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Author(s): Heath, P.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Room 11/09

Tollgate House Houlton Street Bristol BS2 9DJ

Telex 449321

Direct line 0272-218649
Switchboard 0272-218811
GTN 2074

Dr P E J Wheatcroft
Hornilan Museum
London Road
Forer Hill
LONDON
SE23 3PQ

Your reference

Our reference

Date

3 July 1984

Dear Dr Wheatcroft

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 - EGG COLLECTIONS

1. Thank you for your letter of 12 June about egg collections. I am sorry I was unable to let you have a reply in time for your recent committee meeting.
2. As far as donated egg collections are concerned, you need to satisfy yourself that they were legally obtained. As a general rule, if the eggs were collected pre-1954, then they should be acceptable. I understand that collections are usually wanted by museums only where detailed documentation on the originals etc of the eggs is available, so it should be evident in most cases how old the eggs are.
3. The sale of egg collections requires to be individually licensed by this Department. The advice from our Scientific Advisers the Nature Conservancy Council, is that they would not recommend the granting of sale licences unless the recipient is a bona fide museum, in which case an exemption may be made.
4. I hope you find this letter of some assistance.

Yours sincerely

PETER HEATH
Wildlife Division