CONDITION REPORT

ARTC025

Item details

Accession number	ARTC025
Title/Description	*Taxidermy Male Mallard Duck (Anas platyrhynchos)*
Item type	Taxidermy specimen
Dimensions (L x W x H)	Length: 11.6 in (29.5 cm) Width: 9.6 in (24.5 cm) Height: 15.2 in (38.5 cm)

Client details

Owner or collection	Iron Hill Nature Center, Newark, DE

Student details

Student name	Capstone and Natural History Internship students
Creation date (of record)	9/20/2018
Name of supervisor	Mariana Di Giacomo

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

DESCRIPTION

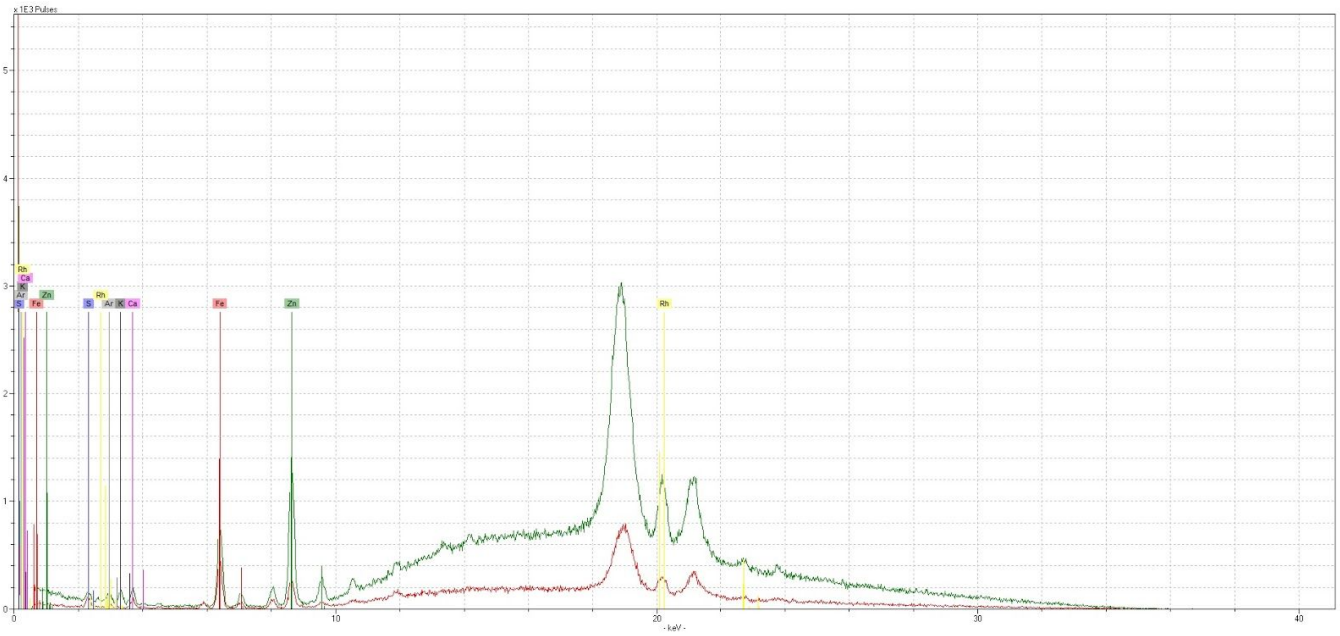
Standing taxidermy full-grown male mallard duck. The specimen stands on a driftwood base and has glass eyes and a painted bill and feet. The bill appears to be plastic. The driftwood base has a piece of red felt adhered beneath it.

