaper clippings depicting weather conditions or unusual events. The Reference Materials subseries contains articles and poems about nature by various authors, copied for Barlieb's own reference. The **Writings Series** (1934-1965) consists of several handwritten manuscripts. A revised manuscript of *Bethlehem's Birds As I Found Them 1933-1962* as well as the printed copy are included. A supplement to the book entitled *My Note Books and I: A Supplement to Birds of Bethlehem As I Found Them, 1933-1965* can be found in three versions and a similar work *Just Notes* consisting of brief diary entries also reflects Barlieb's bird watching efforts. A number of short essays on topics such as the seasons and Bethlehem's predators illustrate Barlieb's interests in ecology. The **Other Observers Series** (1958-1968) consists of the records and notes of Mrs. Eunice Schafer, fellow observer mentioned in *Bethlehem's Birds*, during bird watches around the country.

Organization of the Papers of Catherine L. Barlieb

- 1) Series: Correspondence (1965, 1970)
- 2) Series: Professional Associations (1934-1967)
 - a. Subseries: Bethlehem Natural Science Association (1960)
 - b. Subseries: Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association (1940-1967)

- c. Subseries: Junior Audubon Club (1934-1948)
- 3) Series: Notebooks and Research (1934-1968)
 - a. Subseries: Incidence Table
 - b. Subseries: Notebooks
 - c. Subseries: Reference Materials (n.d.)
- 4) Series: Writings (1934-1965)
 - a. Subseries: *Birds of Bethlehem As I Found Them 1933-1962*
 - b. Subseries: "Just Notes"
 - c. Subseries: "My Note Books and I: A Supplement to Birds of Bethlehem As I Found Them, 1933-1965"
 - d. Subseries: "Some of Bethlehem's Birds (As I Found Them)"
 - e. Subseries: Short Essays
- 5) Series: Other Observers (1958-1968)

Index Terms

The Papers of Catherine L. Barlieb are indexed under the following terms in the Bethlehem Area Public Library Catalog.

People

Barlieb, Catherine L.
Snyder, Robert P.

Subjects

Bird—watching.
Birds – Pennsylvania—Lehigh Valley.
Birds – Ecology.
Wildlife conservation.

Container List: An Inventory of the Papers of Catherine L. Barlieb

Container

Title

Series: Correspondence (1965, 1970)

Scope Note: Consists of two letters addressed to Robert P. Snyder.

Box 1, Folder 1

Barlieb, Catherine L. July 13, 1965. "Supplement" to Birds of Bethlehem (Includes comments about the book, personal notes to Barlieb)

Box 1, Folder 1

Richter, Helen Moyer. July 25, 1970.

Series: Professional Associations (1934-1967)

Subseries: Bethlehem Natural Science Association (1960)

Scope Note: See Box 2, Folders 16-22 for notebooks entitled "Field Trips Out of Town" for Natural Science Association Surveys.

Box 1, Folder 2

"A Report of the 1960 Field Trips of the Bethlehem Natural

Science Association" 1960

Subseries: Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association (1940-1967)

Box 1, Folder 3	Annual Reports 1940-1962
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence (letters, Christmas greetings) 1948, 1953, 1955, n.d.)
	Newsletters
Box 1, Folder 5	# 14-23 1946-1954
Box 1, Folder 6	# 24-27, 29-31, 39 1955-1967
Box 1, Folder 7	Newspaper clippings n.d.
Box 1, Folder 8	Publications (conference proceedings, articles, pamphlets) 1929-1956, n.d.
Box 1, Folder 9	Reports of the President 1958-1960

Subseries: Junior Audubon Club (1934-1948)

Scope Note: Organized by Catherine Barlieb during her work as a teacher in the Bethlehem School District. The first of these clubs began in 1933 at Edgeboro School. A similar club was organized at Neisser School and Nitschmann School. Each club was divided into groups based on age. Children participated in field trips, class work and a variety of projects, including the collection of owl pellets that sparked a nation-wide interest in the Neisser School. Barlieb composed dramatic sketches for the children to perform and short instructional stories to be used in the clubs.

