

## Ringling by the Wildfowl Trust, 1983

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The table below shows the numbers of swans and ducks ringed at the various trapping stations of the Wildfowl Trust during 1983. The overall total was a little down on 1982, with fewer of all species of swans being ringed, and also fewer Mallard, Pochard and Tufted Duck. Abberton Reservoir had a better year than in 1982, with a particularly welcome increase in the number of Teal caught, a species which has become much more elusive in recent years. Abbotsbury Decoy also caught more Teal than in the previous year. The number of Mute Swans ringed as part of the Dorset study of this species was well down because no mass round-up was made of the moulting birds. Borough Fen is operated only a few times each year, but unfortunately various circumstances led to poor catches at the

nearby Deeping Lake, too, so that numbers caught at the two sites were barely one-third of the 1982 total. The traps at the Blunham gravel pit had a better year with a welcome increase in the diving ducks and a notable catch of Gadwall. The swan trap at Eastpark was operated only once, while following the closure of Naction Decoy, only a demonstration catch was made during the year. The newest trapping station, at Pensthorpe, Norfolk, had a second successful season, with an even better total of Wigeon as well as a good contribution of Tufted Ducks. The swan trap at Slimbridge was operated less often than usual, hence a sharp drop in the diving duck total, usually caught with the swans. Regular small-scale trapping of ducks at Welney started during the year, but swan catching was very disappointing.

Swans and ducks ringed by the Wildfowl Trust, 1983.

|   | Abberton | Abbotsbury | Borough Fen | Blunham | Deeping | Eastpark | Nacton | Pensthorpe | Slimbridge | Welney | Totals |
|---|----------|------------|-------------|---------|---------|----------|--------|------------|------------|--------|--------|
| Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>              |          | 95         |             |         |         | 6        |        |            |            | 23     | 124    |
| Bewick's Swan <i>C. columbianus</i>       |          |            |             |         |         |          |        |            | 32         | 4      | 36     |
| Whooper Swan <i>C. cygnus</i>             |          |            |             |         |         | 28       |        |            |            | 1      | 29     |
| Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>           | 16       |            |             |         |         |          |        |            |            |        | 16     |
| Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>               | 22       | 1          |             |         |         | 1        |        | 161        | 1          |        | 186    |
| Gadwall <i>A. strepera</i>                | 33       |            |             | 86      | 1       |          |        | 11         | 40         |        | 171    |
| Teal <i>A. crecca</i>                     | 421      | 110        | 53          |         | 7       |          | 6      | 24         | 85         | 1      | 707    |
| Mallard <i>A. platyrhynchos</i>           | 1361     | 190        | 79          | 3       | 109     | 3        | 10     |            | 1005       | 170    | 2932   |
| Pintail <i>A. acuta</i>                   | 8        | 2          |             |         |         |          |        |            | 86         |        | 96     |
| Garganey <i>A. querquedula</i>            | 4        |            |             |         |         |          |        |            |            |        | 4      |
| Shoveler <i>A. clypeata</i>               | 8        |            |             | 7       |         |          |        | 4          | 22         |        | 41     |
| Red-crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>   | 1        |            |             |         |         |          |        |            |            |        | 1      |
| Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>              | 74       | 2          |             | 306     | 8       |          |        | 19         | 175        | 55     | 639    |
| Tufted Duck <i>A. fuligula</i>            | 522      | 1          |             | 426     | 42      |          |        | 179        | 30         |        | 1200   |
| Long-tailed Duck <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> |          |            |             |         |         |          |        | 1          |            |        | 1      |
| Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>      | 5        |            |             |         |         |          |        |            |            |        | 5      |
| Totals                                    | 2097     | 401        | 132         | 828     | 167     | 38       | 16     | 399        | 1476       | 270    | 6188   |