

## The Collections in 1966

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The collections now comprise 175 kinds of waterfowl, six of Flamingo and two of the Screamers. We have added one new stiff-tail to the collection in the form of a male Peruvian Ruddy Duck *Oxyura ferruginea* sent as a gift from Charles Cordier. It is hoped to add further specimens during the coming year. Geoffrey Lewis collected and presented us with three Coscoroba cygnets, two of which are males, a welcome addition of new blood. Harlequins are once more represented, an expedition to Iceland in August being successful in catching, with the permission of the Icelandic Government, both these and Long-tailed Ducks. From previous experience it had been decided to time the project so that adolescent birds could be caught, the chances of their survival being greater than in the case of adult birds. All the birds arrived at Slimbridge in good condition and although the Long-tails appeared less worried and were considerably tamer, the stress factor in their case must have been severe for unfortunately they all succumbed. On the other hand the Harlequins, apart from two or three initial losses, have thrived and the drakes have moulted into a relatively bright plumage. The difficulty with adult birds had always been to induce their feeding. The juveniles readily feed on a mixture of shrimp and turkey starter. We have, through the good offices of Charles Cordier, been able to add wild caught birds to our Andean Crested Ducks and Puna Teal, the first time for a number of years that new blood has been added to these species. The two male Spectacled Eiders *Somateria fischeri* have improved and one is now in full plumage.

The Flamingo collection has been increased in numbers, and there are now 13 Greater, 26 Caribbean or Rosy, 58 Chilean, 20 Andean, 7 James's and 9 Lesser. (See Photograph Section pp. XIV, XV, and XVI.) With the exception of the African forms, all species are segregated, and a great deal of effort has gone into the provision of conditions not only agreeable to the birds but also suitable for displaying them to the public. Unlike most captive flamingos, they have free range over

relatively large natural ponds. Special islands are provided in the form of concrete atolls filled with mud and sea sand, a channel runs through the centre at water level and this again is filled with mud and sand. Concrete nests have been added to these islands. Apart from the expensive food, there is the additional cost of providing winter quarters. Opinion differs as to the ability of the birds to stand severe weather. Certainly at Slimbridge they would run the risk of being frozen into the ponds and would undoubtedly suffer injury when being extricated. Even if the water were kept open one wonders how many degrees of frost could be tolerated without causing distress to at least some of the species. Colour retention in captive birds is difficult; even the Rosy Flamingos usually fade to a pale pink. We have been able to improve the colour greatly by the addition of the pigment canthaxanthin to their diet.

The breeding season produced a large number of birds even though many of the commoner species were restricted by allowing birds to incubate their first clutches. Many birds were hatched in the incubators as will be seen from the accompanying tables. Hottentot Teal laid for the first time in the collection, but unfortunately the eggs failed to hatch. Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers laid after a lapse of some years. Six kinds of Whistling Duck nested and over 100 young birds were reared. Two Trumpeter and six Whooper Swans were raised. The Bewick's Swan laid two clutches but in spite of the devotion of her mate both sittings were infertile. Other breeding successes included Bronze-wing Duck, Australian Grey Teal and King Eiders. The new indoor rearing unit proved a great success in the case of the more delicate species, and in particular with the large numbers of ducklings hatched in the incubators. Based on the American method of indoor rearing, it comprises a series of small concrete pens each with their own water and heating supply. Each pen has removable sides so that the whole unit can be thrown into one enclosure should the need arise.

