

The Wildfowl Trust, Annual Report, 1970

Royal visit

H.R.H. The Prince of Wales paid an informal visit to Slimbridge on 7th and 8th March.

Meetings

The Officers, Council and Committees of the Trust as at 31st December 1970 are set out on page 160.

The Council met on 13th February at Slimbridge and on 15th April, 18th June, 21st July and 13th October in London. The Finance Committee met in London on 18th March, 17th June, 23rd September and 11th November. The Scientific Advisory Committee met at Slimbridge on 5th March.

The 23rd Annual General Meeting was held at The Royal Society of Arts, London, on 18th June. The President referred to the loss the Trust had suffered by the deaths of its Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Michael Crichton, and of Mr. Gerald Askew, a Council Member, both enthusiastic friends and supporters. The Hon. Vincent Weir was elected Honorary Treasurer and Dr. Jean Delacour, Sir Julian Huxley, F.R.S., and Mr. E. G. Kleinwort, were elected Vice-Presidents. After the meeting the Hon. Director gave an illustrated talk about his recent visit to Zambia.

The Annual Dinner took place at the Hyde Park Hotel, the same day. His Grace The Duke of Northumberland presided, and the speakers were Lord Ritchie Calder, Sir Bernard Lovell, Mr. David Attenborough and Mr. Peter Scott.

Development

Slimbridge

The Propagation and Service Building was taken over from the builders in February and the Trust staff carried out the internal work to provide arrangements for the indoor duckery, for food storage and preparation and for workshops. This has greatly enhanced the arrangements for breeding and for servicing the collection. A three phase electricity supply was installed. A second well point system to give an auxiliary water supply was put in near the Tropical House; but was not fully developed by the end of the year.

Peakirk

The new Entrance Building incorporating a hall with educational displays, a shop and a Curator's office was completed and was officially opened on 21st April by

H.R.H. The Duchess of Gloucester. The new building has been greatly admired and in 1970 there was a notable increase in sales (Plate XIIb). The old gate hut was re-erected as a tea room.

Welney

A generous donation, by Mrs. Ernest Kleinwort, enabled us to buy a further 96 acres of washland, bringing the acreage owned by the Trust to 588. The screen bank with Presco hides was extended to 800 yards and the main observatory and the access bridge to it over the Hundred Foot River were constructed. These developments were made possible by the generosity of Condor International Ltd., who designed the 300 ft. bridge and fabricated and donated the steel work for it, of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd., who donated the piled foundations for the bridge and the observatory, and by donations from the Carnegie (U.K.) Trust, the Sir J. Knott Settlement and the World Wildlife Fund Youth Service. The bridge was erected as a training task by a troop of 3 Field Squadron, R.E.

Caerlaverock

In June the Trust took over the lease of Eastpark Farm, to which belong the 600 acres of merse, included in the sanctuary area of the Caerlaverock National Nature Reserve, and 235 acres of arable land alongside, which the Trust is managing as an extension to the reserve. The farm was taken over with the help of an interest-free loan from the Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, and generous donations by Major Sir Reginald Macdonald-Buchanan, the Dulverton Trust, and the McRobert Trust enabled us to make a start on development. A reserve manager was installed, a pond was dug in an eight-acre paddock which was enclosed with a fox-proof fence to accommodate a small collection of British wildfowl, a screened approach between earth banks to the Saltcot Tower was constructed, plans were prepared for a system of observation hides on the farmland with covered approaches, and arrangements were made for the operation of the farm without detriment to the primary aim of creating both a sanctuary and study area. Studies are being initiated with the particular object of research into the better integration of wild geese and farming.

Arundel

Outline planning permission for the proposed Wildfowl Refuge at Arundel was received in July and plans were made for its development in 1971.

Membership

The increase in the rates of subscription slowed down the growth of membership in 1970. Comparative figures for 31st December are:

	1969	1970
Life Members	356	369
Full Members	5794	5891
Associates	1573	1468
Parish Members	224	239
Junior Compounded Members	11	8
Goslings	710	797
Corporate Members	85	80
Contributors	37	35
	<hr/> 8790	<hr/> 8887

Swan Supporters increased during the year from 197 to 270.

Attendances

For the third year running there was an increase in the numbers visiting Peakirk, and Slimbridge was once again visited by over 200,000 people. Comparative figures:

	1967	1968	1969	1970
Slimbridge	209,243	206,903	194,512	201,446
Peakirk	46,181	53,602	55,217	58,294
Totals	<hr/> 255,424	<hr/> 260,505	<hr/> 249,729	<hr/> 259,740

Finance

The increased income from visitors was offset by increased advertising and other higher costs resulting in an excess of expenditure over income in the Current Account of £2,709, of which £427 went to increasing the valuation of Trust property.

The net income from the Fund Raising Campaign during the year totalled £10,022 of which £9,574 came in earmarked donations for Welney, Arundel, Caerlaverock, and Martin Mere. The balance of £448 was transferred to the General Development Fund.

