

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In its first year the Trust has been well served by those responsible for the work of development at the New Grounds.

We are greatly indebted to Colonel Maurice Berkeley, who, as Honorary Agent to the Trust, has undertaken an enormous number of different problems, many of them involving very detailed organisation. We have been most fortunate in having so able a voluntary organiser and helper.

Particular mention must be made of Mr. John Yealland to whom the Trust also owes a deep debt of gratitude. He agreed to come for a year as Curator, to establish the waterfowl collection, before setting off on a long-projected expedition to West Africa, and we hope that in between his future expeditions—from which he expects to bring back new birds for the Trust's enclosures—we shall have the benefit of his wide experience again at the New Grounds.

Meanwhile the collection is under the care of Miss Eunice Overend assisted by Mr. Tommy Johnstone. The Trust is most fortunate to have acquired the services of two such keen and conscientious workers.

The staff at the New Grounds includes two keepers, who have prevented any disturbance to the geese by poachers or other unauthorised persons. Mr. Cameron, who lives with his family in the bungalow at the Trust's Headquarters, has also done well in reducing the vermin, notably stoats, weasels and rats. The other keeper, Mr. Everett, lives on the bank of the Severn at Framilode—up-stream from the New Grounds. He has wide experience as a salmon and elver fisherman and has supplied food for the fish-eating ducks in the collection. He has also done useful work in making and repairing nets for the decoy and for the goose catching.

Miss Peggy Cameron—16-year-old daughter of the Trust's keeper—has been of the greatest possible service. As a voluntary worker she made herself responsible for a number of the birds in the collection and has been especially successful in the care of birds which are ailing. She has also been very useful in helping to show round parties of visitors. She has recently been appointed to the permanent staff and her exceptional flair for animals makes her a happy addition to the team at the New Grounds.

Some mention should also be made of the German prisoners who have undertaken much of the development work. One particularly must be named : Heinz Meineke, was in charge of the party and worked most willingly and cheerfully for more than a year. He volunteered to stay on as a civilian worker and the Trust would have been fortunate to obtain his services ; but so far it has not been possible to make this arrangement. He has now been removed to a new camp and is no longer employed by the Trust.

In the London offices (which are lent by the Director without expense to the Trust) we have been unfortunate to have had two changes of Assistant Secretary within a year.

The Trust is greatly indebted to Miss Penelope Jamieson, who did splendid work at the time of its inauguration and in its early days. Owing to a bereavement she had to give up the work, and her place was taken by Miss Elizabeth Adams. Miss Adams worked most ably for the Trust for some eight months, when she too had to leave in order to be married. Members will no doubt be glad to join us in wishing her all good fortune in the future.

Miss Philippa Talbot-Ponsonby is now Assistant Secretary and has picked up the rather complicated threads of the Trust's activities with great efficiency.

The very satisfactory relation which exists between the Trust and its Landlords—the Berkeley Estates Ltd.—is due in large measure to the good offices of our Council Member, Captain R. G. W. Berkeley, who is one of the Directors. We are grateful also for the helpful co-operation which has always

been shown by Mr. Francis Peter, the Estate Agent, and Captain Harold Baldwin, his assistant.

Reference is also due to Mr. D. Nelson, who has visited the New Grounds a number of times giving good service in the treatment of sick birds, and he has been appointed as Veterinary Surgeon to the Trust. He has used penicillin on several occasions with excellent results ; and has also conducted post-mortems from which we have been able to save the lives of birds showing similar symptoms.

Special acknowledgement must be made to *Country Life*, who have given their services on very generous terms to the Trust on so many occasions.

Any acknowledgement of the Trust's gratitude would not be complete without mention of those numerous benefactors who, by their donations and contributions, have enabled us to keep the work of development going and to build up this new and unique project. A number of magnificent gifts have been made to the Trust, both in funds and in kind. One in particular should not go unrecorded. It is a gift from our Council Member Mr. James Robertson Justice of six bottles of Founders Port—Sandeman 1917.

