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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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# Wildlife Sound Recordings

'And so I should like to encourage my colleagues and the museum people who are present here today ..... to go to work! In the same way as you have in the past accumulated millions of bird skins in your private collections and public museums please collect now some 100 phonographic records of the voices of your birds. By this means it will be possible at any time by means of films and of these phonogrammes to make your dead bird world alive again.' Hans Stadler, Lohr, on 'Electronic Recordings of Bird Voices', Proc. 7th International Ornithological Congress, Amsterdam, 1930 (Translated from the German).

Don't bother! The British Library of Wildlife Sounds has done it for you. Hans Stadler proposed the setting up of an archive of bird sound recordings for study and research. BLOWS at the British Institute of Recorded Sound in London is precisely that. Not only does it have over 1,000 published records and cassettes of the sounds of all kinds of animals - insects, amphibians, mammals, reptiles, even fishes, as well as birds - from all parts of the world; but there are also 10,000 tape recordings and a duplicate of all the BBC Natural History Sound Archives recordings of wide zoogeographical coverage. The commercially published records cannot be lent or copied, but they can be listened to on the premises. Copies of the BLOWS tape recordings can be supplied for exhibition purposes subject to an agreement being reached with the recordist (or copyright-holder if different) on terms for such use. Similarly copies of the BBC recordings can be supplied subject to their agreement.

Some museums already provide facilities for visitors to listen to sound recordings of the birds or other animals displayed, and BLOWS has supplied recordings for some special exhibitions, at the British Museum (Natural History) in London, for instance, as well as at others elsewhere. The Library will be only too pleased to help museums to obtain the right recordings for their purposes, whether it be an exhibition of urban wildlife, a special presentation about whales or the birds of tropical forests, or simply for individual animal exhibits, such as a scream to go with a stuffed fox or a laugh with a Kookaburra.

For further information, please apply to the Curator, British Library of Wildlife Sounds, British Institute of Recorded Sound, 29 Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AS. Tel: 01-589 6603.

Ron Kettle  
Curator, British Library of Wildlife Sounds

