

Spur-winged Goose (*Plectropterus g. gambensis*).—One ; a female from Whipnade in exchange, where it was reared in 1933.

European Eider (*Somateria m. mollissima*).—Four ; one drake, two ducks reared in 1948 and one duck reared in 1947, all by Col. W. V. Lumsden. Eiders are subject to the fungus disease aspergillosis at the New Grounds and drakes seem more difficult to keep than ducks.

Barrow's Golden-eye (*Bucephala islandica*).—Five ; two pairs reared at the New Grounds in 1947 ; one drake in 1948 ; all from eggs sent from Iceland by Mr. W. F. Palsson of Laxardal.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*).—Two ; females, one reared at the New Grounds in 1947 from an egg sent from Iceland, the other, blind in one eye, was caught in Bude harbour by Mr. R. B. Treleaven.

Goosander (*Mergus m. merganser*).—One ; a drake caught in the outflow of Walton Reservoir, near Hampton Court, in March, 1947. Now paired to a female Red-breasted Merganser.

North American Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*).—Seven ; three pairs and one drake from Mr. W. J. Mackensen, Pennsylvania, and also from Liberty Park, Salt Lake City, where they were reared by Mr. Calvin Wilson and sent by courtesy of Mr. J. Sloan, Superintendent of Parks.

From this list of 106 different forms and some 654 birds it will be seen that the Trust is greatly indebted to a large number of people who have sent birds to the New Grounds. The Council wishes to thank those (not all of whom are mentioned by name) who have so generously helped to create this fine collection of living waterfowl.

VISITORS

More than 5,000 people have visited the New Grounds during the past year. Eighty-nine parties, arriving in coaches—between 30 and 40 in each party—have been shown round, and 49 of these have been from schools and educational establishments. The Council feels that these figures are of considerable significance and indicate the importance of the Trust's contribution in the educational field.

On 10th February, 1949, H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh spent a day at the New Grounds. In perfect weather he saw the wild geese at 30 yards range, watched three Wigeon caught and ringed in the decoy, and spent several hours among the tame birds. Owing to an unfortunate attack of measles, H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth could not accompany Prince Philip as had been planned.

A few weeks later, on 27th March, the Trust was honoured by the visit of H.R.H. Princess Margaret, who spent about two hours at the New Grounds. Although the wild geese had already left, Her Royal Highness crept into one of the huts overlooking the decoy and saw a number of wild Wigeon and Teal at a range of about 10 yards.

Among the distinguished visitors we were glad to welcome a number of leading ornithologists from overseas. These included Dr. Chessex of Switzerland, Mr. Jean Delacour of the American Museum of Natural History, and Dr. Ira Gabrielson, late Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and now Director of the Wildlife Management Institute of North America.

In addition, many of the leading British ornithologists were able to come to the New Grounds at least once during the winter season (and in most cases saw the Lesser White-fronted Goose).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In its second year, as much as in its first, the Trust's progress has depended on the support which it has received—both financial and otherwise—from a large number of Members and well-wishers.

Very special mention must be made of the Trustees of the Pilgrim Trust for the magnificent grant of £3,000 which was made towards the initial expenditure of establishing the New Grounds as a bird observatory and research station.

Another splendid grant of £2,500 was made by the Trustees of the Carnegie Trust, which is to be devoted to the accommodation (where possible of a permanent nature) for visiting students, and for members of the staff.

A part of this grant, together with two most handsome donations of £200 each from Lord Egerton of Tatton, has been devoted to the purchase, conversion, and equipping of the Narrow Boat *Beatrice*.

The Council is indeed grateful to the Pilgrim and Carnegie Trusts, to Lord Egerton and to the many others who have made such generous contributions to the funds.

The Council wishes to make special reference to the donation from Mrs. A. F. L. Wilkinson in memory of her late husband, who was a Member of the Trust. A number of other donations were made by friends in memory of Mr. Wilkinson and the Council proposes to use this money for some specific purpose of Mrs. Wilkinson's choice, such as the building of a new observation hut, or the planting of some trees or bulbs. For this reason it will be placed in a special Memorial Fund.

A most heartening response was received to the appeal for a number of special objects, such as shrubs, bulbs, garden furniture, buckets, rubber boots and a pony. The Council wishes to thank the Members who have given so much help in these and many other directions.

We are also much indebted to the village of Slimbridge for the many ways in which its inhabitants have given, both jointly and severally, their help and co-operation. Especially we should like to mention the tenant farmers, Mr. O. W. Fisher, Mr. H. J. Haine, and Mr. T. Phillips, from whose farms much of the watching is carried on, and without whose co-operation the Trust could not have developed as it has done, and Mr. W. Winnall of the County Agricultural Executive Committee.

Once more the Trust is indebted to *Country Life* for the help which they have given during the past year in the preparation of the Trust's literature, and also to Messrs. Hazell, Watson and Viney of Aylesbury who have printed it on such helpful terms. We are grateful, too, for the attention which Messrs. Cowells of Ipswich have given to the reproduction of the lithographs in the key to the world's waterfowl.

Treasurer

At the Annual General Meeting Col. J. Bevan was appointed Co-Treasurer with Sir Archibald Jamieson. Sir Archibald has now intimated his desire to resign from the Treasurership, as he wishes to be freed from all business ties. His resignation has been accepted with great regret by the Council, which recognises very clearly the contribution he has made during the Trust's formation and establishment. We are most grateful for the time which so busy a man has been ready and willing to devote to our project. He has agreed to continue to serve on the Council, where his advice will still be available to the Trust from time to time.

STAFF ARRANGEMENTS

The Council is happy to report that the Trust will have the services of the Curator, Mr. John Yealland, at the New Grounds this summer, now that he has returned from his expedition to Africa. His wide experience of the care of waterfowl will be invaluable during the breeding season.

It is particularly fortunate that he should have returned at this time, since Miss Eunice Overend, who has done such wonderful work in the care of the