

Cranbrook Institute of Science ~ December 8, 2018

The Young Birders' Club visited the Cranbrook Institute of Science in December for a unique behind the scenes tour of the collections. Several young birders and adults attended, 17 in total. Cameron Wood, collection curator, led the tour. Mr. Wood took the group into the collection vault that is rarely seen by most visitors. The group was able to view the extensive bird collection held at Cranbrook. Mr. Wood explained the history of the Cranbrook and how the collection was started. The young birders were fascinated by the variety of specimens held within the collection. Youth were able to see specimens including extinct birds like the Passenger Pigeon, nests and eggs. In addition to the biological artifacts, the museum also holds cultural artifacts such as original prints of John James Audubon and pieces that represent how birds are viewed by different cultures throughout the world. Mr. Wood's expertise in anthropology provided insights about how bird symbols were important to many cultures. Some artifacts could not be photographed due to their religious significance. A pipe stem was adorned with the head of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker. The Ivory-billed Woodpeckers were a symbol of war to native peoples. The pipe would be smoked prior to going into battle. Everyone learned something new. Cranbrook is a great educational resource for all in Michigan. A special thank you to Cameron Wood and Michele Arquette Palermo for their expertise and assistance in making this field trip possible.

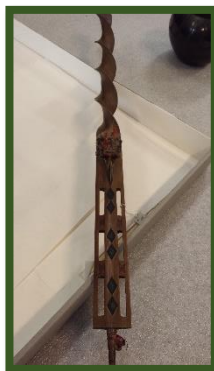


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