

Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: Field Study Courses on Reptiles at Poole Aquarium

Author(s): Not Listed.

Source: Not Listed. (1979). Field Study Courses on Reptiles at Poole Aquarium. Biology Curators

Group Newsletter, Vol 2 No 2, 55 - 56.

URL: http://www.natsca.org/article/1670

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derived from museum collections.

Details required are date, place, sex and age (only if certainly correct). For example even 'Undated, Italy' would be helpful.

Please send any records to British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts.

A. J. Prater, Dr. D. Scott

DURHAM FLORA PROJECT

The production of a Durham Flora is the aim of this project which has now been in operation for 10 years, under the guidance of the B.S.B.I. County Recorder for Durham (V.C.66), Rev. Gordon Graham, and Sunderland Museum. The recording of species distribution on a tetrad basis is now virtually complete, and data are stored both manually and on computer, the latter enabling rapid searches to be made, and the production of distribution maps without error. A start is now being made on writing the Flora, but information would still be welcomed from anyone with Durham specimens in their herbarium. The historical component to the Flora will be of particular interest, and I would be pleased to have details of individual specimens (particularly where these have been examined by a recognised expert), or hear of the existance of major Durham collections - please do not assume that they are known to us. If the preparation of a list of specimens is impossible, a note of the existance of them would still prove useful.

Peter Davis Sunderland Museum Borough Road Sunderland

FIELD STUDY COURSES ON REPTILES AT POOLE AQUARIUM

Courses formerly run by the Reptile Institute of Great Britain are now being organised by Poole Aquarium. Two weekend courses are planned for September, and three captive husbandry courses on reptiles for November. Anyone interested in attending these should contact Tony Phelps at The Poole Aquarium, Blue Boar Mill, The Quay, Poole, Dorset.

Affluent BCG members may wish to partake of a reptile field study course in Zambia from October 25th - November 1lth, the cost being a mere £700. Details from Tony Phelps.

FUMIGATION

The use of Lindane smoke generators for fumigation (as at Bradford Museums - see BCG Newsletter No. 10) has been questioned. Apparently Lindane will not kill all insects and mites and smoke generators are not the most effective form of insecticidal treatment. Other forms of control are suggested in the ADAS leaflet 'control of Insect Pests in Museums' available free from the Ministry of Agriculture.

EDWARD HEARLE RODD - ORNITHOLOGIST

Bolton Museum has recently acquired, with the purchase of 15 cases of mounted birds, a handful of reprints among which is the following:

Rodd, Edward Hearle (1864) A list of British Birds as a guide to the ornithology of Cornwall, especially the Land's End district with remarks on the capture, habits, etc., of some of the rarer species. Octavo, 42 pages
Published by Simpkin, Marshall & Co., London and W. Cornish, The Library, 2 Market Place, Penzance and printed by the latter.

This is the first edition, a revised version was produced in 1880 considerably enlarged, edited with a memoir on the author by J. E. Hartig which I have not seen. However, the interest in this copy lies in some annotations which indicate it once belonged to the original author. For example, under the Great Grey Shrike with reference to the Scilly Isles record is the following note:

"Male with 2 spots on wing - I have this bird and I think it will prove to be the Loggerheaded Shrike of America - the subject is being investigated by Mr. Gould - see Zoologist for last month. EHR.

My feeling concerning this catalogue is that if a curator can prove to possess this specimen or holds the Rodd Collection (if such exists) then they can have the booklet. Otherwise we shall hang on to it in Bolton as we have many specimens from the extreme southwest of