

THE LIGNEOUS FLORA OF RICHLAND COUNTY, ILL.,
BY ROBERT RIDGWAY

(AN UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPT)

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When the home of the late Robert Ridgway, known as "Bird Haven," at Olney, Illinois, passed into the control of the Departments of Botany and Zoology of the University of Chicago and became a Nature Sanctuary, portions of the library of this distinguished scientist were stored in the Botany Building of the University of Chicago. Among other old manuscripts there was found one having the above title, and upon examination it was found to have been written by Mr. Ridgway during the last years of his life and for which he had not succeeded in finding a publisher.

In 1927, an abstract of this manuscript was presented at a meeting of the Illinois State Academy held at Joliet (Ridgway, R., *The ligneous flora of Richland Co., Ill.*, *Trans. Ill. State Acad. Sci.* 20: 105-115, 1928) but the unpublished portions of the article contained so many details concerning the distribution of the different plant species in the county that it seemed important to preserve these details for the students of the flora of Illinois. There were three typewritten copies of the manu-

script, in different stages of revision, and it seemed wise to deposit the three copies where they could be examined by botanists interested in the flora of Illinois. The institutions that were selected as the depositories of the manuscripts were the Illinois State Museum, Springfield; the Herbarium of the Department of Botany, the University of Illinois, Urbana; and the Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago.

The best of the manuscripts, the only one with plates of photos of trees, has been accepted by the Director of the Illinois State Museum who has had it bound and placed in the library of the Museum. It contains 133 typewritten pages and 43 plates (photographs). It has many handwritten notes by the author and it contains copies of letters concerning Mr. Ridgway's correspondence in his efforts to get a publisher.

The other copies have been accepted by the curators of the herbaria of the University of Illinois and of the Chicago Natural History Museum and have been placed on file where they may be consulted by interested botanists.