



**NatSCA**

Natural Sciences Collections Association

<http://www.natsca.org>

## Biology Curators Group

---

Title: Collections & Information

Author(s): Seel, D. C.

Source: Seel, D. C. (1981). Collections & Information. *Biology Curators Group*, Vol 2 No 10, 485.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1634>

---

NatSCA supports open access publication as part of its mission is to promote and support natural science collections. NatSCA uses the Creative Commons Attribution License (CCAL) <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/> for all works we publish. Under CCAL authors retain ownership of the copyright for their article, but authors allow anyone to download, reuse, reprint, modify, distribute, and/or copy articles in NatSCA publications, so long as the original authors and source are cited.

# Collections & Information

To: All members of the Biological Curators Group and the Guild of Taxidermists.

## BONES AND GUTS OF DEAD BIRDS

I am doing some research on various birds in Britain, viz.

- (1) fluoride in owls (all species), raptors (all species) and the cuckoo; certain water birds (Great-crested Grebe, Kingfisher and Heron).
- (2) the diet of the cuckoo.

For the fluoride I need juvenile and adult birds and require one bone only, namely the femur (that is, the whole of the uppermost leg bone) from each bird. (This bone should be removed either by cutting carefully through the ligaments in the joints at each end or by cutting through the pelvis above and the tibio-tarsus below).

For the diet of the cuckoo I need nestling, juvenile and adult birds and require the stomach plus contents.

I should also need the following for each specimen:

- i) the date of finding of the body;
- ii) the place of finding (preferably with a map reference);
- iii) the sex of the bird (preferably by gonad inspection);
- iv) the age class of the bird (details of age can be found in the British Trust for Ornithology's 'Guide to Ageing and Sexing');
- v) for cuckoo nestlings, the name of the host-species.

I am making my appeal to Biological Curators and Taxidermists because they have a unique opportunity to help. If you think you can help (or indeed already have a body), please would you contact me at the address below. I will pay postage on all specimens sent through the post.

Dr. D. C. Seel,  
Institute of Terrestrial Ecology,  
Bangor Research Station,  
Penrhos Road,  
Bangor,  
Gwynedd.  
LL57 2LQ

Telephone Bangor (0248) 4001 (or 0248-712505, evenings).

---

Records of herbarium specimens of *Pulsatilla vulgaris* Mill. required, particularly from Vice-Counties 20 (Herts), 29 (Cambs) and 30 (Beds). Data should be sent to Brian Sawford at:  
North Herts Museums Service,  
Natural History Department,  
Old Fire Station,  
High Street,  
Baldock,  
Herts.  
SG7 6AR