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around areas full of interest until they were fixed by one and then perhaps by another - and another - and so on. The alternative, a logical text book maze could easily bewilder and depress them. Displays called 'birds and man' would include an introduction to bird-watching and bird identification, somehow we would try and relate this physically to the systematic panorama on the gallery (first floor) level.

The field was enormous, the space inadequate, and the room barn-like. An architect was commissioned to suggest ways of increasing the available floor-space, retaining the 'airiness' - and providing additional storage rooms. His solution was to build a 20ft. mezzanine 'shelf' at each end of the room, connected with the ground floor by a circular steel staircase and with the gallery level by orthodox timber steps. Supported by four concrete-block walls, this arrangement provided two store-rooms, a small a/v theatre and 5 new separate display 'alleys' each about 10' wide. All these major structures and the completely new electrical installation were done by teams of previously unemployed young people, provided with supervisors by Community Industry, backed by funds from local and central government.

Into these 'alleys' and into new fittings in the central area between the shelves, the 'topics' were slotted.

At the time of going to press, Phase 1 (1st floor - 'Birds of Europe') is virtually complete, Phase 2. (ground floor) is about 75% complete and Phase 3. (mezzanines) is about 50% complete. Major display structures will be completed (hopefully) by the end of 1979. An application will have been made to M. S. C. for a short extension to ensure completion. After this, a part of the 'Aunty Kitty Hancock' gift remains to ensure that sometime in 1980 some birdy notable will be able to reveal, again, to an astonished public, the beauty that is bird.

T. Tynan
Curator
The Hancock Museum

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COLLECTION SURVEY IN CANADA

Following a short note I sent to Antenna (the Bulletin of the Royal Entomological Society of London) which mentioned the North West Collection Research Unit's work on collections and collectors, I received a letter from Dr. H. V. Danks of Ontario. This was to point out that the Secretariat of the Biological Survey of the Insects of Canada had been commissioned by the Canadian Government to carry

out a pilot study on the insects of Canada and that the first part, "Collections of Canadian Insects and Certain Related Groups" (supplement to the Bulletin of the Entomological Society of Canada, Vol. 10 (No. 1), March 1978) had been completed.

It will be noted that this project was not an end in itself but a small part of the Biological Survey which will also include reviews of the state of the current knowledge on insects and resources for insect identification as well as what will eventually amount to an enormous body of data resulting from field work throughout the country. Also, it is interesting to contrast the British with the North American approach. Here, the BCG is a small enthusiastic body comprised mainly of individual curators keen to communicate. In the United States, the ASC (Association of Systematic Collections) is based on institutional memberships and has money granted by the U.S. government to assist in all their functions which are essentially the same as those of B. C. G. In an exact parallel, the NWCRU, and others now starting elsewhere in this country, are quite voluntary and self-motivated activities, whereas the Canadian Biological Survey of Insect Collections has been financed directly from their central government. Clearly, we have a different concept of approach and I would suggest an inferior one when it comes to raising finance for these small but important (to the scientific community) projects. However, it is not difficult to imagine the response if BCG had gone to the Department of Education and Science in 1974 and asked for financial support in order to found and run our activities!

The survey of Canadian insect collections is a comprehensive compilation of public and large private collections listed by institution. A subject index in the form of tables shows a breakdown by numbers of each collection where returns to their questionnaires provided this amount of detail. In this respect it is similarly arranged to the BCG "Survey of Zoological and Botanical Collections in the British Isles" (being published soon). It does not list individual collectors or collections and so cannot be used in the same way as the Collection Research Units' productions.

E. G. Hancock
Bolton Museum and Art Gallery

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THE ALCAN BLAKEMOOR FARM TRAIL

Blakemoor Farm is a small mixed lowland farm on the coastal plain of Northumberland, some fifteen miles north of Newcastle and half a mile north of Cresswell. The farm buildings are situated on slightly rising ground some four hundred yards behind the line of sweeping