

Ringling by the Wildfowl Trust, 1986

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The total numbers of swans, geese and ducks ringed by the Wildfowl Trust in 1986 are shown in the table below. This is 900 fewer birds than in 1985 with Slimbridge, Abberton and Blunham all having disappointing seasons. In particular the number of Tufted Duck ringed fell by 800 compared with last year. However numbers of Whooper Swans and Mute Swans ringed show a marked increase. A female North American Wigeon *Anas americana* was trapped at Pensthorpe, Norfolk, the first of this rare vagrant to be ringed in Great Britain. Pensthorpe continues to do well, now in its fifth season; it has contributed to date 2,144 newly ringed birds. The duck decoy and swan 'pipe' were both used at Slimbridge, though the latter was only used for small scale trapping of ducks. There was no swan catch at Welney either, accounting for the low total there. Abbotsbury, Borough Fen Decoy, and Martin Mere all had fairly good years with numbers of wildfowl caught and ringed being up on last year.

There was no catch of Barnacle Geese

Branta leucopsis at Eastpark this year. However a 22-man catching team visited Svalbard in July and rounded up 2,212 Barnacle Geese, 1,872 being newly ringed. This brings the total number of Barnacle Geese currently marked to over 3,000; 95% of these have been sighted at their wintering grounds on the Solway. There were two very successful Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* catches at Eastpark in 1986. A total of 115 birds were newly ringed, increasing the total number of Whooper Swans ringed in Britain by 39%.

We are interested in discovering more about the movements of Wigeon *Anas penelope*. Local ringing groups are being encouraged to take part in this by providing them with free BTO rings, to supplement the efforts of the Wildfowl Trust. 1987 will also see the start of a major research project involving Pink-footed Geese *Anser brachyrhynchus*, ringing both in Britain at their wintering quarters and also at breeding grounds in Iceland – the first major ringing program of this species since the early 1960s.

Swans and ducks ringed by the Wildfowl Trust, 1986

	Abberton	Abbotsbury	Blunham	Borough Fen	Eastpark	Martin Mere	Pensthorpe	Slimbridge	Totals
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>		99			57			5	161
Whooper Swan <i>C. cygnus</i>					115				116
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>								5	5
Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>								21	21
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>						8	1		9
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>		2	15	2	6	1	191	2	219
N. American Wigeon <i>A. americana</i>							1		1
Gadwall <i>A. strepera</i>	69	6	43	9			28	38	193
Teal <i>A. crecca</i>	311	147	12	83			21	20	594
Mallard <i>A. platyrhynchos</i>	681	62	1	506	16	340		523	2130
Pintail <i>A. acuta</i>	1					3		52	56
Garganey <i>A. querquedula</i>	1						7		8
Shoveler <i>A. clypeata</i>	9	2				4	1	20	36
Pochard <i>A. ferina</i>	133	12	282			10	37	137	611
Tufted Duck <i>A. fuligula</i>	429	5	215			6	151	29	835
Goldeneye <i>Bucephala hyemalis</i>	2					9			11
Mandarin <i>Aix galericulata</i>							1	5	6
Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	15							2	17
Totals	1651	335	568	600	194	381	439	859	5029

The Total column also includes the following ringed at Welney: 1 Whooper Swan and 1 Mallard.