

The Wildfowl Trust

Patron HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

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Hon. Treasurer Michael Crichton, O.B.E.

Hon. Director Peter Scott, C.B.E., D.S.C., LL.D.

Council

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| <i>Elected Members</i> | C. Braby, O.B.E. Mrs. Peter Clifford Peter Conder Dr. J. G. Harrison Professor G. M. Hughes G. A. J. Jamieson | G. M. Jolliffe E. G. Kleinwort R. E. M. Pilcher, F.R.C.S. Miss P. Talbot-Ponsonby The Hon. Vincent Weir J. P. Williams |
| <i>Co-opted Members</i> | G. R. Askew J. O. Death Miss K. M. P. Burton, H.M.I. (<i>Assessor for the Department of Education and Science</i>) | Captain P. A. Fergusson-Cuninghame Christopher Marler |

Finance

| | | |
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| <i>Committee</i> | Michael Crichton (<i>Chairman</i>) C. Braby, O.B.E. J. O. Death R. C. P. Holland | G. A. J. Jamieson Peter Scott, C.B.E., D.S.C., LL.D. Miss P. Talbot-Ponsonby The Hon. Vincent Weir |
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| <i>Scientific Advisory Committee</i> | Professor G. M. Hughes (<i>Chairman</i>) Professor D. Bellamy Dr. J. Berry, C.B.E. Professor A. J. Cain Dr. J. D. Carthy Dr. J. H. Crook Dr. G. M. Dunnet Dr. J. J. M. Flegg Dr. J. G. Harrison Dr. D. Jenkins (<i>Assessor for the Nature Conservancy</i>) | Professor R. A. Hinde Sir Julian Huxley, F.R.S. Dr. D. Lack, F.R.S. Professor C. W. Ottaway Dr. F. H. Perring R. E. M. Pilcher, F.R.C.S. Professor E. W. Yemm |
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The Wildfowl Trust: Annual Report

Meetings

The Officers, Council and Committees of the Trust as at 31st December 1969 are detailed opposite. The Council met on 10th April, 13th May, 24th July and 18th December. Meetings were at the headquarters of the Nature Conservancy except that on 13th May which was at the Royal Society of Arts.

The Finance Committee met on 20th March, 10th July, 24th September, 13th November and 4th December. The meeting on 24th September was at Winchester House, the remainder at the Nature Conservancy. The Scientific Advisory Committee met on 2nd May at the Department of Zoology, Bristol University, and the New Branches Committee at the Nature Conservancy on 14th January.

The 21st Annual General Meeting was held at the Royal Society of Arts, London, on 13th May. The Annual Dinner was at the Hyde Park Hotel on the same day. His Grace the Duke of Northumberland presided and the speakers were the President, Lord Butler of Saffron Walden, Mr. Basil Boothroyd and Mr. Julian Slade.

Amendments to Rules

The full Minutes of the Annual General Meeting are circulated separately to Members.

The Rules were changed to give effect to the increases in subscriptions for Full Members and Associates from 1st January 1970 and to the revised terms for Corporate Members. Details are given under 'Terms of Membership' on p. 160.

Membership

Membership increased by 761 in 1969. This was in part due to the Fund Raising Campaign. Comparative figures are:—

| | 1968 | 1969 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Life Members | 345 | 356 |
| Full Members | 5054 | 5794 |
| Associate Members | 1606 | 1573 |
| Parish Members | 237 | 224 |
| Junior Compounded Members | 13 | 11 |
| Goslings | 642 | 710 |
| Corporate Members | 100 | 85 |
| Contributors | 32 | 37 |
| | <hr/> 8029 | <hr/> 8790 |

Swan Supporters increased from 158 to 197.

Twenty-one members very kindly opened their collections to fellow members in 1969.

The Gosling party was held on 20th December and was again filled to capacity. The Hon. Director showed slides of his trips to Alaska and Zambia and a film.