Box 1, Folder 10	Edgeboro School (history, dramatic sketches, mock trial, 2 photographs) 1934-1935, n.d.
Box 1, Folder 11	Neisser School (correspondence, meetings minutes, radio program, 6 photographs) 1941-1942, 1946, 1948, n.d.
Box 1, Folder 12	Nitschmann School (correspondence, history, newspaper clippings, 2 photographs) 1937-1938
Box 1, Folder 13	Club information (about the National Association of Audubon Societies) n.d.
Box 1, Folder 14	Presentations and radio programs 1947, n.d.
Box 1, Folder 15	"Reminiscing with the Bird Clubs" n.d.
Box 1, Folder 16	Writings (dramatic sketches, nature study) n.d.

Series: Notebooks and Research (1934-1968)

Scope Note: This series consists of Barlieb's carefully documented data on bird sightings. For the most part, records relate to Bethlehem's birds and reflect data compiled for Barlieb's published work on the subject.

Subseries: Incidence Table

Scope Note: Consist of handwritten tables and index cards recording sighting data of Bethlehem's birds. Information corresponds to the incidence table found at the back of Barlieb's published book *Bethlehem's Birds...*

	Incidence Table
Box 1, Folder 17	1934-1962
Box 1, Folder 18	1935-1965 (by month)
Box 1, Folder 19	1934-1963 (by year)

Index Cards (arranged by A.O.U. checklist)

Box 1, Folder 20
Box 1, Folder 21
Box 1, Folder 22
Box 1, Folder 23

Horned Grebe-Virginia Rail
Sora-Northern Horned Lark
Prairie Horned Lark-Parula Warbler
Yellow Warbler-Song Sparrow

Subseries: Notebooks (1934-1968)

Notebooks entitled “**Bird Records for the City of Bethlehem Only, 1934-1963**” (2 notebooks, both contain a listing of birds according to the A.O.U. (American Ornithologists Union) checklist, handwritten tables, notes by Barlieb, wildlife conservation stamps, and articles from “Game News” about some of the species).

	Notebook 1
Box 1, Folder 24	# 1-50
Box 1, Folder 25	# 51-100
Box 1, Folder 26	# 101-150
Box 1, Folder 27	# 151-218
	Notebook 2
Box 1, Folder 28	# 1-50
Box 1, Folder 29	# 51-100
Box 1, Folder 30	# 101-150
Box 1, Folder 31	# 151-217

Bird Sightings Notebook (similar to the notebooks mentioned above – birds are in A.O.U. order, handwritten tables, conservation stamps)

Box 1, Folder 32	# 115-160
Box 1, Folder 33	# 161-210

“**Birds of Bethlehem**” Notebooks

Series of unlabeled notebooks containing lists, diary entries, newspaper clippings. Similar to the information contained in the Bird Walks notebooks, but less detailed.

Box 1, Folder 34	1958-1961
Box 1, Folder 35	1962
Box 1, Folder 36	1963
Box 1, Folder 37	1964
Box 1, Folder 38	1965
Box 1, Folder 39	1966-1968 (list and notes)
Box 1, Folder 40	“An Amateur’s Beginning” 1934-1959
Box 1, Folder 41	“Birds by Month”
Box 1, Folder 42	Observation Records 1934-1962
Box 1, Folder 43	Record of Warblers (Approximate) 1934-1964

Notebooks labeled “**Bird Walks**”

Notes are titled “Birds Seen in Bethlehem by Ralph Mancke, Walter Thurber, Mrs. Schafer, Marion Barnes and Myself.” Handwritten lists, dated journal entries, newspaper clippings recording Barlieb’s walks.

Box 1, Folder 44	1934-1936
Box 1, Folder 45	1937-1938
Box 1, Folder 46	1939-1940
Box 1, Folder 47	1941-1942
Box 1, Folder 48	1943
Box 1, Folder 49	1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 50	1946
Box 1, Folder 51	1947
Box 1, Folder 52	1948
Box 1, Folder 53	1949
Box 1, Folder 54	1950
Box 2, Folder 1	1951
Box 2, Folder 2	1952
Box 2, Folder 3	1953
Box 2, Folder 4	1954
Box 2, Folder 5	1955
Box 2, Folder 6	1956
Box 2, Folder 7	1957
Box 2, Folder 8	1958
Box 2, Folder 9	1959
Box 2, Folder 10	1960

Notebooks labeled “**Field Trips Out of Town (1937-)**” (contain handwritten notes, dated journal entries, lists, clippings, tour guides)

Box 2, Folder 11	“Bird Observations Out of Town” 1937-1949 “Natural Science Society Botanical Survey”
Box 2, Folder 12	1947-1952
Box 2, Folder 13	1953
Box 2, Folder 14	1954-1957
Box 2, Folder 15	1958
Box 2, Folder 16	1959-1962
Box 2, Folder 17	“Time of Arrival and Leaving”, Bird Calendar n.d.

