

Ringling by the Wildfowl Trust, 1987

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The overall total is much the same as last year, but several ringing stations had disappointing seasons. Increased attention to certain species boosted numbers ringed, but the traditional stations continue to ring fewer birds each season. Pink-footed Geese are being closely monitored, and successful cannon-netting attempts in Lancashire led to over 150 being ringed with coloured plastic rings as well as normal BTO metal rings. The coloured rings bear large characters which can be read using a telescope, enabling individuals to be observed without recapture. Fourteen have been seen away from the area where they were caught. At one of these catches the third Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* ever to be caught in Britain was ringed.

Increasingly we have tried to ring wildfowl at new locations, often with the help of local ringing groups. Moulting Canada Geese in Gloucester and Shelduck in Lancashire have been successfully rounded-up

and caught in this way. Wigeon have been successfully caught with cannon nets in Scotland and Avon. The Wildfowl Trust were involved in a Joint Services Expedition to Iceland where 42 Pink-footed Geese and 20 Whooper Swans were ringed in July. In Britain much encouragement has been given to local ringing groups to ring wildfowl – with some success at Chew Valley Lake, Avon and Derwent Ings, Yorkshire.

Abberton is affected by a change in water quality and was particularly devastated by the October hurricane. Many duck traps there were smashed by fallen trees and it was about three months before all were operating again. Blunham had a particularly good season for Wigeon and Slimbridge had three very successful duck catches using the Swan Pipe. Ringing at our Welney refuge started again and we are hoping to ring more birds there in the coming year.

Swans, geese and ducks ringed by the Wildfowl Trust, 1987

	Abberton	Abbotsbury	Blunham	Borough Fen	Eastpark	Martin Mere	Pensthorpe	Welney	Slimbridge	Other ringing	Total
Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>					2						2
Mute Swan <i>C. olor</i>					9				20	4	33
Bewick's Swan <i>C. columbianus</i>						7			8		15
Pink-footed Goose <i>A. brachyrhynchos</i>						157					157
Greylag Goose <i>A. anser</i>									2		2
Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>									10	148	158
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			1	2		12	10		4	5	34
Mandarin <i>Aix galericulata</i>							2		7		9
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	2		213	2			184	17	12	32	462
Gadwall <i>A. strepera</i>	21		30	12			31		105		199
Teal <i>A. crecca</i>	178	34	17	104		2	23	6	33		397
Mallard <i>A. platyrhynchos</i>	447	208		450	13	142			816		2076
Pintail <i>A. acuta</i>	3	2					13		37		55
Garganey <i>A. querquedula</i>	2								1		3
Shoveler <i>A. clypeata</i>	51			2			7		35		95
Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>	79		165				14		274		532
Tufted Duck <i>A. fuligula</i>	366		268				175		36		845
Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	10										10
Totals	1159	244	694	572	24	321	460	23	1401	190	5088

Totals include 1 each of Bean Goose (Martin Mere), Red-crested Pochard (Slimbridge), Scaup (Pensthorpe), Common Scoter (Other).