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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Author(s): Bisson, J., Sutherland, S. A., Matthias, J. H., Cooter, J., Radnedge, S., Kent, D. H. & Morgan, M. J.

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Collections & Information

Sought

ANY "FRESH" PASSENGER PIGEONS?

The Institute for Avian Research would like to know of any possible Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopis migratoris*), whole or bits, preserved in "Cryonic suspension". As this is extremely unlikely, wet preserved material may be available in a museum in this country. Please contact The Director, Jeanguy Bisson, 240 Pembina, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA.

BIRD BONES FROM CAVES AND EXCAVATIONS

I am researching into the field of birds in Pleistocene/Early Holocene deposits and hope to locate all surviving material from British sites of this period.

During discussion with Dr. Harrison of the British Museum at Tring, he suggested I contact you with regard to the publicising of my aims - i.e. locating the remains, checking identifications, and bringing all the information together in an interpretative study. The major stumbling block is clearly the getting in touch with the numerous museums and private collections which may be housing bird bones from excavations often dating back several decades. It was suggested that an advertisement in the journal of the Biology Curators Group would greatly facilitate this process.

Sheila A. Sutherland,
Department of Prehistory & Archaeology,
The University of Sheffield.

Information requested on collector - G. L. Hey

In 1980 a donation was made to the Leicestershire Museums Service of a collection of 2,600 35mm colour transparencies by one G. L. Hey. They clearly represent a lifetime's work on the culture and propagation of exotic orchids. The whole collection is meticulously indexed and may have been a personal reference series or, and I think this more likely, a teaching resource. Most of the slides show orchids in bloom but there are also some of glasshouses and propagation techniques, some of which are highly advanced and unlikely to be the work of an amateur.

Unfortunately the donor knows nothing of Mr. Hey and nor do I. If any reader recognises the name and can give me a lead as to who Mr. Hey may be (even whether he is alive or dead) I would be most grateful.

J. H. Matthias,
Keeper of Biology,
Leicestershire Museum Service.

Coleopterist's Newsletter

Following a successful meeting of coleopterists at Monkswood on the weekend of 16-18 May 1980, John Cooter of Hereford Museum has started the Coleopterist's Newsletter of which Number 1 appeared in August 1980. Articles include collecting microcoleoptera, beetle larvae and checklist changes since the last issue of Kloet & Hincks (1977).

Enquiries to John Cooter, 20 Burden Drive, Bartestree, Herefordshire, HR1 4DL.

LINOCUT BY STEPHEN RADNEDGE

Readers will remember the request for information of the whereabouts of decoys. So far only three responses have been made - surely there are more preserved in our multitudinous museums.



Stephen Radnedge 1981

This decoy, a Lapwing or generally termed Plover, decoy, was made in Friesland, Holland about forty years ago, constructed of paper strips glued around a mould and covered with linen and plaster and painted. Extremely light but very fragile.

Stephen Radnedge,
10 Park Place,
Feniscowles,
nr. Blackburn,
Lancashire.
BB2 5EH.

BRITISH AND IRISH HERBARIA

British Herbaria, being an index to the location of herbaria of British vascular plants, with biographical reference to their collectors was published by the Botanical Society of the British Isles in 1958. Since that time data on many additional collections have been accumulated, while some information given has become outdated. The society have, therefore, authorised the preparation of a new edition of the book with a view to it being published in 1983. Curators of herbaria at university botany departments, museums, and other institutions are accordingly invited to submit to the undersigned data on collections in their care for inclusion in the revised edition. The information required is (1) Surname and full Christian name of collectors. (2) For deceased botanists, year of birth and of death, where known, alternatively approximate period when collection was made. (3) Approximate number of sheets in each herbarium or collection if known. A herbarium should be prefixed by an asterisk to distinguish it from smaller collections. (4) Any area of specialisation, e.g. vice-county or smaller area, particular genera studied, etc.

Similar data in respect of herbaria in private hands is also solicited.

D. H. Kent
75 Adelaide Road
West Ealing
London W13 9ED

Editor's Note

Naturally, the data already gathered by the Collection Research Units will be made available to Douglas Kent.

BUTTERFLY TABLETS

I was very interested to read the article about the butterfly tablets in the Horniman Museum, described by Penny Wheatcroft in the last Newsletter. By strange coincidence Mr. A. Walker of the Marine Biology Station, Menai Bridge, brought a box of them to show me a few months ago. I had never seen this type of mounting before and we were fascinated by the way they were done. We have had them on display in our small departmental museum and they have raised a lot of interest. There are about 100 of them ranging in size from 28 x 22mm to 162 x 125mm. Almost all are in perfect condition except for two or three with cracked glass.

They differ from the Horniman Museum collection in that they are all from Trinidad, but the labels are obviously the same. As well as moths and butterflies there is also one large unnamed metallic blue and green wasp. The Lepidoptera all bear a Latin name, at least the genus, but mostly identified to species.

Mr. Walker had acquired this collection from the estate of a recently deceased elderly relative but had no information as to its previous history.

Mrs. M. J. Morgan, Dept. Applied Zoology, U.C.N.W., Bangor.