

during April and comparatively tame. Second male with damaged quill feathers usually on decoy or in Rushy Pen.

COMMON POCHARD (*Aythya ferina*)

Single males in the decoy 3rd and 31st December and 15th January (possibly the same birds). During the previous winter up to 9 Pochards had frequented the decoy regularly. It was disappointing that these did not reappear during the present season.

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*)

The female which spent the winter of 1948-49 in the Rushy Pen left on 15th April, 1949. Three males appeared for one day on the decoy on 4th July. One female also for one day on the decoy on 1st November.

RINGING AND RECOVERIES

(Anatidæ)



THE ringing of geese and ducks was undertaken as usual for the Wildfowl Inquiry Committee and the birds were made available for the Committee's Duck Adoption Scheme (by which for the sum of 5s. a duck which has been ringed may be adopted and any future information of recovery is communicated to the adopter. The resulting funds are devoted to the development of the Committee's ringing effort).

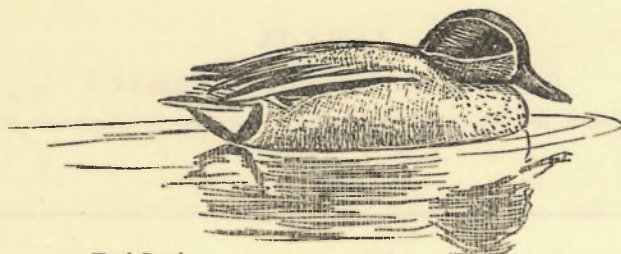
The rings used are, of course, those of the British Trust for Ornithology and carry the address of the British Museum of Natural History, London.

The following geese and ducks were ringed and released at the New Grounds during the year:

TABLE VII
BIRDS RINGED

Rocket-nets	Duck Decoy	Traps or other Methods of Capture
69 White-fronted Geese	410 Mallard 56 Teal 19 Wigeon 17 Pintail 23 Shoveler 1 Garganey	1 Mallard 6 Pintail 1 Teal

The following birds were ringed under the auspices of the Trust in Scotland—
Rocket-nets: 29 Greylag Geese; 7 Pink-footed Geese.



Teal Drake

RECOVERIES

Of the 883 ducks (870 in the decoy, 13 trapped) ringed at the New Grounds since November, 1946 when the Trust was formed, 77 have been recovered up till 30th April, 1950. This proportion will, of course, increase with the passage of time. For instance 534 of the 883 were caught in the present season, yet out of the 534 only 29 have so far been recovered, whereas of the 349 ringed in previous seasons already 48 have been reported—just under 14 per cent. Disregarding the current season's ringing, the following figures relate to the birds ringed up till the end of April 1949. Even these figures are likely to increase slightly.

TABLE VIII
PROPORTION OF RECOVERIES

Species	Number Ringed	Number Recovered	Percentage
Mallard	169	20	11.9
Teal	50	6	12.0
Wigeon	71	11	15.5
Pintail	18	1	5.6
Shoveler	35	10	28.6
Garganey	4	—	—
Gadwall	1	—	—
Tufted	1	—	—
Total	349	48	13.8

The longest and most interesting flights recorded were made by two Wigeon which were recovered beyond the Ural Mountains. A third Wigeon was also reported from Russia, and a Teal was recovered near Danzig. An example of abmigration was provided by a Mallard reared at the New Grounds which was shot near Hamburg the following summer—a very unexpected flight for a bird which in Britain usually appears to remain more or less resident in the vicinity of the breeding ground. A Pintail also reared at the New Grounds was shot in Queen's Co., Ireland. A Shoveler ringed in the decoy in September 1948 was found in Holland sitting on 11 eggs in April 1949. It was released and returned to the nest. One Mallard, 1 Wigeon, 1 Shoveler, and 2 Trust-reared Pintails were recaptured in the decoy in the season after they were ringed, and one Shoveler drake was recaptured two seasons later. Full details of the 56 recoveries about which we have received information during the past year are shown in the following Table:—

TABLE IX
DETAILS OF RECOVERIES

(Note.—The records of each species are placed in the order in which they were ringed.)

GEESE

Ring No.	Species	Date Ringed	Recovered
127316	Pink-foot	31. 8.48	Shot Dumfries, 29.1.50
127328	Pink-foot	—10.48	Shot Humber (Lincolnshire side), 21.1.49

