

Specimen Preparation: Comparative Crow Skulls Study

Cleaning, preservation, and ethical handling of avian remains using sustainable methods.

This project compares two crow skull preparations undertaken as part of my ongoing specimen preservation practice. The study focuses on refining cleaning methods, improving structural stability, and balancing anatomical accuracy with ethical presentation. Key outcomes included improved precision in handling delicate materials, application of preventive conservation principles, and maintenance of documentation and care in line with museum standards.

Methods:

Dermestid cleaning, manual preparation, and preventive conservation techniques, with attention to material condition, sustainability, and health and safety protocols.

Key Outcomes:

- Applied dermestid and manual cleaning methods with a focus on sustainability and object safety
- Documented cleaning stages, handling, and preservation outcomes
- Improved articulation and mounting techniques based on prior learning

This comparative exercise demonstrates iterative skill development, ethical consideration, and reflective curatorial practice. Each preparation informed future specimen care by combining respect for the subject with technical and interpretive growth.

All specimens were ethically sourced and handled in accordance with UK wildlife legislation and museum standards. Sensitive content was shared responsibly with appropriate content warnings.



Second preparation (2024) - refined techniques and improved anatomical completeness.

First preparation (2022) - initial cleaning and preservation trial.