## Breeding results 1966: Slimbridge

	Date of first egg	Rared artificially			Incubated, reared by parents	Total reared
		eggs	hatched	reared		
Maggie Goose		4	0			
Javan Whistling Duck	20.5	6	0			
Fulvous Whistling Duck	25.5	27	11	8		8
Cuban Whistling Duck	2.5	10	8	7		7
White-faced Whistling Duck	15.4	26	25	24	10	34
N. Red-billed Whistling Duck	28.3	12	8	8	12	20
S. Red-billed Whistling Duck	15.5	25	24	24	12	36
Coscoroba Swan	24.2	1	0			
Black Swan	8.2				3	3
Black-necked Swan	7.2	6	4	4	3	7
Bewick's Swan	10.5	9	0			
Whooper Swan	7.4	4	4	4	2	6
Trumpeter Swan	24.4	4	2	2		2
Swan Goose	28.3	22	4	4	1	5
Western Bean Goose	27.4	4	0			
Russian Bean Goose	27.4	6	0			
Pink-footed Goose	26.4	11	7	6		6
European White-fronted Goose	17.4	4	0			
Greenland White-fronted Goose	22.4	21	3	2		2
Lesser White-fronted Goose	21.4	27	15	12	2	14
Western Greylag Goose	15.4				20	20
Eastern Greylag Goose	10.3	3	0			
Bar-headed Goose	23.4	32	13	10	1	11
Emperor Goose	29.4	43	15	12	2	14
Lesser and Blue Snow Goose	24.4				16	16
Greater Snow Goose	24.4				13	13
Atlantic Canada Goose	16.3				8	8
Moffit's Canada Goose	4.3	5	1	0		
Giant Canada Goose	25.3				1	1
Taverner's Canada Goose	12.4	5	1	1	1	2
Dusky Canada Goose	26.3					
Hawaiian Goose or Ne-Ne	9.2	63	13	8		8
Barnacle Goose	28.4				20	20
Black Brant		12	9	7		7
Red-breasted Goose		5	1	0		
Ruddy Shelduck		9	0			
Cape Shelduck	16.3	8	7	7		7
Egyptian Goose	25.2	19	13	11	9	20
Abyssinian Blue-winged Goose	28.4	12	5	4		4
Andean Goose	2.4				4	4
Ashy-headed Goose	16.4	14	9	7	4	11
Ruddy-headed Goose	27.3	6	4	1	4	5
Lesser Magellan Goose	29.3	8	5	5	4	9
Greater Magellan Goose	7.5				2	2
Cereopsis Goose					1	1
Patagonian Crested Duck	7.2	13	6	6	21	27
Bronze-winged Duck	17.2	15	6	6		6
Marbled Teal	13.4				40	40
Cape Teal	26.2	11	5	5	19	24
Hottentot Teal		4	0			
Versicolor Teal	1.4	23	11	8		8
Puna Teal	21.4	9	0			
Red-billed Pintail		5	3	3		3
Bahama Pintail		21	8	8	12	20
S. Georgian Teal x Chilean Pintail	17.3	8	6	6		6
Chilean Pintail					20	20
Northern Pintail	24.3	25	21	15		15
Kerguelen Pintail		4	0			
Chilean Teal	31.3	33	28	25		25
Sharp-winged Teal	17.3	8	2	2		2
Falcated Teal		28	3	3		3
Australian Grey Teal	26.2	32	25	25		25
Chestnut-breasted Teal	17.3	5	3	3	22	25

	<i>Date of first egg</i>	<i>Reared artificially</i>			<i>Incubated, reared by parents</i>	<i>Total reared</i>
	<i>eggs</i>	<i>hatched</i>	<i>reared</i>			
New Zealand Brown Teal	22.2	11	7	7	16	23
Laysan Teal	7.4	31	19	19	16	35
N. American Black Duck	28.3	8	7	4		4
Indian Spotbill		2	1	1		1
Chinese Spotbill	19.4	10	8	6	6	12
New Zealand Grey Duck	1.3				11	11
Philippine Duck	8.5	8	7	7	13	20
African Yellowbill	1.4	10	6	6		6
Abyssinian Yellowbill	17.3	31	23	23	7	30
Gadwall	1.4				40	40
European Wigeon					12	12
American Wigeon					20	20
Chiloe Wigeon	12.4	28	13	7	3	10
N. Cinnamon Teal		7	4	3		3
Garganey		12	2	2		2
Argentine Red Shoveler	28.4	15	4	3		3
Cape Shoveler	13.5	16	5	5		5
New Zealand Shoveler		5	4	4	3	7
Common Shoveler	3.5				12	12
Ringed Teal	16.4	44	11	5	15	20
European Eider	15.5	12	9	7		7
King Eider		5	4	4		4
Red-crested Pochard	24.7	24	15	12	18	30
Rosy-bill	3.5	26	4	4	8	12
African Pochard	9.2	10	1	1		1
Canvasback	29.3	6	6	5		5
European Pochard	29.4	7	7	6		6
Redhead	30.4	22	8	6	6	12
Common White-eye	15.5				12	12
Baer's Pochard		10	8	3		3
Australian White-eye		24	22	16	4	20
New Zealand Scaup					20	20
Tufted Duck		12	12	12	8	20
Lesser Scaup		11	7	7	2	9
European Greater Scaup		15	7	4		4
Brazilian Teal	5.5	20	14	9		9
Mandarin Duck	24.3				65	65
Carolina	17.3				110	110
S. American Comb Duck		16	14	4		4
Hartlaub's Duck	4.3	10	9	4	5	9
Muscovy Duck					15	15
Spur-winged Goose		6	0			
European Goldeneye	8.5	4	1	1		1
American Goldeneye		4	0			
N. American Ruddy Duck					15	15
African White-backed Duck		17	6	0		
Hooded Merganser	28.4	7	0			
Red-breasted Merganser		6	0			
Crested Screamer		2	1		1	1





