

SHORT NOTES

A yellow-legged Bewick's Swan in Lancashire

ON 14th January, 1962 a herd of eight Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* visited flooded land on Cockerham Moss, Lancashire. Seven were adults and the eighth bird an immature. As they waded, swam and grazed in the floods I was able to make a close approach behind a thick hawthorn hedge. One apparent adult standing out of the water had bright orange-yellow legs and feet—brighter on the outside of the tarsus than on the inside. Otherwise this bird was like the other adults, making allowance for variation in size and colour of the yellow bill patches. It was also apparently one parent of the single immature present, the other parent having the normal black legs and feet. The herd took to flight on the approach of other bird-watchers but the yellow-legged bird could be easily picked out in the air as it lacked the black V under the tail of the other birds caused by the position of the legs in flight.

Later in the day no less than seven more bird-watchers were able to approach the herd again and to verify the unusual leg and foot colouring of the bird. Towards dusk the herd flew seawards and did not return to the same area again.

H. Shorrocks

Capture of German-ringed Geese at Deeping Lake

ON 12th July, 1961 we saw eleven geese on Deeping Lake, Lincolnshire—ten Greylags *Anser anser rubrirostris* and one Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*. We managed to catch them all and found that nine of them were ringed. We took the geese to Peakirk to find out whether they had come from there. Mr. Noel Dudley examined the birds and the rings, which were all German, from Vogelwarte Radolfzell and Vogelwarte Helgoland. Finding that the geese did not belong to the Wildfowl Trust we took them back to the Lake and released them. They did not stay and were not seen again.

Miss E. P. Leach, acting for the Bird Ringing Committee, kindly got in touch with the German ringing authorities and we learned that the geese had all come from Professor Konrad Lorenz's collection at the Max-Planck-Institut für Verhaltensphysiologie at Seewiesen in Upper Bavaria. Five of the ringed Greylags were reared at the Institut itself—one in 1953 when the Institute was still housed at Buldern in Westphalia and which had been moved to Seewiesen. The others, and probably the two unringed ones as well, were hatched in 1960 at a small lake in Fürstenfeld, 20 km. from the Institute, where 50 of their 200 geese are kept. Most of Professor Lorenz's geese are free flying, but these are the first known to have flown to England.

The Bar-headed Goose too came from Seewiesen though, curiously enough, it was originally reared at Slimbridge in 1955 and sent to Germany by Mr. Peter Scott in the following winter.

D. Dandridge