

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Monica

Date 20 October 2025

Medium born digital audio file

Description Audio file of interview with Monica. She was interviewed by Remi Dupuis on October 20, 2025 in Storrs, Connecticut. Monica was interviewed as part of the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History's Community History Project discussing moments of change in her life. Monica is a UConn student in her senior year studying Psychology with a minor in Anthropology. To Monica, change is “something that genuinely leaves an emotional impact,” an experience that differs greatly from her day-to-day experiences and that sticks with her for a long time, reminding her of her humanity. About a month prior to the interview, Monica was walking by the Student Union when she noticed a dead bird against the wall on the cement. People were going past it, unbothered, but she felt a sense of duty to bury it, so she came back after class to do so. She had been feeling “emo” that day (which she described as emotional, sad, and alone) and was surprised that no one had stopped to pay attention to the corpse two hours later. Monica collected the bird and decided to go to Mirror Lake, a natural and beautiful location much more appropriate for a dead bird. She intended to carry out the burial on her own because she didn’t want to sensationalize the bird’s death or “gloat about her character” by sending a picture of it to a friend, however, on her way to the lake, she ran into an acquaintance that she met at HerCampus (a club for university students to

Basic Detail Report

write articles about their interests) and hesitantly showed her what she was

doing. To her surprise, instead of thinking that she was strange and leaving her

alone, the friend offered to help bury the bird. So, the two buried the bird by the

lake, naming it Brat. Monica was a little worried about what passerbys were

thinking as they dug the grave, admitting that it was a strange scene, but her

appreciation for the bird and the spontaneous opportunity to do something

good outweighed her fears. This event was important to Monica for several

reasons. She struggles with ruminating over whether or not she is a “good

person,” and her decision to bury Brat reminded her of her morals and deep

respect for life. Monica mentioned that she has always loved birds and is known

by her friends as being “obsessed” with them. She is envious of their freedom

because they are able to fly and, like other wild animals, are exempt from

human social norms and live simple lives. She was also grateful that this quest

was a “breakaway” from the monotony of college life, which makes her feel

robotic. As for her friend, Monica stated that burying Brat together brought them

closer, and now they text each other whenever they pass by the grave.

Dimensions Duration: 52 Minutes, 45 Seconds