

Ringling by the Wildfowl Trust, 1985

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The numbers of swans, geese and ducks ringed by the Wildfowl Trust in 1985 at its various trapping stations are shown in the Table below. The overall total was substantially more than in 1984, and very nearly back to the level of 1983, when 6188 birds were ringed. The most significant increases were in Pochard (up by 240). Tufted Duck (up by nearly 600), and Mallard (nearly 400).

The ringling total at Abberton Reservoir was little different from that of 1984, but with rather fewer Teal caught and more diving ducks. There was no large-scale round-up of Mute Swans at Abbotsbury in 1985, so that the ringling total is restricted almost entirely to the year's production of cygnets. Duck catching there was also reduced. Blunham had a much better catching season than in 1984 more than

doubling the numbers of Tufted Duck ringed. In addition, there were useful catches of Wigeon for the first time.

Trapping at Borough Fen Decoy was possible a little more frequently, largely thanks to the very wet summer and autumn putting more water into the pond than in the previous few years. There was no trapping, however, at the Deeping Lakes nearby. A single catch of all three swan species was made at Eastpark. The Mallard ringed at Martin Mere were caught as summer moulters.

Pensthorpe had a less good season than in 1984, with all the main species down in numbers, but Slimbridge had a better year particularly for Gadwall, Teal and Pintail, though the number of diving ducks caught in the swan trap (used twice in the year) was again disappointingly low.

Swans and ducks ringed by the Wildfowl Trust, 1985

	Abberton	Abbotsbury	Blunham	Borough Fen	Eastpark	Martin Mere	Pensthorpe	Slimbridge	Totals
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>		125			10			6	141
Bewick's Swan <i>C. colombianus</i>					3			84	87
Whooper Swan <i>C. cygnus</i>					37				37
Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>								16	16
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		1					1	3	5
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	19	1	83				224	23	350
Gadwall <i>A. strepera</i>	21	1	77	2			6	142	249
Teal <i>A. crecca</i>	319	33	77	28			19	111	757
Mallard <i>A. platyrhynchos</i>	884	76	1	302		100		604	1967
Pintail <i>A. acuta</i>		4	1					155	160
Garganey <i>A. querquedula</i>	1								1
Shoveler <i>A. clypeata</i>	5		14					37	56
Red-crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>			1						1
Pochard <i>A. ferina</i>	153	7	379				19	68	626
Tufted Duck <i>A. fuligula</i>	644	1	831				119	31	1626
Scaup <i>A. marina</i>							1		1
Goldeneye <i>Bucephala hyemalis</i>	3								3
Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	18								18
Totals	2068	248	1464	332	50	100	389	1280	5931