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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Author(s): Stansfield, G.

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CITES Identification Manual

Would any member who has purchased copies of the CITES Identification Manual, published in 5 volumes 1 Mammalia; 2 Aves; 3 Amphibia, Reptilia, Pisces; 4 Parts and Derivatives 1; 5 Parts and Derivatives 2; at 250 US dollars (cost includes updating service), please write a short review for the BCG Newsletter.

RSPB policy not to use mounted birds in exhibits or for education

- reponse to Steve Garland's note BCGN 4 iiii (1985)

The RSPB's policy not to use mounted birds for exhibitions and education is of long standing and explains why mounted birds are not to be found in RSPB exhibits at Sandy, Loch Leven and other places. This has always seemed to me unnecessarily restrictive and an over reaction. Displays of detached feet, wings and bills is surely no solution.

In responding to a recent application to the World Wildlife Fund for grant aid towards the cost on an exhibition at the Rutland Water Visitor Centre, the use of mounted birds was also queried. The sponsors of the exhibition (The Leicestershire and Rutland Trust for Nature Conservation) felt that the use of well mounted specimens of wildfowl were essential both as an aid to identification but also to emphasise the aesthetic qualities of birds.

I think that it is important for museums to stress that they do not kill birds for their exhibitions and that all specimens used are road or other casualties. It is my contention that museums can use such material to put accross a very effective conservation message. They can also make the point that study collections are essential in the study of bird biology and in preparing illustrations for books on birds.

G.Stansfield  
Department of Museum Studies, University of Leicester. Jan 1986.