



## GENERAL ACTIVITIES & ADMINISTRATION

### VISITORS

No less than 257 organized parties—83 of them from schools—have visited the New Grounds during the year. Normally, only one party is booked a day, in order to avoid overcrowding, and to enable the parties to be shown round by the Wardens. Even then the pressure on the Wardens from individual visitors and small groups has been so great that the whole question of arrangements for visitors has had to be reviewed. Three duplicated sheets have been prepared. The first is a brief guide to the enclosures and the collection, mainly for those visiting the New Grounds for the first time. The second is for Members who are being taken to the observation huts in order to watch the wild geese. It is essential that Members visiting the Trust during the winter months should make certain of obtaining *and reading* this sheet before proceeding with the Warden to the observation huts. The third constitutes a kind of permit, and is issued at the discretion of the Curator to those Members who have already been to see the geese not less than six times. This sheet enables them to proceed unaccompanied, on condition that they have inquired first from the Curator where the geese are feeding and whether there are any special arrangements for the day. It gives details of all the places where particular care must be taken not to disturb the geese. During the last season certain Members have made little or no attempt to follow the directions of the Wardens and Honorary Wardens; as a result the Council feels bound to give the warning that it may, under the terms of Rule 5(3), refuse to accept the subscription renewal of any Member who attempts to use the observation huts without such a permit.

The new pens, which were completed early in 1950, have proved a great success, although the need of a hard path leading through them became more than ever apparent during the wet winter. Public lavatories have been erected at a cost of £400.

### ‘BEATRICE’

The Trust’s Narrow Boat, *Beatrice*, took part in the Market Harborough Festival and Rally of Boats in August, 1950. The boat was taken to Market Harborough by Lord Geoffrey Percy with a crew provided by the Inland Waterways Association. Owing to the close contact between the Severn Wild-fowl Trust and the Inland Waterways Association (the Director of the Trust is a Vice-President of the I.W.A.), it was not considered suitable for *Beatrice* to compete for the various prizes and cups, but it was evident that she compared favourably with the other converted Narrow Boats present at the Festival and was much admired. She returned to Slimbridge in the care of Mr. Robert

Aickman, Chairman of the Inland Waterways Association, after a total absence of three weeks.

The catering and cooking is now in the able charge of Miss Margaret Timbrell, under the supervision of Mrs. S. T. Johnstone. During the period 31st March, 1950, till 30th April, 1951, 272 visitors have stayed on board. The Council would like to see more visitors using *Beatrice*, especially during the summer months. Members can help by recommending to their friends this comfortable hostel accommodation which is available to visitors whether they are Members or not.

#### FINANCE

The Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1950, are on pp. 56-57. It will be noted that expenditure exceeded income by £15 13s. 8d. The Council, however, is happy to announce that a magnificent grant of £5,000 was received from the Pilgrim Trust. The Council placed £4,000 of this grant in a Reserve Account for at least one year and proposed that Capital Development during that period be curtailed in order that the Trust might consolidate its financial position.

A further gift of £500 was made by the Trustees of the W. Graham Robertson Charity Fund (although it does not appear in the Accounts for 1950). The Council wishes to place on record its gratitude for these splendid contributions to the Trust's financial welfare.

The Second Annual Report and 'Key to the Wildfowl of the World' made a profit of £501, and the sale of 13,000 Christmas Cards, £380.

The Gift Membership Tokens have been a considerable success, but the Council would like Members to use them even more in order to bring our membership to 5,000.

#### BULLETINS

Periodical Bulletins have been issued since September, 1950, covering the ornithological work, and in the Council's opinion these form an admirable channel by which Members can be kept in touch with the most recent activities undertaken by the Trust. They are all the more valuable in view of the long but unavoidable time-lag before the Annual Report appears.

#### DIRECTOR'S LECTURES

The Hon. Director, Mr. Peter Scott, gave 31 lectures in the course of the year. The sum raised from these, including the sale of literature, was £1,256 10s. 5d. It should be pointed out that *all* fees are paid to the Trust. The films shown included the Perry River Expedition (later stolen during a car theft and not recovered), the Lapland trip, the general film of the Trust's work and the rocket-netting film. Notice of the Director's forthcoming lectures is now given in the Bulletins.

Once more the Council wishes to pay tribute to the untiring efforts of the staff. The present prosperity of the Trust is very largely attributable to the enthusiastic spirit in which they have continued to work.

#### WANTS

Garden seats; carpentry tools; hampers of any size; garden tools, and 10,000 cuttings of *Lonicera nitida*.