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Bird Collections in the United States and Canada

The questionnaire in the BCG special newsletter (April 1977) was produced in an attempt to ascertain the location and detail of biological collections in Great Britain. In 1969 a similar survey of bird collections was carried out in North America, and the results were subsequently published :-

Banks, R.C. ., Clench M.H., and Barlow J.C. (1973)

Bird Collections in the United States and Canada.

Auk 90 136 - 170

Clench M.H., Banks R.C., and Barlow J.C. (1976)

Bird Collections in the United States and Canada : Addenda and Corrigenda.

Auk 93 126 - 129

These papers detail 865 individuals and institutions in North America. Only if the museums contained more than 200 specimens were comprehensive details presented in the papers, otherwise just the addresses for correspondence were given. The papers show the locations of collections of ornithological material with research potential, with an estimate of the numbers of skins, skeletons, spirit-preserved specimens, eggs, and nests. Geographic and systematic groups most well represented in collections are detailed, as are numbers of holotypes, details of special preparations, housing of original field notes, card files to facilitate finding specimens, housing of previous private collections, loan and visiting arrangements, nest record schemes and ringing programmes associated with the collections, details of original paintings, photographs and tape recordings, and name and address for correspondence.

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