## Breeding results 1966: Peakirk

	<i>Date of first egg</i>	<i>Eggs incubated</i>	<i>Eggs hatched</i>	<i>Young reared</i>
Fulvous Whistling Duck	14.4	19	0	
Black Swan	21.2	11	8	5
Black-necked Swan	12.2	5	4	2
Swan Goose	9.4	19	9	8
Pink-footed Goose	6.5	5	2	1
European White-fronted Goose	23.5	3	0	
Greenland White-fronted Goose	3.5	9	0	
Lesser White-fronted Goose	5.5	5	0	
Western Greylag Goose	27.3	21	12	9
Emperor Goose	27.5	13	0	
Lesser Snow Goose	3.5	8	0	
Hawaiian Goose or Ne-Ne	4.3	5	0	
Barnacle Goose	25.4	26	0	
Red-breasted Goose	8.6	5	4	3
Ashy-headed Goose	14.4	10	0	
Greater Magellan Goose	24.4	19	14	7
Cape Shelduck	4.3	9	3	3
Common Shelduck	30.4	21	7	7
Patagonian Crested Duck	26.7	6	6	4
Marbled Teal	10.5	40	25	14
Cape Teal	10.5	27	15	9
Versicolor Teal	21.3	13	5	1
Red-billed Pintail	4.7	5	1	1
Bahama Pintail	4.5	44	26	17
Chilean Pintail	17.3	15	14	12
Northern Pintail	22.4	8	2	2
Chilean Teal	18.3	14	9	8
Falcated Teal	16.6	8	2	1
Chestnut-breasted Teal	9.2	20	0	
North American Black Duck	9.5	13	4	4
Laysan Teal	17.4	25	12	9
Chinese Spotbill	22.4	20	10	6
African Yellowbill	2.5	4	3	2
African Black Duck	18.2	25	8	4
Gadwall	12.5	44	26	15
European Wigeon	1.5	45	24	20
American Wigeon	30.5	22	3	3
Blue-winged Teal	13.6	7	2	
Cinnamon Teal	30.4	24	8	7
Cape Shoveler	26.4	9	7	7
Common Shoveler	29.4	48	33	30
Ringed Teal	27.6	8	6	2
Red-crested Pochard	26.5	2	0	
European Eider	28.3	71	20	11
Rosybill	11.5	19	7	
European Pochard	30.5	6	1	1
Common White-eye	8.5	24	14	12
Baer's Pochard	3.6	9	7	5
Australian White-eye	3.5	41	4	
New Zealand Scaup	25.5	6	0	
Tufted Duck	30.5	51	22	11
European Greater Scaup	9.6	19	7	3
Brazilian Teal	22.4	18	7	4
Carolina	21.3	67	9	3
Comb Duck	25.7	3	3	
Barrow's Goldeneye	13.5	4	0	
North American Ruddy Duck	28.5		13	4