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Author(s): Halfpenny, G.

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regarded Leicestershire and British birds and mammals as usefully dealt with by the museum, but only 5.5% noted Leicestershire Naturalists as of interest. This last result is somewhat surprising since Leicestershire has spawned such eminent naturalists as Henry Walter Bates and David Attenborough, to name only two of a number that readily spring to mind.

Museum biological collections thus offer a unique potential recognised by many teachers. Having their interests encouraged by, and gaining their knowledge of key features from museum collections and personnel, people can then be encouraged to collect information about wildlife localities and behaviour rather than be encouraged to collect the wildlife itself.

Christopher N. G. Scotter
Teacher Leader Natural Sciences
Leicestershire Museums.

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STAFFORDSHIRE BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE

The Staffordshire Biological Records Centre was set up in 1973, following the stimulus provided by a Conference on "Centres for Environmental Records" held under the auspices of the Department of Museum Studies of the University of Leicester and the National Biological Records Centre.

Once the project had been launched data began to come in and past records were extracted from the literature. The scheme is primarily based on species recording but site data is now being compiled in co-operation with the Staffordshire Nature Conservation Trust. It was our intention from the outset to publish "Atlases" as soon as sufficient data became available. We are quite fortunate in having some extremely knowledgeable naturalists in the county and we have been able to make good use of their talents.

1975 saw the production of our first publication, an "Atlas of the Lepidoptera of Staffordshire, Part 1 Butterflies" with Mr. R. G. Warren the county recorder for this group as its author.

By undertaking the artwork and copy preparation for production by the "offset-Litho" process we were able to keep costs to a minimum. Unfortunately, the machinery in use by the City's Printing and Stationery department was unable to undertake the work and so following the receipt of tenders 300 copies were printed by George St. Press of Stafford for £110.

The basic lay-out decided upon was an A5 booklet with a distribution map for each species (where warranted), together with a summary of historical records and an assessment of the status of the species at the time of writing.

The distribution maps for the Lepidoptera series (the 4th part of which will be produced by the end of March 1979) indicate the presence of each species in a 10km square of the National Grid. This may seem a little coarse on a county basis but the man-power and data did not allow meaningful publication on a lesser scale. In addition to the Lepidoptera series we have published An Atlas of the Amphibians and Reptiles of the county showing distribution on both a 10km. square and tetrad (2 x 2km. sq.) level, and Part 1 of An Atlas of Diptera of Staffordshire dealing with the hoverflies (Syrphidae).

These publications seem to have been a great stimulus to local recording work as well as performing one of the major roles of a Biological Records Centre, namely the dissemination of information.

Geoff Halfpenny,
Keeper of Natural History,
City Museum & Art Gallery,
Stoke-on-Trent.

Atlas of the Lepidoptera of Staffordshire Part 1 Butterflies R. G. Warren	50 pages	1975	40p
Atlas of the Lepidoptera of Staffordshire Part 2 Moths Lasiocampidae- Geometridae (Larentiinae) R. G. Warren	66 pages	1976	50p
Atlas of the Lepidoptera of Staffordshire Part 3 Moths Geometridae (Larentiinae) R. G. Warren	57 pages	1977	55p
Atlas of the Lepidoptera of Staffordshire Part 4 Moths Geometridae (Ennominae) - Nolidae R. G. Warren	c. 60 pages	1979	(price to be fixed)
Atlas of the Diptera of Staffordshire Part 1 Hoverflies (Syrphidae) G. E. Rotheray	49 pages	1979	(price to be fixed)
Atlas of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Staffordshire G. Halfpenny	48 pages	1978	60p