

**Scandinavian-Baltic Mute
Swans *Cygnus olor* in the
Netherlands: movements under
the influence of severe winter
weather and their consequences.**

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The Mute Swan is believed to be mainly a sedentary bird. North-west Europe holds seven separate groups. So far, only incidental movements of individuals between groups have been described. Data on winter movements of Scandinavian-Baltic birds were presented. This phenomenon occurs mainly during severe winters, but the origin of winter visitors differs between years. Based on observations, ring data and information on the weather in the areas concerned, an attempt was made to describe and explain the differences between winters. Some of the winter visitors stay and settle in the local breeding population. An evaluation of the importance (numbers moving versus staying) and the effects (return versus settle, genetic exchange) on a population level was given.

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