

The Assistant Secretary will be pleased to send particulars of *Beatrice* to Members who are interested.

Bookings can be made now and Members are urged to book as much in advance as possible.

Details of other local accommodation, including a map and list of hotels in the neighbourhood, are also available on application to the Assistant Secretary at the New Grounds.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITORS

With the large increase in visitors a revision of the local rules governing the facilities at the New Grounds has been necessary. Behind these rules is the principle that on no account must the wild geese be disturbed, as any such disturbance might cause the birds to seek other winter quarters. In order to implement this principle it has been necessary on occasions to prevent our Members from using some of the observation huts. This has caused disappointment and annoyance, for which we are indeed sorry, but we feel sure that all our Members will, upon reflection, agree with our principle. Under these circumstances luck plays an important part, for should the geese be at one end of the marsh a good view may be had, whereas if they are at the other and are wanting to use the fields *behind* the sea wall (as they sometimes do in late January and February), it may be impossible to allow a close approach. It is a matter of regret to the Council that any "control" of our visitors should be necessary, but we are trying to bring the thrill of wildfowl to a large number of people; wildfowl and crowds do not easily mix, and this is one of the conditions which, we have found, must be imposed, if this new idea is to succeed.

All Members proposing to visit the New Grounds are asked to pay particular attention to the advice of the wardens, and to read carefully the details on the following pages.

Seasons

The wild geese arrive on about 24th September and leave on about 10th March. The peak numbers are usually present between 20th December and 7th January. Before the peak there are usually fewer geese than after the peak, but on the other hand they are certain to be in a place where they can be seen (the Dumbles), whereas in January and February they may be in the fields and therefore unapproachable. For watching the geese binoculars or telescope are desirable and rubber boots are more or less essential in a normal season.

The decoy is open to Members (who must be accompanied by a warden) from the end of April until the last week in July. At other times a view of the pool can be had from the new hut on stilts (the Gazebo).

The waterfowl in the collection are in their best plumage from November until the beginning of June, best of all in April. The birds begin nesting then and the young begin to hatch in quantity early in May. These make a most attractive show and there are small downy young to be seen in the collection until the end of June. There are usually *some* young ones out at any time between the beginning of April and the middle of July. Between the end of June and the middle of October, however, the adult ducks are in eclipse plumage. This means that the drakes have lost their brilliant colouring and look, in most cases, drab and brown like the females.

It is hoped that the foregoing paragraphs will help Members to decide the best time to visit the New Grounds in order to see the things which interest them most.

Rules for Visitors

The Council has approved the following arrangements for next season :—

- (i) Members, accompanied by one guest each, shall have access to all observation huts, provided that such access does not disturb the geese, but must be accompanied by a Warden or Honorary Warden.
- (ii) Associate Members, accompanied by a Warden or Honorary Warden, shall have access to the Central Observation Hut and Pillbox only.
- (iii) Corporate Members (this Membership is only open to educational institutions) shall have access to all observation huts, under the conditions of (i) above, but have these facilities only when in parties of not less than 10.
- (iv) Visitors who are not Members or Members' guests will be admitted to the pens on payment of 1s. at the gate (under 16—6d.).
- (v) Members can be enrolled at the New Grounds (subscription 1 guinea) but Associates can only join by correspondence. (It should be explained that Associate Membership is a very special kind of Membership designed for those who are very keen but genuinely unable to afford more than the 5s. subscription. It is not intended for those who visit the New Grounds casually and find that for 5s. they can see the geese, but have no intention of renewing their subscription and no real desire to be associated with the Trust and its work.)
- (vi) In the past certain Societies and other bodies not eligible as Corporate Members have been enrolled as Ordinary Members. In future these will be classed as Contributors, but it is regretted that their members cannot be accorded the privileges of Members of the Trust.

Parties

Parties of not less than 10 are admitted to the pens at 9d. per head (children under 16—6d.). Thirty is the maximum number. *Bookings must be made well in advance.*

Parties of Corporate Members are allowed access to the Observation Huts for watching the wild geese as well as to the enclosures, but must *always* be accompanied by a Warden or Honorary Warden.

Parties of Members and their guests have the same facilities, of course, as they would have if they had come individually. Members may bring one guest each. The facilities for watching the wild geese do not extend to non-members, unless they are the guests of Members.

Times

The New Grounds are open from 9.0 a.m. till sundown each day, except that Sunday mornings are reserved for Members and their guests.

All visitors are asked, if possible, to avoid calling on the services of the Wardens during the lunch hour, and for this reason parties are specially requested to arrive before 11.30 a.m., so that they can be shown the way round before lunch, or after 2.0 p.m.

Access

The New Grounds are two miles from the main Gloucester to Bristol road, along which buses pass regularly. They are three miles from Coaley Junction Railway Station on the main line between Bristol and the Midlands. Stroud Station is only 10 miles from Slimbridge and this is the most convenient for visitors from London. The Cheltenham Flyer takes only two hours and ten minutes from Paddington to Stroud.

WANTS

The Trust would once again like to appeal for the following special requirements at the New Grounds : Typewriter, Motor-mower, Wire-netting, Shrubs, Bulbs (Daffodil, Narcissus, Crocus).