The General Development Fund began the year with a credit of £14,468 and received £13,389 in donations and legacies: £2,533 was transferred to the Accumulated Fund to cover over-expenditure in 1969, £7,625 was transferred to the Welney Fund and £9,088 was spent at

Slimbridge and Peakirk, leaving a carry-forward of £8,611. Of this £2,709 will have to be transferred to the Accumulated Fund to make up the over-expenditure in the current account in 1970.

In addition to the transfer of £7,625 from the General Development Fund, the Welney Capital Fund benefited by donations totalling £24,381: £13,000 was spent on land purchase and £14,636 on development and £4,647 was carried forward to 1971.

£11,731 was spent at Caerlaverock on taking over Eastpark Farm and on initial developments: this was £4,420 more than the £7,311 of donations received; but the debit balance was more than covered by the £6,000 loan from the Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust.

An anonymous benefactor undertook to match donations to the Trust's Arundel Fund pound for pound up to £20,000. With the help of this very generous arrangement £6,459 was raised in the last three months of the year and the credit balance on 31st December was £11,216.

Aviculture

Wandering Whistling Ducks, White-winged Wood Ducks and a pair of Musk Ducks were added to the collection at Slimbridge and a flock of Chilean Flamingos was established at Peakirk. 1,200 young birds were raised during the season.

Twenty Chilean Flamingos were reared at Slimbridge plus three Greater Flamingos, these last being the fourth species of flamingo bred for the first time in Britain by the Trust, since it started to keep flamingos in 1962.

It was the most successful breeding season so far for Ne-nés: 52 were raised and 56 flown to Hawaii bringing the total repatriated to 200.

Full details of the breeding results are given at p. 147.

Research, Conservation and Education

Record numbers of White-fronted Geese were present at Slimbridge and the intensive study of their feeding ecology continued. The Bewick's Swans also came in greater numbers than ever before. Many were caught, ringed, X-rayed and had their tails dyed so that their subsequent migration could be tracked. The ringing of ducks continued at Slimbridge, Borough Fen, Abberton and Nacton.

The international mid-winter counts over Europe and Asia were organised from Slimbridge, as well as the long-established monthly duck counts in Britain.

The health of the Collection was guarded by improved veterinary and pathological facilities.

Every effort was made to ensure that the Roskill Commission fully appreciated the disastrous consequences to the Brent Geese of siting the Third London Airport at Foulness. Besides making protests at the proposed flooding of Þjórsárver, Iceland, breeding ground of most of our Pink-footed Geese, their numbers and

distribution of nests were established by a helicopter survey.

The link with the neighbouring University College, Cardiff, was strengthened by the appointment there of the Director of Research as Honorary Professorial Fellow.

Two substantial permanent wall exhibitions were prepared for the new buildings at Peakirk and at Welney.

Numbers of school and other educational parties increased further, and the facilities at the new Youth Hostel were extensively used.

Full details of these activities will be found between pp. 132-154.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

(as from May 1971)

LIFE FELLOWS

A single payment of £100.00. Entitled to all the privileges of Full Membership (see below) but with free entry with one free guest to any refuge which is open for visiting.

FELLOWS

£5.00 a year. Privileges as for Life Fellows.

FULL MEMBERS

£3.00 a year. Entitled to free entry to Slimbridge and to Peakirk with one free guest but may opt for free entry to any one other refuge which is open for visiting instead of Peakirk. Entitled to entry at half price to other establishments which are open for visiting. Receive a free copy of *WILDFOWL* and bulletins, and may vote at the A.G.M.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

£1.50 a year. Entitled to free entry to Slimbridge and to Peakirk (but may opt for free entry to any one other refuge which is open for visiting instead of Peakirk). Entitled to entry at half price to other establishments which are open for visiting. Receive a free copy of bulletins.

GOSLING MEMBERS (under 18)

£0.63 a year. Privileges as for Associates. A leaflet obtainable at all refuges gives details of a scheme of grading of Goslings, with appropriate distinguishing marks, and promotion and recognition tests.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

£1.00 a year. Limited to educational establishments, youth clubs and bodies which are members of the Council for Nature. Entitled to a free copy of *WILDFOWL* and bulletins. Free entry for one adult per each ten members of a party. Details for party visiting may be obtained from each refuge.

CONTRIBUTORS

Organisations which do not qualify for Corporate Membership may become Contributors by subscribing not less than £1.05 a year. Receive a free copy of *WILDFOWL* and bulletins.

THE WILDFOWL TRUST, SLIMBRIDGE, GLOUCESTER
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1970

1969 £	EXPENDITURE	£	£
To	General Expenses:—		
12107	Salaries and Superannuation, Administrative Staff	13390	
2143	Rent, Rates, Water Rates and Insurance	2218	
5609	General Administration Expenses	6930	
3828	Maintenance	3926	
3108	Printing and Stationery including Bulletins	3451	
145	Bank Charges	141	
10040	Advertising	15377	
36980			45433
	New Grounds and Peakirk:—		
23279	Salaries, Wages and Superannuation	25214	
6236	Purchases of Wildfowl	3117	
9332	Food for Wildfowl	9417	
5767	Maintenance, Fuel, etc.	6546	
1736	Transport, Mechanical Equipment and Travel	2079	
1017	Miscellaneous	779	
47367			47152
	Shops:—		
8393	Salaries, Wages and Superannuation	9288	
2086	Miscellaneous	1754	
10479			11042
	Research and Conservation:—		
19094	Salaries and Superannuation	18950	
5325	Miscellaneous Research Expenditure	4451	
3253	Printing <i>WILDFOWL</i>	3001	
9078	Management and Upkeep of Refuges and Ringing Stations	11501	
36750			37903
	Education:—		
3329	Salaries and Superannuation	3611	
440	Miscellaneous	796	
3769			4407
	Capital Expenditure:—		
188	Equipment	—	
100	Written off Buildings	—	100
£135633			£146037
£3788	To Deficit for year, brought down	£2282	

