

***The Glasgow Naturalist* – proposed online digitisation**

The Glasgow Naturalist has been in circulation since 1908, with a long history of publishing important and interesting scientific papers, mostly on natural history in Scotland. It has created a significant historical record, which the Glasgow Natural History Society would like to make more widely available through the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

The Biodiversity Heritage Library www.biodiversitylibrary.org has become the world's main free archive of digitised natural history literature, and has established itself as a leading online research library. Its main partners in the UK are the Natural History Museum and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. It offers free access to a vast amount of historical books and journals, with many relevant to Scotland: these include the *Scottish Naturalist*, the *Annals of Scottish Natural History* and the *Proceedings of the Glasgow Natural History Society*; and rare books by Pennant, Harvie-Brown and MacGillivray.

In this context some volumes of *The Glasgow Naturalist* are already on The Biodiversity Heritage Library website; but only volumes 2-12 (1910-1934) www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/38981#/summary, where copyright has expired.

The Council of the Glasgow Natural History Society has endorsed the proposal to place volumes of *The Glasgow Naturalist* from 1934 to the current date on the Biodiversity Heritage Library. However, to do this, Council needs to ascertain if authors and contributors to the journal agree with this proposal. Authors and contributors originally submitted their articles and other material to *The Glasgow Naturalist* for print publication, mostly before the idea of digital access. It is impracticable or impossible to trace all the individual contributors or their legal representatives to ask permission to put their material online. But we believe that most or all would be happy to see their work now reaching new and wider audiences to the overall benefit of Scottish natural history. If any copyright holder does not wish their material included in free digital access, they are asked to contact the Editor <http://www.glasgownaturalhistory.org.uk/editor.html> to discuss this as soon as possible, preferably before 1 March 2017. Arrangements are in place to have such material excluded from web access where necessary.