

Wildfowl 56: Editorial

After six years as Editor of *Wildfowl*, Dr. Mark O'Connell left WWT in January 2006 to take up an academic post at the University of the West of England. In his time as Editor, Dr O'Connell saw volumes 50–55 safely through to publication, with an increasing number of papers on wetland ecology and conservation being published in the journal. *Wildfowl* 56 continues this trend by providing information on wetlands of international importance for wildfowl and other waterbirds ranging from the UK to Algeria and Libya. The question of whether the Danish Wadden Sea is being managed in a sustainable manner is also addressed.

Wildfowl continues to focus on the ecology, biology and conservation of wildfowl, with this volume describing the nesting habitat of the rare Tule White-fronted Goose, the results of the Bewick's Swan censuses in Britain and Ireland, and research into the migration, movements and distribution of geese. Long-term data are used to assess the hypothesis that heterospecific Mallard x American Black Duck pairings are contributing to a decline in Black Duck in some parts of their range. Population trends and breeding performance of several high-arctic waterbird species monitored in Greenland since 1995 are also described.

Earlier editions of *Wildfowl* included expedition and progress reports that summarised the field studies and avicultural work undertaken by WWT in the previous year. Updates on WWT's research and conservation work will be reintroduced in the Short Communications section in volume 57 of the journal. Meanwhile, given the increasing concern in 2005 about the occurrence of pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds, one highly topical progress report is provided as a Short Communication in this year's volume. It describes the spread of the disease from Asia to Europe and WWT's involvement in the wild-bird screening programme in the UK.

I am most grateful to the many people who have helped in preparing this edition of *Wildfowl*, in particular to the referees for taking their time to review the papers, Rosie Ounsted for copy-editing the manuscripts, James Furse-Roberts for preparing the proofs, and Maggie Sage for her assistance throughout the process.