



# Campus Resources for Natural History Education: Development, Benefits and Outreach




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Natural history collections and curated local field guides can enhance both biological education and community engagement with natural history. At ESU, we have developed a series of educational resources to strengthen natural history training in STEM majors, including a curated museum collection and two campus field guides.

Each resource supports natural history education in multiple ways:

-  Students are involved in the creation, development, and maintenance of the museum & guides;
-  The museum & guides are regularly used to support classroom activities for ESU students;
-  External groups & members of the public come to our campus to visit the museum and take walking tours using the field guides.




## Acknowledgments & Contacts



The Schisler Museum of Wildlife & Natural History and McMunn Planetarium was made possible by ESU alumni and supporters Arthur ('62) and Fannie Greene ('62) Schisler, and Charles A. "Tony" ('69) and Patricia Lythgoe ('68) McMunn. Development of the ESU Arboretum Guide was supported by ESU faculty in Biological Sciences & Geography, the Student Activity Association, and the Sustainability Commission.

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Quote: Charles Elton, 1927. Animal Ecology.


## Schisler Museum



The Schisler Museum of Wildlife & Natural History and McMunn Planetarium serves as a regional center for natural history and science education, beginning at the K-12 level and continuing through university academic programs and a broad range of community groups. The museum houses over 140 wildlife specimens from around the world, presented in interpretive habitat displays.

# Ecology is a new name for a very old subject. It simply means scientific natural history. – Charles Elton

## Development




The museum provides a service learning opportunity for students working as museum facilitators and who led creation of the guides. Art students also assisted with painting exhibit backgrounds.

## Classroom Use




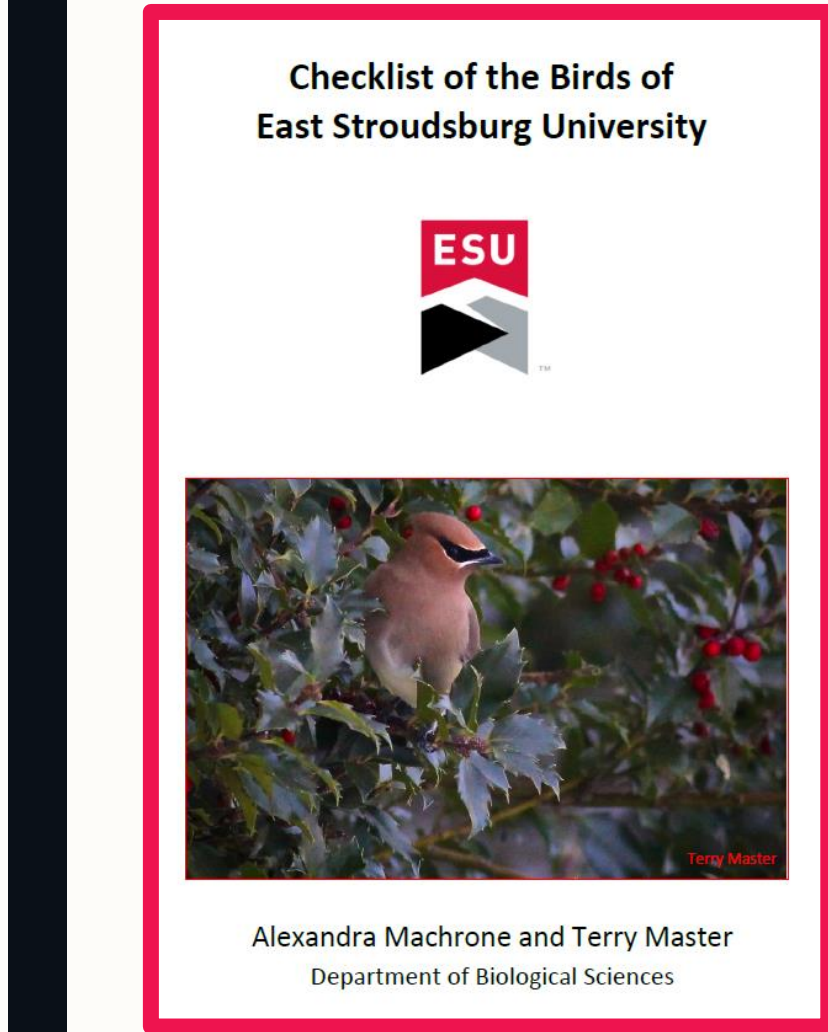
The museum has had visitors from biology courses such as, zoology, ecology and mammalogy, as well as courses in art and education. Student facilitators employed in the museum also gain skills in natural history education and museum studies.

## Outreach



The museum provides outreach for local school groups from grades K-12, nearby universities, community groups, private parties, and the general public. Hundreds of groups and over 10,000 individuals visit the museum each year.

## Bird Checklist



The ESU Bird Checklist provides information on bird species found on campus, including seasonal abundance and habitat (developed, forested, wetland, and fields) preferences within campus areas.

[tinyurl.com/ESUBirdChecklist](https://tinyurl.com/ESUBirdChecklist)

## Arboretum Guide



The ESU Arboretum Guide highlights 48 campus trees, noting identifying features and details of their natural history. A student-created map of the trees supports self-guided tours.

[tinyurl.com/ESUArboretum](https://tinyurl.com/ESUArboretum)