1969 £	INCOME	£	£
By	General Income:—		
14555	Subscriptions	17966	
568	Donations	660	
227	Film Royalties	—	
3479	Income Tax repaid on Covenants	2139	
1750	Interest received	3168	
20579			23933
	New Grounds and Peakirk:—		
68854	Takings	70661	
4048	Sale of Surplus Wildfowl	5118	
2486	Restaurants	2640	
75388			78419
	Shops:—		
38321	Sales	43817	
29096	Less: Purchases (with Stocks adjusted)	30368	
9225			13449
	Research and Conservation:—		
18933	The Natural Environment Research Council Grant	20719	
683	Donations	1283	
4229	Other Receipts	5050	
23845			27052
	Education:—		
275	County Council Grants	—	475
2533	Increase in Valuation, 31st December 1970	—	427
3788	Deficit for year, carried down	—	2282
£135633			£146037
£3788	By Transfer Accumulated Fund	£2282	

THE WILDFOWL TRUST, SLIMBRIDGE, GLOUCESTER

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1970

1969		LIABILITIES		1969		ASSETS	
£		£	£	£		£	£
47100	Accumulated Fund		56147	13079	Fixed Assets:— Freehold and Leasehold Properties, at Cost or Valuation (less depreciation)		12979
	Special Funds:—						
19564	Specific Projects	14275			Assets, at Valuation, 31st December 1970		
2169	Life Membership	3472		9428	Transport and other equipment	9235	
7500	Special Reserve	7500		13280	Wildfowl	13900	
14468	General Development	8611					
43701			33858	35787			23135
							36114
13239	Less: Net Cost of Fund Raising Campaign	—			Special Funds represented by:—		
				30462	Investment at Cost and Cash on Deposit		33859
30462			33858				
					Current Assets:—		
				11964	Gate House and Other Stocks	20920	
				8010	Sundry Debtors and Payments in Advance	10906	
				17116	Cash	22851	
				37090			54677
1332	Mortgage on Freehold Property		1312				
	Current Liabilities:—						
20421	Sundry Creditors and Accrued Charges	20677					
4024	Unsecured Loans	12656					
24445			33333				
£103339			£124650	£103339			£124650

We have examined the above Balance Sheet of The Wildfowl Trust dated 31st December 1970, 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.
 26th April 1971.

S. J. DUDBRIDGE & SONS,
 Chartered Accountants.

The Wildfowl Trust

Patron HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

President His Grace The Duke of Northumberland, K.G., T.D.

Vice-Presidents Sir Percy Lister, Kt.
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Howick of Glendale, G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O.
General Sir Gerald Lathbury, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E.
Sir Isaac Wolfson, Bt., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., LL.D., D.C.L.
Dr. John Berry, C.B.E.
Sir Julian Huxley, Kt., F.R.S.
Dr. Jean Delacour
E. G. Kleinwort

Trustees His Grace The Duke of Beaufort, K.G., P.C., G.C.V.O.
The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Mansfield, J.P.
John Berkeley, J.P.
H. H. Davis
Guy Benson
Sir Landsborough Thomson, C.B., O.B.E., D.S.C., LL.D.

Hon. Treasurer The Hon. Vincent Weir

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

Council

<i>Elected Members</i>	The Lord Brassey of Apethorpe Mrs. Peter Clifford J. O. Death Captain J. A. Fergusson- Cunninghame The Lady Anne FitzAlan Howard G. A. J. Jamieson	G. M. Jolliffe Mrs. E. G. Kleinwort Christopher Marler R. E. M. Pilcher, F.R.C.S. Miss P. Talbot-Ponsonby J. P. Williams
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<i>Co-opted Members</i>	C. Braby, O.B.E. Peter Conder Miss K. M. P. Burton, H.M.I. (<i>Assessor for the Department of Education and Science</i>)	Dr. J. G. Harrison, O.B.E. Professor G. M. Hughes Keith Shackleton
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<i>Finance Committee</i>	The Hon. Vincent Weir (<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
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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. Dr. J. D. Carthy Dr. J. H. Crook Dr. J. M. Cullen Dr. P. R. Evans Dr. J. J. M. Flegg Dr. J. G. Harrison, O.B.E. 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. Dr. R. K. Murton Dr. A. McDiarmid Professor C. W. Ottaway Dr. F. H. Perring R. E. M. Pilcher, F.R.C.S. Professor E. W. Yemm
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