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PUBLICATION

The Moths of Sheffield by Steven P. Garland. Sorby Record Special Series No. 1 1979. Published by Sorby Natural History Society, Sheffield and Sheffield City Museums.

This attractively produced 48 page booklet summarises existing knowledge on the occurrence and distribution of 'macro' moths within the Metropolitan District of Sheffield. The author has brought together records from collections, diaries, published works and recorder lists covering a period of time from the early 19th century to the present day. Available from Sheffield City Museum, price 60p per copy (+ 15p postage).

New EEC Legislation on Conservation of Wild Birds

The Secretary has received a copy of a letter from Patrick Boylan to the Director of the Museums Association drawing attention to this legislation. The Council Resolution and Directive set out in the Official Journal of the European Communities nos C103 and L103 (dated 25 April 1979) will result in the rewriting of much of the existing UK wild bird protection legislation. On a preliminary reading of the Directive, the part with the greatest potential impact on museums would appear to be Article 6. This will outlaw 'the sale, transport for sale, keeping for sale and the offering for sale of live or dead birds and any readily recognisable parts or derivatives of such birds' with reference to every species of bird occurring in the wild anywhere in the EEC (except for game birds as specified elsewhere in the Directive). The present British position, in which existing collections or specimens of mounted birds or skins killed before the operative date of the 1954 Protection of Birds Act can be legally bought or sold, will presumably come to an end. It is important that the new UK legislation, when drafted include some degree of discretion for Museums in relation to the purchase of important historic material.