



SBBOT Conservation – Collection of Specimens

Policy statement and guidelines on the collection of specimens as part of studies at Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory

Introduction

When * studies are carried out with the permission of Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust, some important points must be appreciated and adhered to. The implementation of this set of guidelines was brought about by the collection of at least two uncommon moths by a visitor, one of which was new to the Observatory's Recording Area. Whilst we wish to encourage the practice of studies into the wildlife of our Recording Area, it is the general policy of the Trust that we are under no circumstances willing to facilitate or encourage the activities of collectors, except in the circumstances described in the last bullet point below.

Procedures

Visitors must apply in advance for permission to carry out studies on land owned by or operated upon by the Trust or on land where the Trust operates with the permission of the landowner. Permission will be given on the understanding that the individual involved will adhere to the following principles and practices listed below:

- That specimens are collected with the sole purpose of identifying them as to species and recording their numbers, after which they must be safely released.
- That accurate records of species and numbers must be kept and given to either the Warden or to the person leading the study effort on the day.
- That where a rare or uncommon species is involved, the evidence, either a live specimen or photograph, must be left at the Observatory in the care of the Warden or person leading the study effort on the day.
- The Trust's position is that the only reason for collecting a specimen is for identification purposes if this were to be the only means of reliable identification. Such collection must only be done with the prior permission of the Warden or person leading the study effort on the day. It must be appreciated that such permission will only be given under exceptional circumstances.

Should there be any aspect of these guidelines that is unclear or confusing, clarification should be sought from the Warden or person leading the study effort on the day.