Attendances

The number of visitors to Peakirk again showed an increase over the record total of 1968. Numbers visiting Slimbridge fell by some twelve thousand. This may well have been due to the increase in admission charges which took effect on 1.1.69. Overall gate receipts increased by over £9,000.

| | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Slimbridge | 209243 | 206903 | 194512 |
| Peakirk | 46181 | 53602 | 55217 |
| | <hr/> 255424 | <hr/> 260505 | <hr/> 249729 |

Development

During the year two new quarantine pens were erected at Slimbridge and, with the aid of an anonymous donation, a propagation and service building was erected but not completed. At the Patch, a Youth Hostel for Field Studies with accommodation for 50 was built by the Youth Hostels Association on land made available by the Trust, which laid out a waterfowl garden there.

At Peakirk two developments were made possible by the generosity of an anonymous benefactor—a Flamingo enclosure near the Goshams, and an entrance building comprising a foyer with educational displays, a shop and offices, which was nearing completion at the end of the year. Additional security was achieved by the purchase of land at Osier Holt.

Considerable extension and development of the Welney Reserve (p. 143) was made possible by generous donations of £5,000 by the Pilgrim Trust, £4,000 by the Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust and £1,750 by Mr. Christopher Cadbury.

Outline planning permission was received for the proposed Wildfowl Trust Reserve at Martin Mere, Lancashire.

The Trust accepted an offer from the Duke of Norfolk for the lease of 69 acres of water meadow at Arundel from 25th March 1971, and submitted an application for approval to establish a Wildfowl Trust Reserve there.

Finance

During the year the General Reserve Fund, re-named the General Development Fund, benefited to the extent of £26,913 from legacies and donations. £13,131 was spent on development. In addition £3,788 was transferred to the Accumulated Fund to offset the excess of expenditure over income in 1969. Although cash income was increased by £14,135 the continuing rise in costs inevitably led to a deficit for the second year running. Nevertheless a balance of £14,468 on the General Development Fund was carried forward.

The Fund Raising Campaign which was launched in 1968 had produced a total grossed up over ten years of £173,420 by the end of 1969, against the target of £325,000.

The Collections

New species added to the Slimbridge Collection were the Pink-eared Duck and Australian Shoveler. Fifty Ne-ne were sent to Hawaii, bringing the total re-

patriated to 144. The Flamingo flocks at Slimbridge were built up to 236 and a flock was started at Peakirk. Full details of breeding results are given at p. 138.

Research, Conservation, Education

The work of monitoring the British wildfowl population and their distribution and migrations, through counts, censuses and ringing, continued. The studies of feeding ecology and associated behaviour patterns were expanded. The health of the collections was kept under constant watch, and associated studies on the morphology and physiology of wildfowl proceeded. Two major threats to goose populations were strongly resisted, namely, proposals to site the Third London Airport on the Foulness, Essex, feeding grounds of Brent Geese, and to flood the main breeding grounds of Pink-footed Geese at Thjorsarver, Iceland.

The International Wildfowl Research Bureau Headquarters were established at Slimbridge.

Links with Universities were strengthened. The service available to visiting parties of school children, numbering 2,000, was greatly improved, and large numbers of lectures were delivered.

Full details of all these activities are given in the Current Reports section, pp. 133—153.

