



Museum of Riverside Board Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE BOARD DATE: JUNE 24, 2026

FROM: MUSEUM COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

**SUBJECT: RECOMMEND ACCESSION INTO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION OF
TWENTY-SIX (26) AVIAN STUDY SKINS AND ONE (1) MAMMALIAN SKIN**

ISSUE:

To recommend to City Council to approve accession into the permanent collection of twenty-six (26) avian study skins and one (1) mammalian skin.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Museum of Riverside Board recommends that City Council approves accession into the permanent collection of twenty-six (26) avian study skins and one (1) mammalian skin.

BACKGROUND:

These study skins are a mix of previously unprocessed specimens in freezer storage at the Museum of Riverside, specimens collected by private individuals and Museum staff, and specimens donated by the Lindsay Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital in Walnut Creek, California. Some of the specimens are many decades old but the majority were collected over the last several years. They represent a diverse array of taxa found in Riverside County, and many (though not all) were collected from Riverside County.

At its meeting on March 11, 2026, the Museum's Collection Committee voted unanimously in support of recommending that the Museum Board forward the recommendation regarding the avian and mammalian skins to City Council.

DISCUSSION:

To "accession" an object is the process of including it formally in a museum's permanent collection, which is the category of collection for which the greatest effort will be made to preserve the object in perpetuity and document it fully.

A “study skin” is a minimal form of taxidermy that preserves an animal for scientific study. It is different from a “live mount,” which is a taxidermied animal posed in a lifelike and sometimes dramatic manner for exhibition.

Some of these specimens were collected or reviewed by Museum of Riverside staff with the intent to recommend them for the permanent collection. Others were collected by others outside of Riverside. All were prepared for preservation by a taxidermist. The avian specimens include entire birds and single wings. The single mammalian specimen is a kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys agilis*). The specimens listed in this report augment a previous lot of thirty (30) avian study skins, which were accessioned into the permanent collection.

Some of the specimens in this report were not collected locally. However, they represent species present in Riverside County. All material is in excellent condition and well-prepared, and all has at least some spatiotemporal data associated with them. For the majority of the specimens these data are excellent.

These specimens align with the Museum’s mission to collect and interpret local and regional natural history as outlined in Sections 1 and 6 of the Collections Development Plan.

The specimens are not large, and storage space demands are modest.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report. Treatment by a taxidermist was budgeted in a prior year and has been completed.

Prepared by: Robyn G. Peterson, Museum Director
Reviewed by: Ann Lovell, Manager of Operations

Attachment: Inventory of taxidermied specimens