

# Feathers On and Off the Bird: Documenting and Caring for Featherwork

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Ellen Pearlstein

[epearl@ucla.edu](mailto:epearl@ucla.edu)

Irene Taurins

[itaurins@philamuseum.org](mailto:itaurins@philamuseum.org)

## Resources about pesticides that may have been applied to featherwork

MuseumPests.net <https://museumpests.net/resources-2/solutions-residual-pesticides/>

National Museum of American Indian Pesticides <https://s.si.edu/2A08RLw>

Museum Conservation Institute, Smithsonian: Pesticide Mitigation in Museum Collections: Science in Conservation: Proceedings from the MCI Workshop Series <https://s.si.edu/2y8noTN>

## Resources about Integrated Pest Management

3.10 Integrated Pest Management (NEDCC Preservation Leaflet) <https://bit.ly/1JmUrPi>

Wendy Jessup. Integrated Pest Management: A Selected Bibliography for Collections Care  
<http://cool.conservation-us.org/byauth/jessup/ipm.html>

## Resources about freezing/anoxia/heat for Post Management

An Insect Pest Control Procedure: The Freezing Process (Conserv-O-Gram Number 3/6)  
<https://bit.ly/2yctB17>

Anoxic Micro Environments: A Treatment for Pest Control (Conserv-O-Gram Number 3/9)  
<https://bit.ly/2CvCPJH>

Bonnie Baskin, "Solar Bagging: putting sunlight to work to eliminate insect infestations in mere hours" *WAAC Newsletter* (May 2001) 23 (2)  
<https://cool.conservation-us.org/waac/wn/wn23/wn23-2/wn23-207.html>

## Items on Care of Feathers

Care of Quills, Horn, Hair, Feathers, Claws, and Baleen <https://bit.ly/2RHOJo0>

Alicia Ault, "Telling the Story of 19th-Century Native American Treasures Through Bird Feathers" <https://bit.ly/2yiuqWd> (Smithsonian Magazine June 14, 2017)

THE FOUNDATION  
OF THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE FOR  
CONSERVATION  
OF HISTORIC AND  
ARTISTIC WORKS



Ellen Pearlstein. **Conservation of Featherwork from Central and South America** Archetype Books, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-1909492394.

Conserve-O-Gram 11/9 Handling and Care of Dry Bird and Mammal Specimens (National Park Service) <https://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/conservoogram/11-09.pdf>

## Identification

Cornell Lab of Ornithology offers assistance with identification, online classes, and other resources. <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>

How Birds Make Colorful Feathers <https://bit.ly/2gRjYdU>

## Suppliers

### Nitrile gloves

Powder-free nitrile gloves, widely available online <https://amzn.to/2uq5IQU>

Also available at national pharmacy and home supply chains

<https://www.walgreens.com/q/nitrile+gloves>

<https://bit.ly/2Pm0LC3>

<https://thd.co/2ONnvOg>

### HEPA vacuums

Northern States Conservation Center <https://www.collectioncare.org/cleaning>

Nilfisk Museum Vacuum [https://www.industrialvac.com/Museum\\_Vacuum\\_p/01790129.htm](https://www.industrialvac.com/Museum_Vacuum_p/01790129.htm)

Sanitaire Mighty Canister Vacuum with Allergen Filtration SC <https://bit.ly/2C64boT>

Affordable double filtered vacuums are available to capture toner dust.

See for example: <https://bit.ly/2E4Uycx>

### Screening material for feather vacuuming

Cheesecloth from your neighborhood pharmacy, household pantyhose, or from conservation supplier i.e. Talas <https://www.talasonline.com/fabrics-and-leather/conservation> can all work for feather vacuuming.

### Brushes

Recommended flat sable brushes are widely available at art suppliers, for example:

<https://bit.ly/2zZ44d1>

### Microfiber clothes

Smooth, non-waffled, white, pre-washed by you, are recommended:

<https://bit.ly/2QC8k7Y>

<https://thd.co/2yn8mZW>

## Legal Issues

A Guide to the Laws and Treaties of the United States for Protecting Migratory Birds

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/laws-legislations.php>



Migratory Bird Treaty Act <https://bit.ly/2pfDQxR>

Birds Protected Under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act <https://bit.ly/2yggagK>

Eagle Feather Law <https://bit.ly/2QKBMbH>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>

United States Department of Agriculture (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) **On Hold Shipment Information for Animal Products and Byproducts** <https://bit.ly/2RAnXxU>

Note: Ornithologists can also contact the Ornithological Council for assistance)

<https://bit.ly/2NvEFLz>

If you do have a USFWS problem, don't bother calling the number on that website. It is a general agency number. Here are the port contacts: <https://www.fws.gov/le/designated-ports.html>

### **Past Connecting to Collections Care Webinars Related to Feathers**

NAGPRA for the Local Museum: An Introduction to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (November 16, 2017) <https://bit.ly/2zOMcQy>

Ethical Issues in Collections Management (May 19, 2017) <https://bit.ly/2ptWDU3>

Introduction to Legal Issues in Collections Management (April 12, 2017) <https://bit.ly/2oYeyFl>

Arsenic and Old Lace: Controlling Hazardous Collection Materials (May 3, 2016)

<https://bit.ly/2yoPxWf>

Troublesome Trophies and Fragile Feathered Friends: Introduction to the Care of Historic Taxidermy (September 24, 2015) <https://bit.ly/2ympBdI>

Stressed About Pests? Prevention, Monitoring, & Identification (August 28, 2014) <https://www.connectingtocollections.org/ipmpart1/>

Stressed About Pests? Treating Infestations (September 3, 2014) <https://bit.ly/2RDpbIA>

The Care of Leather and Fur (September 26, 2013) <https://bit.ly/2yacMUr>

Identifying Museum Insect Pest Damage and Addressing it with Integrated Pest Management (July 20, 2011 ) <https://www.connectingtocollections.org/webinar-pest-management/>

Featured Member: Ben Gessner from the Minnesota Historical Society

<https://www.connectingtocollections.org/benmnh/>