Publications in 1969

- ATKINSON-WILLES, G. L. The mid-winter distribution of wildfowl in Europe, northern Africa and south-west Asia, 1967 and 1968. *Wildfowl* 20 : 98-111.
- ATKINSON-WILLES, G. L. Wildfowl and recreation: a balance of requirements. *Brit. Water Supply* 11 : 5-15.
- AVERY, R. A. The ecology of tapeworm parasites in wildfowl. *Wildfowl* 20 : 59-68.
- BOYD, H. and M. A. OGILVIE. Changes in the British-wintering population of the Pink-footed Goose from 1950-1975. *Wildfowl* 20 : 33-46.
- EVANS, M. E. Egg-carrying by female Muscovy Duck. *Brit. Birds* 62 : 384-5.
- GOODCHILD, N. M. and J. F. TUCKER. Salmonella in British wild birds and their transfer to domestic fowl. *Brit. Vet. Jour.* 124 : 95-101.
- HARBERD, D. J. and M. OWEN. Some experimental observations on the clone structure of a natural population of *Festuca rubra* L. *New Phytologist* 68 : 93-104.
- JONES, D. R. Avian afferent vagal activity related to cardiac and respiratory cycles. *J. Comp. Biochem. Physiol.* 28 : 961-5.
- KEAR, J. A brief guide to the Flamingos, Phoenicopteridae. *Wildfowl* 20 : 140-1.
- LINSELL, D. E. Pre-dusk and nocturnal behaviour of Goldeneye with notes on population composition. *Wildfowl* 20 : 75-77.
- MATTHEWS, G. V. T. Egg carrying by female Mallard. *Brit. Birds* 62 : 384.
- MATTHEWS, G. V. T. The International Wildfowl Research Bureau. *Wildfowl* 20 : 94-97.
- MATTHEWS, G. V. T. Nacton Decoy and its catches. *Wildfowl* 20 : 131-7.
- MATTHEWS, G. V. T. Navigation in animals. *J. Inst. Navigation* 22 : 118-26.
- MATTHEWS, G. V. T. and C. R. G. CAMPBELL. Weights and measurements of Greylag Geese in Scotland. *Wildfowl* 20 : 86-93.
- OGILVIE, M. A. The status of the Canada Goose in Britain 1967-69. *Wildfowl* 20 : 33-46.
- OGILVIE, M. A. and G. V. T. MATTHEWS. Brent Geese, mudflats and Man. *Wildfowl* 20 : 119-25.
- SLADEN, W. J. L. Studies of the Whistling Swan, 1967-1968. *North Amer. Wildlife Conf. Trans.* 34 : 42-50.
- THOM, V. M. Wintering duck in Scotland. *Scot. Birds* 5 : 417-66.

Obituary

CAPTAIN R. G. W. BERKELEY

Rob Berkeley—Vice-President, Founder Council member and friend of the Wildfowl Trust—died on 28th August 1969. Without his approval and support the Trust could not have been established at Slimbridge, for it was laid out on his land.

During the first discussion of the idea back in 1946, I well remember sitting with him on a sofa in Berkeley Castle looking at photographs I had brought with me of Jack Miner's Canada Goose Sanctuary at Kingsville, Ontario, and of a mass of Greater Snow Geese in front of the Gun Club's picture window at Cap Tourmente in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

I had some sort of dream that people could get close to wild geese to see them and photograph them if only the right kinds of hides and screened pathways could be made. All this, I thought, might somehow be combined with a collection of tame wildfowl and set up close to the hundred-year-old duck decoy at the New Grounds. To his eternal credit this wild and unlikely scheme was accepted without reservation by the man who was to be its landlord. I do not think either of

us then foresaw all that the Trust would become in the next twenty years, yet I believe what in fact it became pleased Rob as much as it pleased me.

He had a lifelong interest in wildfowl, and had considerable experience and technical knowledge of keeping and breeding them in captivity at Spetchley Park in Worcestershire—his other home.

On his last visit to the Trust the wild Bewick's Swans were fighting in to Swan Lake before dusk, and after tea they were going out again under the floodlights. As he sat in the window Rob was at the top of his form and apparently enjoying the spectacle in every detail. In spite of his illness he was as quick as ever in the acuity of his observation. He 'did not miss a trick' in the complex ornithological spectacle in front of him. I remember thinking at the time how lucky the Trust had been to have a landlord with so fine an appreciation of the beauty and romance of wildfowl.

The Wildfowl Trust must never forget how much it owes to the interest and goodwill of Captain R. G. W. Berkeley.

