

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

collection, has been granted indefinite leave of absence, owing to the very serious illness of her mother.

Special reference must be made to the excellent work of the Organizing and Assistant Secretaries. The efficiency and the aptitude for sheer hard work which has been shown by Miss Gregorson and Miss Talbot-Ponsonby has been beyond praise, and the Council feels it must put on record how fortunate the Trust is to have the services of these two young ladies.

It has been found necessary to remove the Trust's offices from London to the New Grounds, in the interests of convenience and economy. Members are requested to note that letters should no longer be addressed to 8, Edwardes Square, although some booklets which carry this address are inevitably still in circulation. Wherever possible, however, the London address has been struck through.

The Council considers that from now onward a permanent paid Secretary to the Trust, within easy reach of the New Grounds, is essential. Mr. E. A. Scholes, who lives at Frampton-on-Severn, has therefore been appointed to act as Secretary and Accountant.

Appointment of Biologist

The Council believes that the appointment of a Resident Biologist is now essential in order to extend the scope of the scientific work at the New Grounds. It is hoped that a grant may be forthcoming in order to cover such an appointment, and also that it will prove possible to obtain the services of a promising scientist.

Honorary Wardens

The following Members have kindly consented to act as Honorary Wardens :—

C. P. A. Garnett, Esq.
B. King, Esq.
J. P. Paige, Esq.
Miss A. Pritchard.
A. Richardson, Esq.
J. Russell, Esq.
J. Savidge, Esq.
Miss C. L. Sansom.
K. H. Shackleton, Esq.
D. Weir, Esq.
G. T. Wilkins, Esq.

The Honorary Wardens will be acquainted with the movements of the wild geese and will be able to take parties to the observation huts and also round the enclosures. In this way they will augment the permanent staff and ease the situation on days when an unusually large number of visitors has arrived.

DIRECTOR'S LECTURES

In the past year the Director, Mr. Peter Scott, has addressed approximately 20,550 people at 48 lectures on the subject of the Trust and its work, and of the wildfowl problem in general. The total sum raised from these lectures, including fees and sale of literature, is £1,017.

Special mention of this was made by the President at the Annual General Meeting, when Lord Alanbrooke said that the Trust owed him a debt of gratitude for the valuable publicity he has given to it and for the tireless energy he has shown in furthering the interests of the Trust.

An important feature of these lectures has been the beautiful colour film made by the Secretary, Mr. Michael Bratby.