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Licence to Possess an Illegally Killed Bird

Derek Whiteley
Sheffield Museum

The following notes are intended as a guide for B.C.G. members who may wish to retain illegally killed specimens, found in good faith.

Earlier this year we received a rather fine corpse of a Lapwing found by a reliable local ornithologist in a farmer's field. The bird had a small gunshot wound, but otherwise the skin was in excellent condition, so it seemed a shame to refuse the specimen.

Seeking advice from the R.S.P.B., I received a very useful letter from Miss Penny Tedder, Co-ordinator of the Species Protection Department (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds., SG19 2DL) who suggested that I contacted the Department of the Environment at Bristol.

Peter Heath, of the Wildlife Division, replied to say that the R.S.P.B. were right to refer me to the D.ofE. and that a licence would be required. My final letter to (the attention of) Miss Mugridge contained the following details of the bird:-

1. Species, age, sex
2. Collection locality, collector, date
3. Injuries sustained
4. Date of provisional acceptance by the Museum and temporary identification number (Entry form no.)

A licence was granted shortly afterwards which allocated the bird a unique number.

Department of the Environment
Directorate of Rural Affairs

NS	BY2
THR	TK
DW	

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
LICENCE TO POSSESS ILLEGALLY TAKEN BIRDS

1. This licence, granted under Section 16(1) (a) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 by the Secretary of State for the Environment after consultation with the Nature Conservancy Council, is valid in England and Wales and authorises -

the keeping, by the City of Sheffield Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield, of an adult male vanellus vanellus (Lapwing) which had been shot in contravention of Section 1(1) (a) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

2. This licence is subject to the following conditions:

- a. The bird must not be sold (which includes hire, barter and exchange).
- b. The bird must not be moved from the premises of the City of Sheffield Museum without the authority of the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Signed
Authorised by the Secretary of State
for the Environment
to sign on his behalf

Department of the Environment
Wildlife Division
Tollgate House
Houlton Street
Bristol
BS2 9DJ

16 August 1984

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