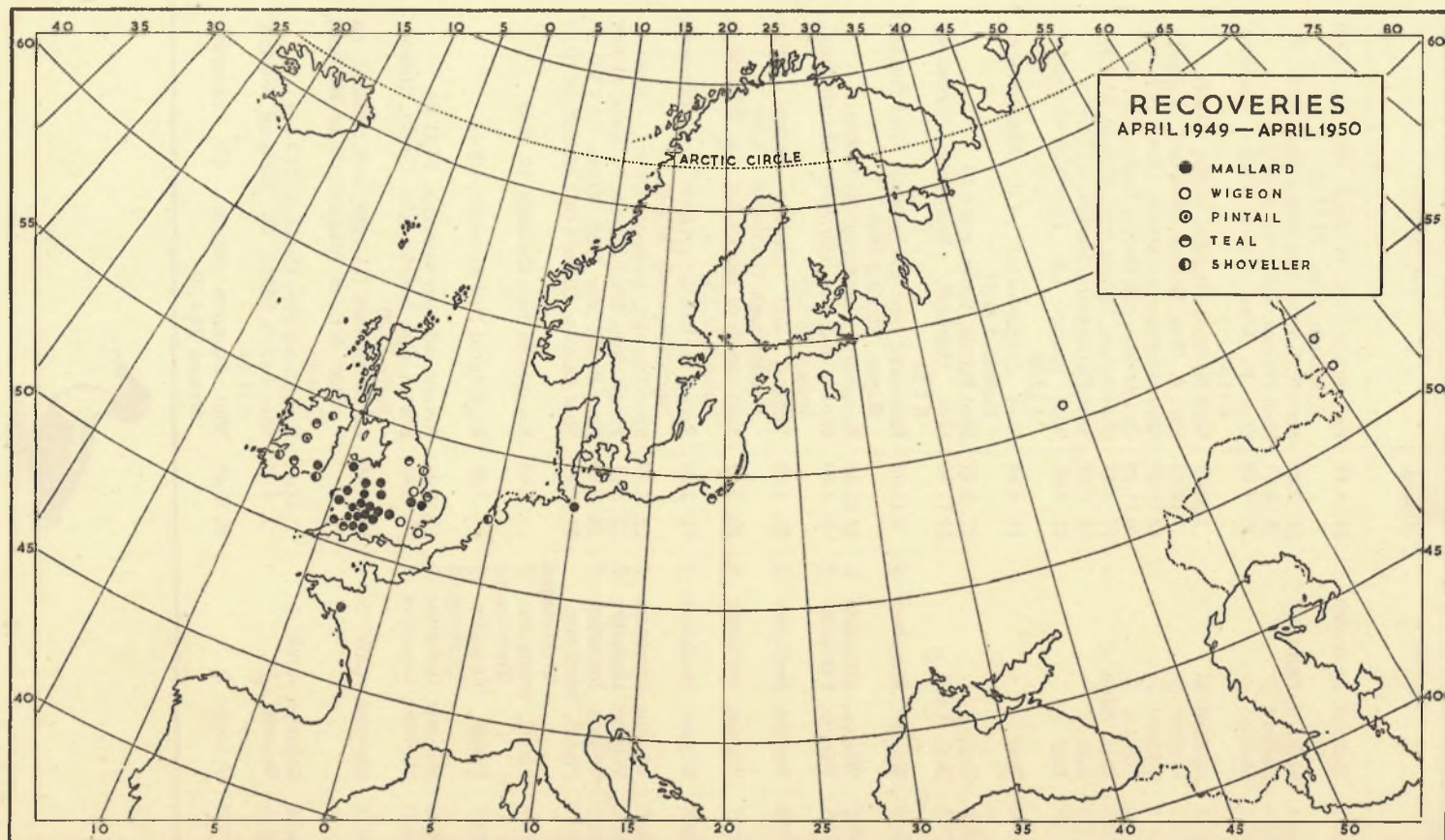
(Both these birds spent a winter and summer 'feather-cut'—i.e., temporarily unable to fly—at the New Grounds, but eventually flew off after growing their new primaries. The ringing dates are when they were last seen at the New Grounds.)

DUCKS

Ring No.	Species	Date Ringed	Recovered
926048	Mallard ♂	3. 3.48	Shot Bickington, near Barnstaple, Devon, 28.1.50
926062	Mallard, Trust-reared	8. 7.48	Recaptured New Grounds, 13.9.48. Shot R. Elbe, near Hamburg, Germany, 16.8.49
926447	Mallard, Immature ♂	6. 9.48	Shot Woodchester, Glos., —12.49
926483	Mallard, Immature ♂	18.10.48	Recaptured New Grounds, 10.2.50
926489	Mallard	—11.48	Skeleton found Clevedon, Somerset, 26.8.49
926491	Mallard ♂	8.11.48	Shot Criccieth, Caerns., Wales, 27.12.49
926524	Mallard ♀	29.12.48	Recaptured New Grounds, 20.10.49. Shot Wylve, Wilts, 2.1.50
926531	Mallard ♂	26. 1.49	Shot Hillington, King's Lynn, Norfolk, 3.11.49
926535	Mallard ♂	5. 2.49	Shot Tamworth, Staffs, 5.11.49
403706	Mallard ♂	30. 7.49	Shot Newcastle Emlyn, Carms., Wales, 4.1.50
403723	Mallard ♂	6. 8.49	Recaptured New Grounds, 17.9.49. Shot St. Marychurch, Glam., Wales, 17.12.49
403761	Mallard, Adult ♂	29. 8.49	Found dead in canal, Purton, Glos., —1.50
926471	Mallard	12. 9.49	Shot Lydbrook, Glos., 5.11.49
403768	Mallard, Immature ♂	13. 9.49	Caught Borough Fen Decoy, Northants, 22.11.49
403796	Mallard, Adult ♂	13. 9.49	Found dead, Arlingham, Glos., 31.1.50
403819	Mallard ♂	13. 9.49	Shot Paimboeuf, Loire Superieure, France, —1.50
403822	Mallard, Adult ♂	17. 9.49	Shot Ballingly Marsh, Co. Wexford, Ireland, 26.12.49
403833	Mallard, Adult ♂	17. 9.49	Shot R. Coln, Abbington, Glos., 1.12.49
403847	Mallard, Immature ♀	24. 9.49	Shot Bucknell, Shropshire, 31.1.50
927644	Mallard ♀	24. 9.49	Shot Bagington, Coventry, Warwickshire, 21.11.49
927652	Mallard, Immature ♂	24. 9.49	Shot Meare, Somerset, 24.11.49
927606	Mallard, Immature ♂	24. 9.49	Shot Andoversford, Glos., 26.12.49