PETER SCOTT



THE WILDFOWL TRUST, SLIMBRIDGE, GLOUCESTER
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1969

| 1968 £ | EXPENDITURE | £ | £ |
|----------------|---|-------|----------------|
| | To General Expenses:— | | |
| 10040 | Salaries and Superannuation, Administrative Staff | 12107 | |
| 1600 | Rent, Rates, Water Rates and Insurance | 2143 | |
| 5813 | General Administration Expenses | 5609 | |
| 3441 | Maintenance | 3828 | |
| 2968 | Printing and Stationery including Bulletins | 3108 | |
| 185 | Bank Charges | 145 | |
| 7354 | Advertising | 10040 | |
| <u>31401</u> | | | 36980 |
| | New Grounds and Peakirk:— | | |
| 19083 | Salaries, Wages and Superannuation | 23279 | |
| 1550 | Purchases of Wildfowl | 6236 | |
| 7569 | Food for Wildfowl | 9332 | |
| 7360 | Maintenance, Fuel, etc. | 5767 | |
| 2191 | Transport, Mechanical Equipment, Travel | 1736 | |
| 758 | Miscellaneous | 1017 | |
| <u>38511</u> | | | 47367 |
| | Gate Houses:— | | |
| 6484 | Salaries, Wages and Superannuation | 8393 | |
| 2266 | Miscellaneous | 2086 | |
| <u>8750</u> | | | 10479 |
| | To Research and Conservation:— | | |
| 16831 | Salaries and Superannuation | 19094 | |
| 4797 | Miscellaneous Research Expenditure | 5325 | |
| 2622 | Printing <i>Wildfowl</i> | 3253 | |
| 6461 | Management and Upkeep of refuges and ringing stations | 8375 | |
| <u>30711</u> | | | 36047 |
| | Educational:— | | |
| 2255 | Salaries and Superannuation | 3329 | |
| 688 | Miscellaneous | 440 | |
| <u>2943</u> | | | 3769 |
| | Capital Expenditure:— | | |
| 5140 | Development* | — | |
| 1174 | Equipment | 188 | |
| <u>6314</u> | | | 188 |
| 100 | Written off Buildings | | 100 |
| | * Note:—Development Expenditure this year has been charged to the General Development Fund. | | |
| <u>£118730</u> | | | <u>£134930</u> |
| 3210 | To Deficit for year, brought down | | 3788 |
| <u>£1210</u> | | | <u>£3788</u> |

| 1968 £ | INCOME | £ | £ |
|----------------|--|-------|----------------|
| | By General Income:— | | |
| 12247 | Subscriptions | 14555 | |
| 705 | Donations | 568 | |
| — | Film Royalties | 227 | |
| 2267 | Income Tax repaid on Covenants | 3479 | |
| 1819 | Interest Received | 1750 | |
| <u>17038</u> | | | 20579 |
| | New Grounds and Peakirk:— | | |
| 59767 | Takings | 68854 | |
| 3083 | Sale of Surplus Wildfowl | 4048 | |
| 2181 | Restaurant | 2486 | |
| <u>65031</u> | | | 75388 |
| | Gate Houses:— | | |
| 38666 | Sales | 38321 | |
| 27019 | Less: Purchases (with Stocks adjusted) | 29096 | |
| <u>11647</u> | | | 9225 |
| | To Research and Conservation:— | | |
| 17129 | The Natural Environment Research Council Grant | 18933 | |
| 996 | Donations | 683 | |
| 2358 | Other receipts | 3526 | |
| <u>20483</u> | | | 23142 |
| | Educational:— | | |
| 275 | County Council Grants | | 275 |
| 1046 | Increase in Valuation, 31st December 1969 | | 2533 |
| 3210 | Deficit for year, carried down | | 3788 |
| <u>£118730</u> | | | <u>£134930</u> |
| 1003 | By Balance, 31st December 1968 | | — |
| 2207 | Transfer to Accumulated Fund | | 3788 |
| <u>£3210</u> | | | <u>£3788</u> |

