

History

The museum was founded in December 1945 by Ivan Rogal, Dean of Faculty of Biology and Head of the Department of Biozoology at Uzhhorod State University, and Kateryna Nesterenko, the first director of the Museum.

Initially, the exhibition of mammals, birds, fishes, insects and other animals were created on the basis of specimens from Uzhhorod, Mukachevo, Berehove Gymnasiums as well as gifts from various scientific institutions of the country. These collections became useful to students of biology, helped to master the fundamentals of vertebrate and invertebrate taxonomy and distribution (zoogeography).

The Museum was largely developed due to the selfless labor of M. Ya. Kucherenko, E. K. Vlasova, M. J. Kelentej, Yu. I. Mateleshko, I. V. Kushnir and many other specialists. Pieces of artwork for the exhibition were created by J. J. Bokshay, a celebrated and honorable painter of Ukraine.

An important contribution to the development of the Museum was made by Oleksandr Hrabar, the outstanding naturalist, amateur ornithologist, senior researcher and highly professional taxidermist.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Oleksandr Hrabar created a unique collection of mounted owls and diurnal birds of prey of Transcarpathia and Eastern Slovakia, which includes more than 200 specimens. Currently, this collection occupies a prominent place in the Museum's exposition and is considered an important part of European natural history heritage.

Starting from its creation, the exposition and stock collections have been constantly enriched and replenished by new specimens.

Collection materials were obtained by the staff of both the Museum and the Faculty of Biology including research scientists, students and associates during expeditions to the Caucasus, White Sea, Azerbaijan, the Volga Basin, Askaniya-Nova and other regions. Part of the specimens was obtained by means of exchange with zoological museums of Odesa, Vilnius, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Chisinau, Lviv, and other cities of the Central Asia.

Currently, the Museum's display consists of about 5,000 exhibits presented in three exhibition halls. Additionally, the scientific stock collection includes over 150,000 units of insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

Entomological collections are of great scientific value and include ground beetles of the fauna of Transcarpathia donated by V. I. Ponomarchuk, insects of Hemiptera of Ukraine donated by H. M. Roshko, entomophagous insects of bark beetles of the Ukrainian Carpathians donated by A. A. Giric.

During its existence, the Zoological Museum has been transformed from an auxiliary educational structure into an institution that plays the role of a scientific center of the region.

Research

A number of museum workers had earned their Ph.D. degree in entomology and ornithology, and now are working in different departments of Uzhhorod National University and other universities of Ukraine. Collection materials from our Zoological Museum have been used for preparation of monographs, doctoral and Ph.D. theses by the scientists from Uzhgorod, Kyiv, Lviv, Chernivtsi and specialists from other countries.

Collections

The Museum's collections represent the fauna of all continents and oceans of the world. Visitors are introduced to a large number of animal species such as the platypus, echidna, giant kangaroo, emu (Australia), rhea (South America) and African ostrich, penguins (Antarctica), zebra, canna and gnu antelopes, marabou, flamingos, cockatoos, hummingbirds, tropical insects (Africa), armadillos, puma, toucan, crocodile caiman, rattlesnake (America), bullfrog (North America), flying frog (Java), chameleon, turtles, flying dragon (Malay Archipelago) Indian elephant and Bengal tiger, Tibetan monkey, cobra (Southeast Asia), foxes, seals, sea stars and sea urchins, madrepo and red corals, jellyfish, star-shaped (Barents Sea), electric and sandy (Indian Ocean) stingrays, sharks, chimeras, sawfish, seahorse, flying fish, piranhas and other animals from different seas and oceans.

The Transcarpathian fauna is richly represented too. The tropical collection has a prominent place in the exposition. Beetles and hunting trophies (horns) were gathered by I. Laudon, an Uzhhorod citizen. Almost all species of Carpathian and Transcarpathian birds are represented in our museum and the exhibition continues growing, especially due to the species observed during seasonal migrations. Visitors of the museum and hunters have the opportunity to meet the representatives of game birds that are exhibited in the Museum's display.

The hall of mammals contains a small paleontological exposition consisting of fossil remains of vertebrate animals that inhabited the territory of our region in prehistoric times. Among the exhibits presented, remains of mammoth tusks, woolly rhino and cave bear bones are of great interest.

Education

One can not overestimate the ecological and educational importance of the Museum for the youth. Those who are interested have the opportunity to visit the exhibition. Each year, thousands of school pupils from different cities and villages of the region, students, scientists and tourists from Transcarpathia and from near and far abroad visit our halls.

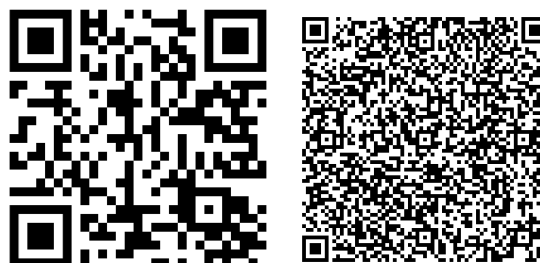
The staff of the Zoological Museum promotes environmental knowledge through the media, conducts practical exercises on fauna protection and conservation to workers of state forestry parks, schoolchildren and other interested people.

Cooperation

The museum staff collaborates with Shmalhausen Institute of Zoology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Kyiv), State Natural History Museum, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Lviv), Uzhansky National Nature Park, Transcarpathian Regional Ecological and Naturalistic Center for Schoolchildren, as well as with many scientists from Ukraine, Slovakia, Hungary, Germany and other countries.

The Zoological Museum of Uzhhorod National University is one of the greatest treasures of Transcarpathia. We encourage people concerned about the future of nature conservation and animal protection to support the development of our Museum in order to preserve our valuable collections for the scientific and ecological education for present and future generations.

*Welcome
to visit us and we invite you to
cooperate!*



Our address:

*Zoological Museum
of Uzhhorod National University
Voloshyna St. 54, Uzhhorod 88000
Transcarpathia (Zakarpattia Oblast), Ukraine
Tel.: +38(0312)616650*

www.lucanus.org.ua/zoomuz/index.htm
www.uzhnu.edu.ua/uk/cat/museums-zoo_museum
zoo-museum@uzhnu.edu.ua

*Booklet developed by
the employees of the Zoological Museum:
Arpad Kron*

*Edited by Zoltán Barkaszi
Logo designed by Olga Rosolyanyk*

**Ministry of Education and Science of
Ukraine
Uzhhorod National University**

**ZOOLOGICAL
MUSEUM**



Uzhhorod 2025