

## Search for the Green Woodpecker from Schwennigdorf – the Early Bird Collecting of Alexander Koenig

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### SUMMARY

More than 125 years ago, young Alexander KOENIG, later on the well known naturalist, collector and ornithologist, started his career as collector at the estate Böckel in Westphalia. His first collection items were already stuffed for his private collection in Bonn which later on became the basis for the famous Museum that bears his name. For avifaunistic research in that region these early documents were not yet used. Stimulated by some notes in his autobiography – among others a note about a hunted Green Woodpecker in the neighbouring Schwennigdorf – we tried to find some skins of the collecting period in Böckel in the large skin collection of the Bonn

Museum – and surprisingly we were successful. In the extensive nest and egg collection too, clutches from that region were found. The investigation of the findings enables us to reconstruct birdlife at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century around Böckel to some extent. This is a period from which no written records have been known till now.

Finally, we demonstrate with this how to prepare so-called „antiquated“ museum work in an appetizing manner for an interested public.

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# ZOBODAT - [www.zobodat.at](http://www.zobodat.at)

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