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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: Study Week-End at Leicester, 11-13th April 1980

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As an alternative to participating in a large scale 3 or 4 day conference this year (like the one at the B. M. (N. H.) in 1979) the BCG is organising a smaller meeting in 1980 in the form of a study week-end. This is to be held at Leicester Museum and BCG members should by now have received a provisional programme and booking form. The theme is 'curatorial and collecting techniques' with emphasis on new developments.

The week-end begins in earnest on Saturday morning with the A. G. M. We hope to keep the business as brief as possible and to progress to a discussion on the future development of the BCG - our aims and objectives whether they be broad issues of policy, initiatives to be pursued, campaigns to be waged or surveys to be promoted; in fact anything anyone cares to raise.

This will be followed by Peter Morgan (National Museum of Wales) introducing a discussion on the proposed new Bird Protection Laws (summarised in BCG Newsletter, Vol. 2, no. 5, December 1979). These will almost certainly include some form of museum-based egg collections register and possibly a scheme for the registration of skin collections which may be operated by the Guild of Taxidermists (I understand this is not yet finalised). I know these proposals also have provoked comment amongst curators and this will be an opportunity for the membership to voice their opinions.

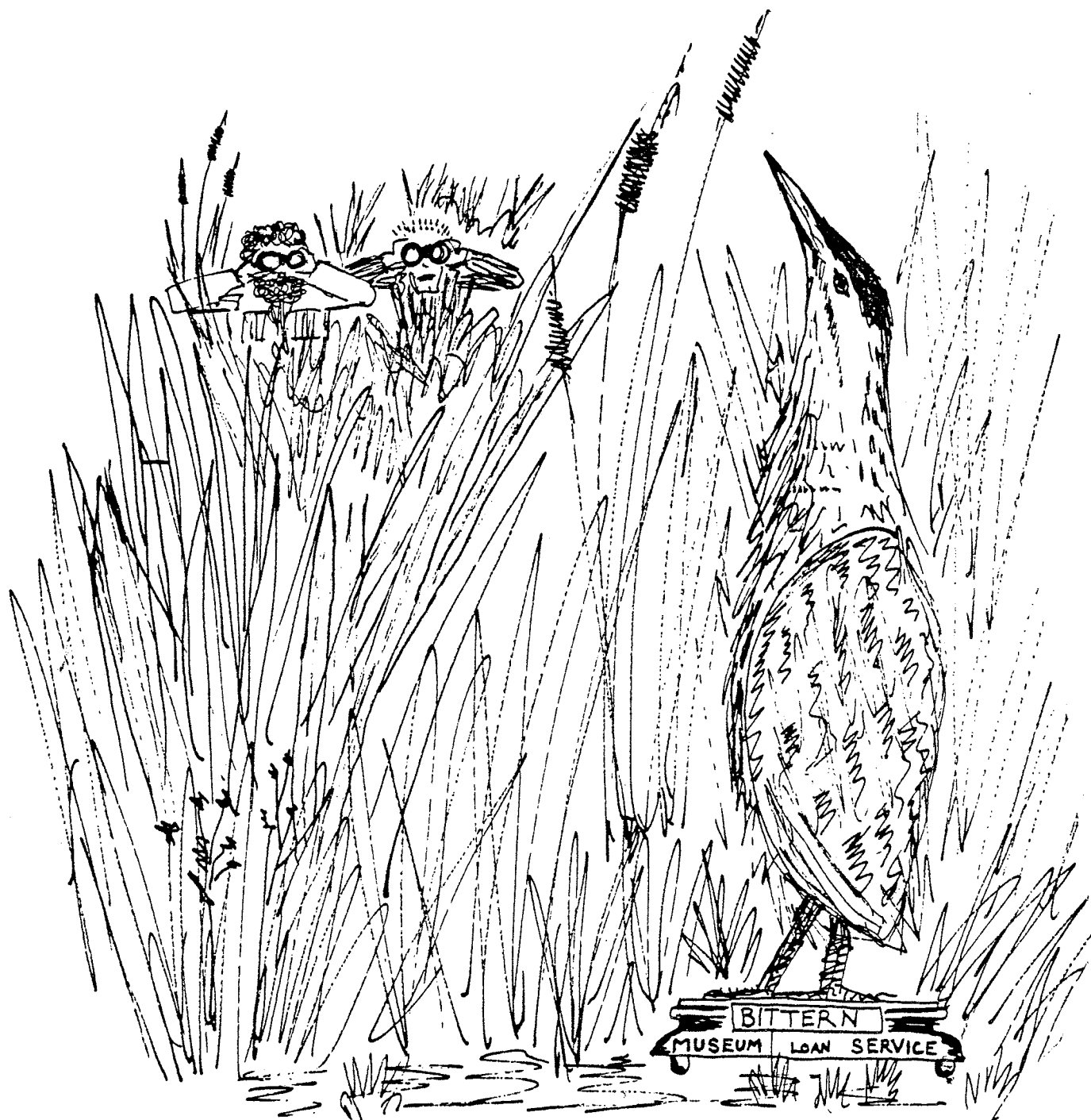
Saturday afternoon is to be an informal session of demonstrations of techniques by members. The programme lists some but we have room for more and we rely here on the willingness of members to describe in any way they wish (by demonstration or static display) new techniques in any field related to the general theme. These could be modifications to standard methods of, say, identification or collection, or completely new techniques which may still be at the experimental stage. Demonstration and display facilities will be available all afternoon but please let me know if you intend to participate so I can draw up a timetable a week or so in advance of the meeting.

Saturday evening remains free at present, but we would like to show films or slides if any members have them available. It is not important to adhere strictly to the theme for this session and any vaguely museumish subject will do. So if you have any film of collecting trips or a particular technique being performed, again let me know in good time so I can put together a programme.

The sessions on Sunday are more formal and will be as given in the programme. We expect to finish around 3.30pm.

Accommodation is available in Gimson Hall, a short walk from the Museum, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights as are all meals (the exception is dinner on Sunday evening should anyone wish to stay overnight). Coffee and tea will be provided from the conference fee of £1.50 (this must be paid by everyone attending sessions other than the A. G. M.).

If anyone has any queries or wishes to contribute to any of the sessions, please contact John Mathias, Keeper of Biology, Museum & Art Gallery, 96 New Walk, Leicester, (0533-554100, ext.262).



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