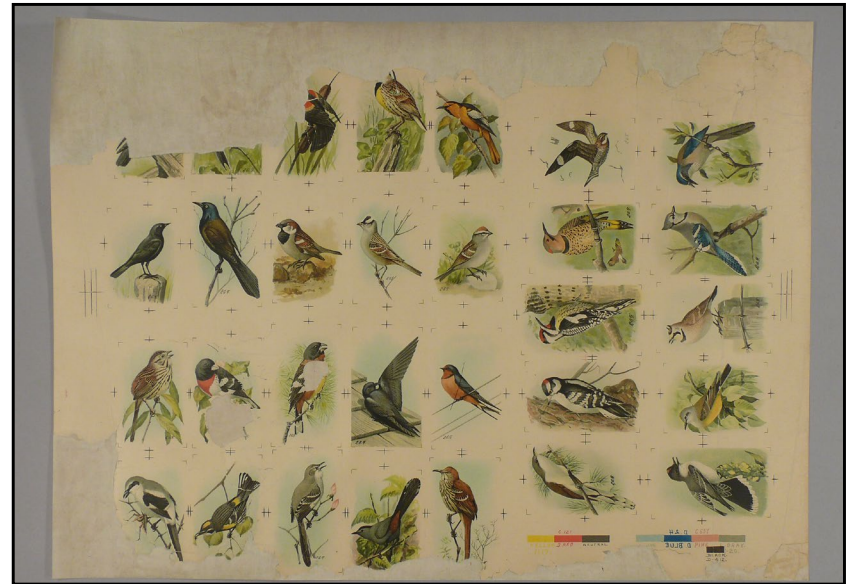


CONSERVATION TREATMENT: STABILIZATION OF TEARS AND LOSSES

Tears and losses are serious condition concerns. Torn paper and large losses make paper and photographs difficult to handle safely and put them at risk of further damage. Tears are stabilized with Japanese paper and wheat starch paste. Available in different colors, weights, surfaces and strengths, Japanese papers can be well-matched to structural needs. Losses are filled with Japanese paper to provide structural integrity and visual continuity. Japanese paper can be toned with stable media to integrate into the surrounding areas. Wheat starch paste is a time-tested, reversible, non-yellowing, stable adhesive with great strength even in dilute form.



Elsa Guerdrum Allen papers, Rare and Manuscripts Division, Kroch Library

This early 20th century lithograph, by the ornithologist and Cornellian Elsa Guerdrum Allen, had significant losses and major tears. The tears were stabilized with Japanese paper mends adhered with wheat starch paste. Toned Japanese paper filled the numerous losses. The beautiful imagery of this lithograph that was once too fragile and unstable to be handled is now accessible to patrons and researchers.