

Ringling by the Wildfowl Trust, 1984

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The total number of swans and ducks ringed by the Wildfowl Trust in 1984 was 4739. The full details are set out in the table below. This is nearly 1500 fewer birds than in 1983. The comparatively open weather in January and February, and the extremely wet autumn, were undoubtedly important contributory factors to the reduction. The largest drop at Abberton was in Mallard, which fell below 1000 for the first time for many years. Conversely it was the best year for Teal since 1975, though still far below the peak catches of the late 1950s and early 1960s. Abbotsbury managed only modest duck catches, but a round-up of moulting Mute Swans in August caught over 160 new birds, while a reasonably successful breeding season contributed most of the rest of the total as newly-ringed cygnets.

Borough Fen Decoy was operated at a

token level, but disappointingly there was no trapping at all at nearby Deeping Lakes, which in the past have contributed good numbers of Mallard and Tufted Duck to the total. There was just a single catch of Whooper Swans at Eastpark, as in past years.

Pensthorpe, in its third year of catching, achieved its highest total yet, with a notable number of Wigeon. Slimbridge, though, was well down on previous years, largely because the swan trap was not operated during the year, so that not only were there hardly any Bewick's Swans ringed, but very few diving ducks were caught. There was a single catch of Bewick's Swans at Welney, together with some trapping of Mallard.

No geese were ringed by the Wildfowl Trust during the year.

Swans and ducks ringed by the Wildfowl Trust, 1984

	Abberton	Abbotsbury	Borough Fen	Blunham	Eastpark	Pensthorpe	Slimbridge	Welney	Totals
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>		288							288
Bewick's Swan <i>C. columbianus</i>							1	27	28
Whooper Swan <i>C. cygnus</i>					44			1	45
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	5					2			7
Mandarin <i>Aix galericulata</i>	1								1
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	23	1		13		327	2		366
Gadwall <i>A. strepera</i>	58		1	29		45	35		168
Teal <i>A. crecca</i>	518	83	57	7		21	68	3	757
Mallard <i>A. platyrhynchos</i>	827	43	129	1			455	118	1573
Pintail <i>A. acuta</i>	1					1	17		19
Garganey <i>A. querquedula</i>	4								4
Shoveler <i>A. clypeata</i>	11		2				9		22
Pochard <i>A. ferina</i>	37	1		290		48	8	3	387
Tufted Duck <i>A. fuligula</i>	506			384		169	6		1065
Scaup <i>A. marila</i>	1			1					2
Long-tailed Duck <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	1								1
Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	6								6
Totals	1999	416	189	725	44	613	601	152	4739