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The Editor,
BCG Newsletter,
Sheffield City Museum,
Weston Park,
Sheffield.

PW/JM

8 September 1983

Dear Sir,

Velson Horie's recent and informative article on the Renovation of the Manchester Bird Gallery mentions possible adverse reactions of the fumigant methyl bromide with specimens. Please could someone, somewhere specify what the problems of methyl bromide are. There appear to be more rumours about this fumigant than any other. For instance I have been told that 'it causes protein breakdown', 'it attacks fats', 'it leaves acid fumes', 'it leaves an unpleasant smell due to breaking down, sulphur bonds' or 'it only affects specimens in poor condition.' Alternatively there are those who say they have heard a good authority from Curator X who spoke to Mr. Y at Research Lab that the damage is minimal. Maybe the optimists are right, but I'd like to see some written evidence that I can judge for myself.

Given the general confusion about fumigation and fumigants I feel that BCG should consider providing some guidance for members, even if this is simply a compilation of members experience. I for one would be everlastingly grateful and would help compile such a record if necessary.

Yours faithfully,

Penny Wheatcroft

Keeper of Natural History