CONDITION

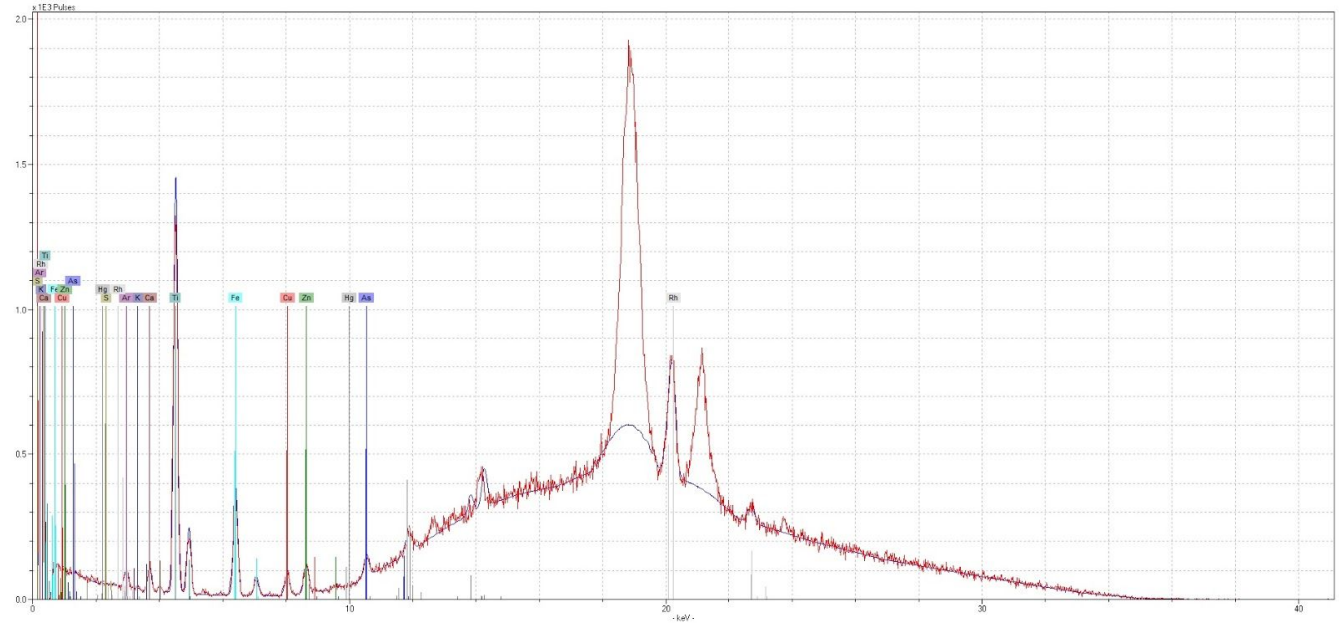
The specimen is stable overall, with no visible fading of the feathers. It is covered in surface grime, and there are cobwebs on its head feathers. Desiccated insect casings were found within the damaged head feathers, adjacent to the exposed support wire which is protruding from the top of the head. The yellow paint from the bill is also on the surrounding feathers. The head feathers are ruffled and matted, particularly behind the eyes and along the back of the neck. The eyes seem too large for the head and are slightly bulged. The majority of the body feathers are intact, with only slight ruffling on the breast and back. However, the right wing appears to be in a different position than the left wing, and perhaps was displaced during previous handling or transport. It is unknown if the leg and feet are the original bird skin. They appear painted and have some minor areas of loss on the legs. The driftwood base is stable but covered in surface grime.

ANALYSIS

X-ray fluorescence, conducted on September 13, 2018 by Mariana Di Giacomo, showed little arsenic and no other heavy metal pesticides present on the specimen. In analysis from the head and breast of the duck the most prevalent elements were iron and zinc. In the legs, the most prevalent element was copper. This may have been detecting the inner wires of the legs.



The green readout is from the head of the duck. The red is from its chest.



XRF Analysis of the left leg.

