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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Duck Decoys

Ian Morrison of Southport Museum replied to the effect that he had four decoys and there is also one at the Hancock Museum, Newcastle. This latter is currently on loan to the North of England Museums Service for exhibition purposes.

Meteorological Stations and Museums

How many museums still operate as official weather stations for the Meteorological Office? It is an interesting sideline which could have many beneficial uses to natural historians although I think there are considerably less met. stations now still run by museums than there used to be. At Bolton we are fortunate in having a keen custodian at Hall i'th' Wood Museum who does the day to day work. Records date back to 1883. The cost of running it comes to about £400 p.a., varying according to the degree of theft and vandalism at the station itself which is close to a housing estate.

It was tempting providence too much to mention in the last Newsletter the problems of dealing with collections after a man-made or natural disaster. If one includes as a coincidence "Stephen's Flood-tideings or après-mois le deluge" it was inevitable that Bolton suffered an extreme of precipitation as was widely reported in the national press and on radio and television, 5 June 1980. The galleries suffered roof leaks (this normally happens only when snow lies in the channels) and the Lecture Theatre is still inoperable because some as yet unidentified underground system (hopefully not the River Croal) was breached although fortunately no specimens or collections suffered any damage.

The deluge—3.37in of rain

BOLTON was deluged by 3.37in of rain yesterday, the highest ever recorded at this time of the year. The town was at the centre of the storm. In less than 24 hours, nearly three inches of rain fell, and the thunder was louder and more frequent and prolonged than anyone could remember. The amount of rain recorded at Bolton's Hall i'th' Wood was second only to the record 4.7in which fell on July 18, 1964. Since the end of March Bolton had been the driest place in Europe with only 0.83in of rain in nine weeks. But yesterday's dramatic and destructive downpour almost certainly made it the wettest place. Local weather expert Mr George Wood said: "Colder air from the West began to spread in yesterday morning. It pushed up the very warm air and that brought violent convection in this area". Mr Wood said that rain fall on yesterday's scale was likely to happen only once in 20 years. © Storm stories and pictures — Pages 6 and 7.



Weather observer, Mr John Winstanley, with yesterday's Bolton storm rainfall chart.

Bolton Evening News
Friday, 6th June 1980.