Subseries: Reference Materials (n.d.)

Scope Note: Writings and articles about bird watching. Includes essay by various authors copied by hand into notebooks and collected poems about nature and God by various authors.

Box 2, Folder 18	Collected poems about nature and God by various authors
Box 2, Folder 19	Essays by various authors (on topics such as bees, winter, and wildlife)
Box 2, Folder 20-21	Materials about hawks and owls (2 folders)

Series: Writings (1934-1965)

Scope Note: Consists of several handwritten manuscripts. A revised manuscript of *Bethlehem's Birds As I Found Them 1933-1962* as well as the printed copy are included. A supplement to the book entitled *My Note Books and I: A Supplement to Birds of Bethlehem As I Found Them, 1933-1965* can be found in three versions and a similar

work *Just Notes* consisting of brief diary entries also reflects Barlieb's bird watching efforts. A number of short essays on topics such as the seasons and Bethlehem's predators illustrate Barlieb's interests in ecology.

Subseries: "Birds of Bethlehem As I Found Them, 1933-1965"
(Revised), handwritten manuscript.

Box 2, Folder 22	Introduction, 1933-1944
Box 2, Folder 23	1944-1955
Box 2, Folder 24	1956-1965
Box 2, Folder 25	Printed copy of "Birds of Bethlehem As I Found Them, 1933-1962" 1965

Subseries: "Just Notes"

Scope Note: Brief diary entries beginning in 1935. There is a longer handwritten version of this manuscript as well as a shorter, condensed version beginning with 1934.

Box 2, Folder 26	1935-1960
Box 2, Folder 27	1934-1952

Subseries: "My Note Books and I: A Supplement to Birds of Bethlehem As I Found Them, 1933-1965"

Scope Note: Two handwritten versions of this manuscript were found. They are not exact copies, but contain different vignettes from Barlieb's notebooks. A third typewritten version (accompanied by a handwritten copy) is labeled by Snyder as Barlieb's addition to *Bethlehem's Birds*. The note is dated 1988 and the text contains entries between 1960-1965. Please note that the labeling of the manuscripts as versions 1, 2, and 3 are arbitrary designations imposed for the purpose of organization and do not reflect Barlieb's intentions.

	Version 1
Box 2, Folder 28	1934-1944
Box 2, Folder 29	1945-1954
Box 2, Folder 30	1955-1965
	Version 2
Box 2, Folder 31	1934-1944
Box 2, Folder 32	1945-1954
Box 2, Folder 33	1955-1965
	Version 3
Box 2, Folder 34	1960-1965

Subseries: "Some of Bethlehem's Birds (As I Found Them)"

Scope Note: Consists of a list of species conforming to the A.O.U. (American Ornithologists Union) standard checklist. This list is an excellent index to the organization of Barlieb's observations and notebooks because she often used this numbering system in her note taking. The list also conforms to the incidence table at the back of her published book *Birds of Bethlehem...*

Box 2, Folder 35	A.O.L. numbers 1-210 n.d.
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Subseries: Short Essays (n.d.)

Scope Note: Contains the following titles: "The Adventures of a City Bird Watcher"; "An Amateur's Year with the Birds"; "The Balance of

Nature Concept"; "Bethlehem's Predators"; "Bethlehem's Rare Visitors";
"It is Winter"; "Tis Spring"; "What of the Future?"; "Why We Should Have
Bird Sanctuaries" (1 folder)

Box 2, Folder 36 Short Essays n.d.

Series: Other Observers (1958-1968)

Scope Note: This series consists of the records and notes of Mrs.
Eunice Schafer.

Box 2, Folder 37 "Bethlehem Area" (handwritten notes) 1966-1967
Field Cards (completed Audubon Daily Field Cards for various
trips around the country)
Box 2, Folder 38 1958-1965
Box 2, Folder 39 undated
Box 2, Folder 40 Trip to Nueces County, Texas 1968