THE WILDFOWL TRUST, SLIMBRIDGE, GLOUCESTER
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1969

| 1968 | LIABILITIES | £ | £ | | 1968 | ASSETS | £ | £ |
|--------|--|-------|---------|--|--------|--|--------|---------|
| £ | | | | | £ | | | |
| 47100 | Accumulated Fund | | 47100 | | 13179 | Fixed Assets:— Freehold and Leasehold Properties, at Cost or Valuation (less Depreciation) | | 13079 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 18723 | Special Funds:— | | | | | Assets, at Valuation, 31st December 1969: | | |
| 1022 | Specific Projects | 19564 | | | 9175 | Transport and other equipment | 9428 | |
| 4293 | Life Membership | 2169 | | | 11000 | Wildfowl | 13280 | |
| | Special Reserve | 7500 | | | | | | |
| 686 | General Development | 14468 | | | 20175 | | | 22708 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 24724 | | | 43701 | | 33354 | | | 35787 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | — Less: Net Cost of Fund Raising Campaign (per Contra) | 13239 | | | | Special Funds represented by:— | | |
| | | | | | 24724 | Investment at Cost and Cash on Deposit | | 30462 |
| 24724 | | | 30462 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Current Assets:— | | |
| | | | | | 8563 | Gate House and Other Stocks | 11964 | |
| | | | | | 7813 | Sundry Debtors and Payments in Advance | 8010 | |
| | | | | | 8660 | Cash | 17116 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 25036 | | | 37090 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 1350 | Mortgage on Freehold Property | | 1332 | | | Fund Raising Campaign:— | | |
| | | | | | 9837 | Campaign Expenses to date less Covenants and other Donations received | 13239 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Deducted from Special Funds per Contra | £13239 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | Current Liabilities:— | | | | | <i>NOTE:—The Grossed up total of the amount contributed to 31st December 1969 amounted to approxi- mately £173,420 over the Term of the Covenants.</i> | | |
| 16901 | Sundry Creditors and Accrued Charges | 20421 | | | | | | |
| 2876 | Unsecured Loans | 4024 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 19777 | | | 24445 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| £92951 | | | £103339 | | £92951 | | | £103339 |

We have examined the above Balance Sheet of The Wildfowl Trust dated 31st December 1969, together with the accompanying Income and Expenditure Account and find them to be in accordance with the Books and Vouchers produced to us and the information and explanations given to us.

STROUD, Gloucestershire.
16th April 1970.

S. J. DUDBRIDGE & SONS,
Chartered Accountants.

Terms of Membership (as from 1st January 1970).

- LIFE MEMBERS** A single payment of £100. Entitled to all the privileges of Full Membership (see below).
- FULL MEMBERS** £3 a year. Entitled to free entry to the enclosures and observation hides at Slimbridge and Peakirk, with one free guest, and to a free copy of WILDFOWL and bulletins.
- ASSOCIATE MEMBERS** £1 10s. a year. Entitled to free entry to enclosures and hides, and to a free copy of bulletins.
- GOSLING MEMBERS (under 18)** 12/6d. a year. Entitled to the same privileges as Associate Members. A leaflet obtainable at Slimbridge or Peakirk gives details of a scheme of grading of Goslings, with appropriate distinguishing marks, and promotion and recognition tests.
- CORPORATE MEMBERS** £1 a year. Limited to educational establishments, youth clubs, and bodies which are members of the Council for Nature. Receive a free copy of WILDFOWL and bulletins. Free entry for one adult per each ten members of a party.
- CONTRIBUTORS** Organisations which do not qualify for Corporate Membership may become Contributors by subscribing not less than one guinea a year. Contributors receive one free copy of WILDFOWL and all bulletins.