Ring No.	Species	Date Ringed	Recovered
927663	Mallard, Immature ♂	24. 9.49	Recaptured New Grounds 26.9.49. Shot Aylburton, Glos., 23.12.49
927664	Mallard, Immature ♀	24. 9.49	Shot R. Severn, near where ringed, 28.1.50
927699	Mallard ♂	26. 9.49	Shot Nailsea, Somerset, 30.1.50
927811	Mallard ♂	30. 9.49	Shot R. Wye, Kerne Bridge, Hereford, 4.11.49
403858	Mallard ♀	3.10.49	Shot Narberth, Pems., Wales, 5.11.49
927567	Mallard ♂	5.10.49	Shot R. Wye, Sellack, Hereford, 28.10.49
927577	Mallard ♀	12.10.49	Shot Westbury on Severn, Glos., 12.11.49
927589	Mallard ♀	6.11.49	Caught Boarstall Decoy, Bucks., 9.12.49
904161	Teal, Adult ♂	17. 9.47	Shot Sztum, Danzig Area, Poland, 15.8.49
906478	Teal ♀	18. 9.48	Shot Dersingham, Norfolk, 17.11.49
906529	Teal ♀	13. 9.49	Shot Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ireland, 4.12.49
906530	Teal ♀	13. 9.49	Shot Castleplunkett, Co. Roscommon, Ireland, 5.11.49
906688	Teal ♂	17. 9.49	Shot Bedale, Yorks, end 1.50
906712	Teal, Adult ♂	22.11.49	Shot Huntspill, Bridgwater, Somerset, 8.2.50
906350	Wigeon, Immature ♂	8.11.48	Recovered near Chelyabinsk, Ural District, Russia, " Spring 1949 "
906449	Wigeon, Immature ♀	13.12.48	Recaptured New Grounds, 30.9.49
906499	Wigeon, Immature ♂	8. 1.49	Shot Sverdlovsk (formerly Ekaterinburg), Russia, 18.5.49
906500	Wigeon, Immature ♂	25. 1.49	Trapped and released Peakirk, near Peterborough, Northants, 6.3.50
906505	Wigeon, Immature ♀	10. 2.49	Shot mouth of Blackwater, Co. Waterford, Ireland, 22.2.50
906508	Wigeon, Immature ♂	11. 2.49	Recovered Balakhna, Gorki Govt. (formerly Nijni-Novgorod), 30.4.49
906675	Wigeon, Immature ♂	22. 8.49	Shot Ditchley, Enstone, Oxon, —.10.49
906676	Wigeon, Immature ♂	22. 8.49	Found dead, Isle of Grain, N. Kent, 11.9.49
906691	Wigeon, Immature ♂	24. 9.49	Shot Pawll, near Hull, Yorks, 14.1.50
906517	Pintail, Immature, Trust-reared	11. 7.49	Shot Durrow, Queen's Co., Ireland, 10.10.49
926098	Pintail, Immature ♂ Trust-reared	— 7.49	Recaptured New Grounds, 12.10.49
926099	Pintail, Immature ♂ Trust-reared	— 7.49	Recaptured New Grounds, 1.8.49
904218	Shoveler, Immature ♂	12.10.47	Recaptured New Grounds, 24.11.49
906420	Shoveler, Immature ♂	19. 9.48	Shot Lough Sheelin, Co. Cavan, Ireland, Early 11.49
906421	Shoveler, Adult ♀	19. 9.48	Lifted off nest (11 eggs) and replaced, on polder S.E. of Alkmaar, Nord Holland, 24.4.49
906438	Shoveler, Adult ♂	5.12.48	Recaptured New Grounds, 14.11.49
906526	Shoveler ♂	3. 8.49	Shot Lady's Island, Co. Wexford, Ireland, 5.11.49
906707	Shoveler ♀	18.10.49	Shot Shannon Airport, Co. Limerick, Ireland 24.1.50





MAP SHOWING RECOVERIES