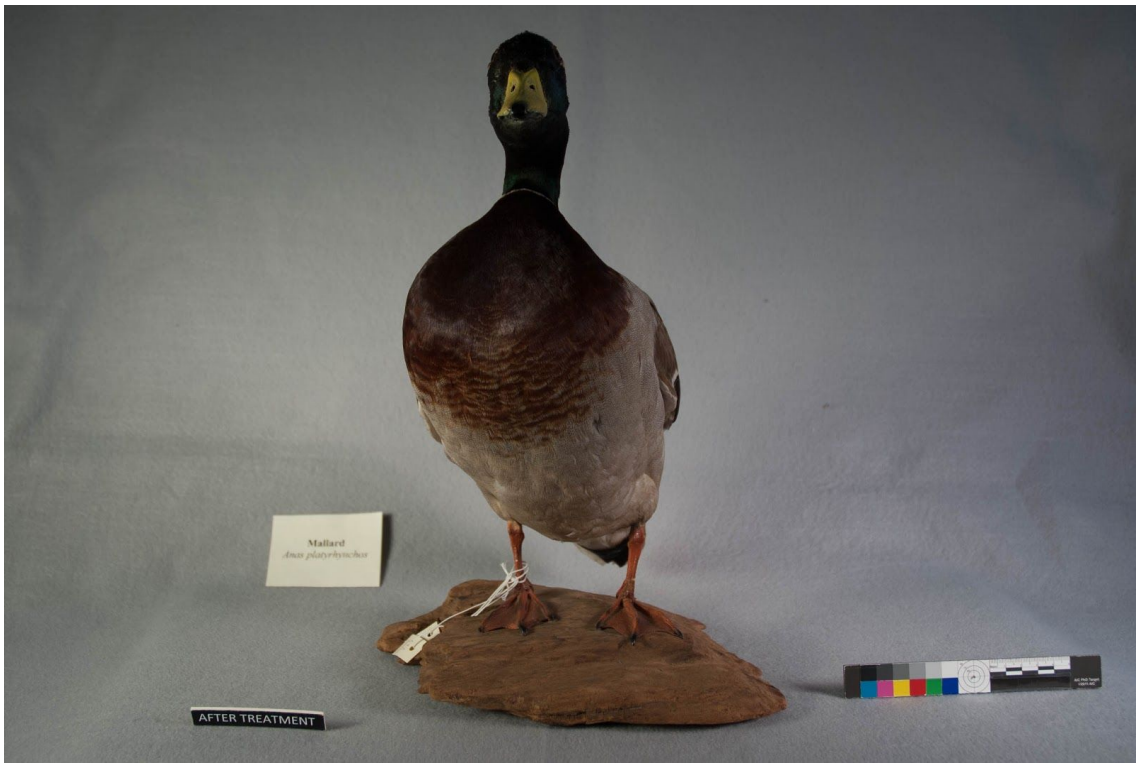
TREATMENT PROPOSAL

- Complete initial photography and documentation.
- Vacuum and brush feathers overall using HEPA vacuum to remove loose surface grime.
- Brush legs and driftwood base to remove excess surface grime.
- Comb all feathers to remove embedded surface grime and reposition feathers.
- Using cosmetic sponges, reduce remaining grime where necessary.
- Humidify disturbed feathers on head using deionized water. Use solvents if necessary.
- In flaking areas on legs and feet, consolidate using low-concentration solution of Paraloid B72 in acetone.
- In areas of loss on feet and legs, inpaint using acrylics.
- Clean glass eyes with deionized water applied on a cotton swab.
- Complete final photography and documentation.

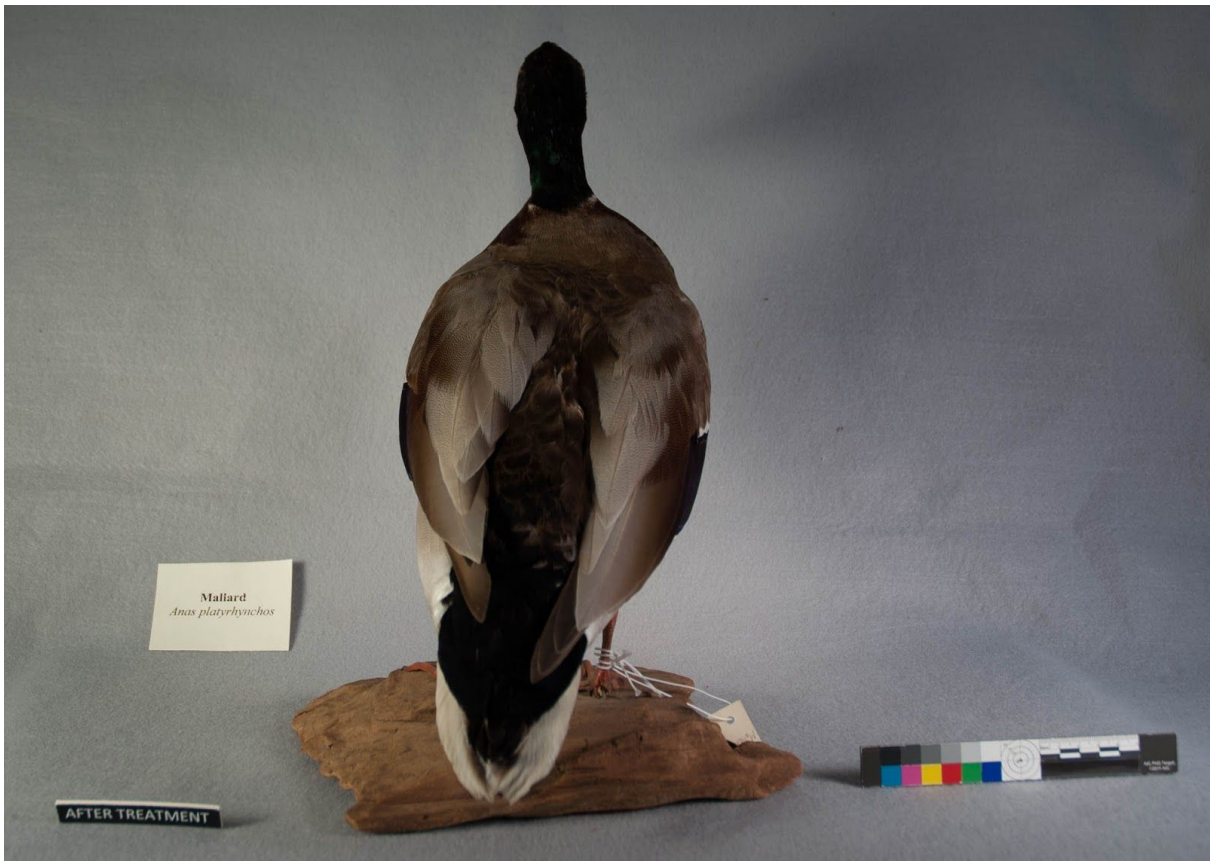
TREATMENT

- The duck was documented prior to treatment.
- The duck and mount were dusted using a brush and a HEPA filtered vacuum.
- Cosmetic sponges were used to reduce grime on the feathers and feet.
- Deionized water on cotton swabs was used to clean the bill and eyes.
- Some feathers were combed and repositioned using wooden tools.
- Excess yellow paint was removed from the feathers around the bill, initially using water, and then using a 25% Ethanol 75% water mixture on a cotton swab.
- Feathers on the back of the head were humidified and manipulated to lay flat.
- Japanese paper was painted with acrylic to resemble the area surrounding major losses and adhered with B72
- Small losses on the feet were in-painted with acrylic paint.

AFTER TREATMENT PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION




Mallard
Anas platyrhynchos
AFTER TREATMENT


Mallard
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