



**NatSCA**

Natural Sciences Collections Association

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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Finally, if you have problems with 'stuck-together' traps or are lucky enough to capture a creature worthy of preservation for posterity, we have found that the glue is softened by using 1,1,1 trichloroethane.

Steve Garland  
Bolton Museum

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## Off the shelf computer interactive for gallery use

Novus Publishing have developed an interactive presentation incorporating touchscreen technology, with visual buttons allowing easy access to information. Presentations can be designed to fulfil many functions such as providing interpretive displays, information points, or educational applications - or simply to view archive material not available to the public. The system can form the focal point of an exhibition or provide a multi-screen major attraction.

Available free, as part of a relevant Novus Presentation, is a computer-based Nature Sketchbook featuring flora and fauna of the British Isles. Information contained in the sketchbook includes concise notes on status, habitats, etc., complete with bird and animal sounds. The nature sketchbook has been specially designed for public use in museums.

Contact: David Roland, Novus Publishing Limited, 48 Rose Hill, Rednal, Birmingham B45 8RT. Tel: 021-457 8008.

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## Programme

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**29th and 30th May 1992**  
**BCG AGM meeting at Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, Carlisle**  
**Meeting the Standards - Making the Grade**

The conference will take as its theme the state of Biology collections management and conservation in Britain today. Is the situation improving or worsening, and what does the future hold?

The conference will begin with a retrospective look at the Biology Collections UK report and its effects; come up to date with the Natural Sciences Incentive Fund; look to the future with the 'Standards for the care of Biology Collections' and Collection Management Plans; and ask where we stand with the conservation of our collections when there is no officially recognised body of trained Natural History conservators?

The annual dinner will be on the night of 29th May. Saturday 30th May will offer the opportunity to visit some of the varied wildlife habitats of Cumbria and the Borders.

**18th - 20th September 1992**

### The History of Ornithology

Joint meeting with the British Ornithologists' Union, the Society for the History of Natural History and BCG.

To be held at the University of Liverpool, South Liverpool Conference Centre. Details in Newsletter 5(7) or from Clem Fisher, Liverpool Museum.

### 1993 BCG AGM

The 1993 AGM will be held in Inverness, probably on 28th May.

Further details in the next Newsletter.

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## In the Press

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The **Journal of the Scottish Society for Conservation and Restoration** regularly carries items of natural history interest. In volume 2 no 3 (August 1991) Mark Shaw discusses the establishment in Scotland of *Anthrenus sarnicus* and *Reesa vespulae*, both significant pests in museum collections. The presence of *A. sarnicus* has been known for some years south of the border, but *Reesa vespulae* is not one of the usually quoted pest species in the British Isles. It was found infesting herbaria and insect collections in Scotland. The article ends with some sensible guidelines on how to trace infestations and how to prevent them.

Volume 3 no 1 (February 1992) reports further work by N Tennant, R Baird and D Littlejohn on 'Bynes disease', the white crystalline efflorescence found on