

Wildfowl 65

Editor

Eileen C. Rees

Associate Editor

Anthony D. Fox

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Editor

Dr Eileen C. Rees

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT, UK.

Associate Editor

Prof Anthony D. Fox

Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University
Kalø, Grenåvej 14, DK-8410 Rønne, Denmark.

Editorial Board

Prof Jeff Black

Department of Wildlife
Humboldt State University
Arcata, California 95521, USA.

Assoc Prof Bruce D. Dugger

Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
Oregon State University
104 Nash Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331
USA.

Prof Andy J. Green

Wetland Ecology Department
Doñana Biological Station-CSIC
C/ Américo Vespucio s/n
41092 Sevilla, Spain.

Dr Matthieu Guillemain

Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune
Sauvage
Unité Avifaune Migratrice
La Tour du Valat
Le Sambuc, 13200 Arles, France.

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***Wildfowl* 65: Editorial**

This year's issue of *Wildfowl* features papers on a diverse range of species and conservation issues. It includes two papers on flamingos – one describing Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* feeding distribution in relation to predation risk at Kamfers Dam, South Africa and the other, in contrast, providing new information on flamingo social behaviour from observations made of flocks in collections at WWT Slimbridge and at Zoo Berlin in Germany. Following on from the paper in *Wildfowl* 61 on the recovery of the Aleutian Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii leucopareia*, which has increased from a global population of only 790 geese in 1974 to *c.* 100,000 birds in 2007, it is good to see further information being provided on how best to manage grazing habitat for the species. Moreover, Murray Williams' analyses of fossil remains continue to illuminate the history of now extinct wildfowl from New Zealand, with the focus on the size and flight capabilities of the Chatham Island Duck *Anas chatbamica* here in *Wildfowl* 65 adding to the description of the Chatham Island Merganser *Mergus milleneri* as a taxonomically distinct species in *Wildfowl* 64.

Several of the papers describe results from ringing studies, with biometric data recorded from birds caught for ringing also being investigated. Analysis of ring recoveries for Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* from the Camargue, France found a shortening of recovery distances over the last 50 years, indicating that the Camargue-wintering Mallard population is increasingly composed of resident and short-distance migratory birds. Another paper considers whether catching has an adverse effect on the body mass of Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*. The body size and mass data from recent Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* catches, both from wintering sites in Bulgaria and from the breeding grounds in the Russian arctic, are particularly useful because there have been very few biometric records for the species published to date. In North America, measures made of clutch sizes and egg weights for the Interior Population (IP) and Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) of Trumpeter Swans *Cygnus buccinator* found that clutch sizes were larger and the eggs heavier for the IP swans, which may provide some insight into why the IP is increasing at a faster rate than the RMP.

As always, I am greatly indebted to the many individuals who have facilitated the preparation and publication of *Wildfowl*, from the referees who devote their valuable time to providing expert reviews of the papers, through to the staff at Henry Ling Ltd for printing the journal at short notice, enabling *Wildfowl* 65 to be published on time. Tony Fox (Associate Editor of *Wildfowl*) and Editorial Board members Jeff Black, Bruce Dugger, Andy Green and Matt Guillemain have provided vital support and sound scientific advice throughout; the journal would be much diminished without their continued efforts on its behalf. I also remain deeply grateful to Ellen Matthews (EM Typesetting) for her expertise and efficiency in preparing the proofs and, along with WWT's Paul Marshall who designed the cover, for greatly enhancing the overall look of the journal. My colleagues Maggie Sage, Linda Dickerson and Jane Gawthorne-Dover have kindly provided administrative support

over the year. Finally I again thank the readers of *Wildfowl* for their continued interest in the work published in the journal, and for their enthusiasm for the species, habitats and conservation initiatives described therein.

Eileen Rees

**Editor: *Wildfowl*
WWT Martin Mere**



Photograph: Trumpeter Swan, by Steve Gettle/Minden Pictures/FLPA.