



# Annual Report 1965-66

## Report

C. E. H. SPARROW

### Royal Visit

On 23rd April, 1966, the Trust was honoured by a visit by its Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, who came to inaugurate the Research Centre. She was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Kent. Her Majesty was welcomed by the Hon. Director and after unveiling a plaque commemorating the occasion was thanked by the President. She then made a tour of the building and of the grounds, and was entertained to sherry in the Hon. Director's house before leaving. (See Photograph Section pp. I and II.)

### Council and Committees

The Officers, Council and Committees of the Trust, as at 31st December, 1966, are shown on page 2. Meetings of the Council were held in London on 22nd February, 9th August and 13th December and of the Finance Committee on 16th February, 26th July and 23rd November.

The annual meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee was held in London on 24th March.

### Annual General Meeting and Dinner

The Eighteenth Annual General Meeting was held at the Royal Society of Arts on 12th May and the Annual Dinner took place at the Hyde Park Hotel the same evening. The President was in the chair at the A.G.M., and presided and spoke at the Dinner. Other speakers at the Dinner were Mr. A. Dickson Wright, M.S., M.B., F.R.C.S., Mr. Peter Scott, C.B.E., D.S.C., LL.D., and Lord Netherthorpe, LL.D., B.SC. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting will be found on page 8.

### Development

In the autumn of 1966 work started on the construction of a Tropical Aviary at Slimbridge with funds given by an anonymous donor. Another development made possible by a generous gift (from Mr. Duncan Holden in memory of his father)

was a new observation tower, close to the sea wall with splendid views over the Dumbles and connected to the Rushy Pen by a screened corridor. (See Photograph Section page X lower.)

### Exhibitions

A permanent exhibition demonstrating the vital importance of conservation and of the constructive use of leisure in the world today and showing how the work of the Trust is related to these problems was opened in the Research Centre on the day of its inauguration.

In National Nature Week the Trust had a stand in the *Observer* Wildlife Exhibition at Alexandra Palace from 21st April to 1st May, and an educational display was mounted at the *Daily Mail* School-boys' and Girls' Exhibition at Olympia from 27th December, 1966, to 10th January, 1967.

### Identification Competition

The Trust's Fifth Wildfowl Identification Competition for Schools was held at Slimbridge on 19th March, 1966. Leighton Park again had a large and very successful entry: their teams took the first and second places in both Group A and Group B, with Bristol Grammar School third in Group A and Clifton College third in Group B. In Group C teams from Beaudesert Park came first and third and New College Choir School took second place.

### Borough Fen Decoy

The decoy at Borough Fen was opened to the public on 21st and 22nd May, 1966, and Mr. and Mrs. Pilcher again kindly devoted a weekend to explaining its history and its *modus operandi* to visitors.

### Members' Collections

The Trust is again indebted to over 20 members who opened their private collections to fellow members during 1966: C. J. and A. J. Bird, A. Cadman, T. Curtis, J. O. Death, A. W. E. Fletcher,

R. Law, Miss E. Manasseh, E. A. Maxwell, A. McLean, Mrs. B. Michell, R. B. Moseley, G. Newman, F. W. Perowne, R. E. M. Pilcher, G. R. Pryor, P. Short, Shrewsbury School, E. O. Squire, Mrs. P. V. Upton, J. Williams, D. Wintle.

### Gosling Party

The annual Gosling Party was held at Slimbridge on 23rd December, 1966. The Hon. Director showed the Trust film, *Wild Wings*, to an appreciative audience of about 80.

### Staff

It is with regret that the death on 20th December, 1966, of Mr. E. A. Scholes, who was Secretary of the Trust for over 17 years, is recorded. His place has been taken by Lt.-Col. P. G. W. Coke.

The educational potential of the Trust was greatly increased during the year by the addition of an Educational Officer to the establishment. The post was filled in September by Mr. E. E. Jackson.

### Finance

A record number of visitors to both Slimbridge and Peakirk (see table below) and several generous donations gave the Trust its highest ever income in 1966.

The income shown in the accounts on page 160 is however somewhat misleading because of a change to payment in arrears of the quarterly grant from the Nature Conservancy. Although there were four quarterly grants in the year (on 1st January, 1st April and 1st July in advance and on 31st December in arrears), the receipt of the last payment on 31st December instead of on 1st October resulted in a serious depletion of the Trust's bank balance; the balance was further depleted by the payment of Selective Employment Tax, which is not recovered until the end of the quarter. As a result some £5,000 of the income for the year was absorbed by the need to replenish the working balance. In spite of this the Trust was able to allocate £5,700 to loan repayment and was still left with a small margin for development in 1967.

### Visitors

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Slimbridge	162,030	130,143	151,180	141,841	200,231
Peakirk	30,982	29,434	43,678	42,735	46,514
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	193,012	159,577	194,858	184,576	246,745
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### Membership

In spite of an increase of 285 in the number of Full Members during the year, the overall membership fell. This again must

be attributed to the increase in the subscription for Associates, which did not affect many members until 1966.

<i>Class of Membership</i>	<i>31 Dec 63</i>	<i>31 Dec 64</i>	<i>31 Dec 65</i>	<i>31 Dec 66</i>
Life	304	316	316	326
Full	3584	3644	3953	4238
Associate and Parish	2039	2422	2254	1638   1855 217
Junior Compounded	10	12	15	15
Gosling	759	644	685	626
Corporate	101	94	95	92
Contributors	42	38	40	31
	<hr/> 6839	<hr/> 7170	<hr/> 7358	<hr/> 7183

### Terms of Membership

**LIFE MEMBERS:** A single payment of 50 guineas. Entitled to all privileges of Full Membership (see below), and exempt from payment of any subscription, excepting any sum paid yearly under Deed of Covenant.

**FULL MEMBERS:** Annual subscription £2 2s. 0d. Entitled to free access to pens and observation huts at the New Grounds and at Peakirk, with one free guest, one free copy of the Annual Report for each year of Membership and of all Bulletins issued during Membership, and to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting.

**JUNIOR COMPOUNDED MEMBERS:** Only persons under 21. One payment of £10 10s. 0d. Entitled to all privileges of Full Membership (as above) until attaining the age of 21. May then, if they wish, pay another 40 guineas and be elected Life Members.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:** Annual subscription 20/-. Entitled to free access to pens and observation huts, and to free copies of all Bulletins.

**GOSLING MEMBERS:** Annual subscription 12/6d. Limited to persons under 18. Entitled to free access to pens at the New Grounds and at Peakirk, and to all Bulletins. (With the aim of encouraging in-

terest in Wildfowl among children, a system has been introduced of grades of Goslings, with appropriate distinguishing marks and promotion by recognition tests. Full particulars of this scheme are given in the separate leaflet available at the Gate Hut at Slimbridge or Peakirk.)

**CORPORATE MEMBERS:** Annual subscription 10/-. Limited to Educational Establishments, Youth Clubs, and bodies which are members of the Council for Nature. Parties from member bodies may visit the New Grounds and Peakirk in numbers not less than ten, and not exceeding one coach load at any one time, on payment at the Gate of the entrance fee, except that one adult in charge of a party of ten or more is admitted free. Times must be arranged beforehand with the Curator, and parties are not admitted before 2 p.m. on Sundays. One free Annual Report, one copy of all Bulletins during Membership.

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Organisations which do not qualify for Corporate Membership may become Contributors by subscribing not less than one guinea a year. Contributors receive all Trust publications.

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITORS:** The Grounds are open to the public daily (except Christmas Day) from 9.30 a.m. on weekdays and from 12 noon on Sundays. Sunday mornings are reserved for Members.