

Wildfowl 66

Editor

Eileen C. Rees

Associate Editor

Anthony D. Fox

Published by

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

Slimbridge, Gloucestershire

GL2 7BT, UK

Registered Charity No. 1030884

Wildfowl

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.

Cover photograph: Wood Duck male in breeding plumage at Island Lake Recreation Area, Michigan, USA, by Steve Gettle/Minden Pictures/FLPA.

Cover design by Paul Marshall

Published by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT, UK

Wildfowl is available by subscription from the above address. For further information call +44 (0)1453 891900 (extension 257), or e-mail wildfowl@wwt.org.uk

ISBN 978 0 900806 67 4

Print ISSN 0954-6324

On-line ISSN 2052-6458

Printed on FSC compliant paper by Henry Ling Ltd.

Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Editorial | 1 |
| Review Papers | |
| Assessment of the distribution and status of the Southern Pochard <i>Netta erythrophthalma</i> in South America <i>J.F. Freile, A.J. Lesterbuis & R.P. Clay</i> | 3 |
| Recent changes in the abundance of Common Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i> breeding in Europe <i>A.D. Fox, A. Caizergues, M.V. Banik, K. Devos, M. Dvorak, M. Ellermaa, B. Folliot, A.J. Green, C. Grüneberg, M. Guillemain, A. Håland, M. Hornman, V. Keller, A.I. Kosbelev, V.A. Kostiuslyn, A. Kozulin, Ł. Ławicki, L. Luigujõe, C. Müller, P. Musil, Z. Musilová, L. Nilsson, A. Mischenko, H. Pöysä, M. Ščiban, J. Sjenčić, A. Stępniece, S. Švařas & J. Wabl</i> | 22 |
| Standard Papers | |
| Habitat use by two tropical species of waterfowl in central Malaysia <i>A. Salari, M. Zakaria & M.S. Boyce</i> | 41 |
| Range expansion and migration of Trumpeter Swans <i>Cygnus buccinator</i> re-introduced in southwest and central Ontario <i>S.A. Handrigan, M.L. Schummer, S.A. Petrie & D.R. Norris</i> | 60 |
| Population size and breeding success of the Icelandic Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> : results of the 2015 international census <i>C. Hall, O. Crowe, G. McElwaine, Ó. Einarsson, N. Calbrade & E. Rees</i> | 75 |
| Possible density-dependence in an expanding population of Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i> in south Sweden <i>L. Nilsson</i> | 98 |
| Observations of Aleutian Cackling Geese <i>Branta hutchinsii leucopareia</i> breeding on Buldir Island, Alaska: forty-seven years after discovery of a remnant population <i>J. Cocks, S.K. Alton & J.M. Black</i> | 112 |
| Duck hunting bag estimates for the 2013/14 season in France <i>M. Guillemain, P. Aubry, B. Folliot & A. Caizergues</i> | 126 |

Factors affecting the local distribution of the Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* in Baltic offshore waters 142
L. Nilsson, M. Ogonowski & T.A.B. Staveley

The status of an isolated population of Goosander *Mergus merganser* in the Balkans 159
G. Catsadorakis, O. Avramoski, A. Bojadzji & H. Nikolaou

Short Communications

Trends in the abundance of diving ducks and seaducks wintering in Japan 176
T. Shimada, A. Mori & H. Higuchi

Factors affecting conspecific brood parasitism in Wood Ducks *Aix sponsa* of the intermountain region of western North America 186
K. Hafen & D.N. Koons

Wildfowl: Instructions for Authors 197

To subscribe to *Wildfowl*, or to purchase back numbers, please contact Mrs Margaret ("Maggie") Sage at the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BT, UK, telephone +44 (0) 1453 891257 or send an e-mail to wildfowl@wwt.org.uk.

Wildfowl 66: Editorial

I am delighted to report that this year's issue of *Wildfowl* covers a wide range of topics on waterbirds from very different parts of the world, and with a particular focus on two Pochard species – the Southern Pochard *Netta e. erythrophthalma* and Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*. The South American subspecies of the Southern Pochard is considered to have declined to no more than 10,000 birds (with potentially as few as 5,000 individuals) in recent years, whilst a review of national counts likewise suggests widespread declines for Common Pochard breeding in Europe over the past three decades. In both cases, the reasons behind the declines are poorly understood, but potential threats to the species are described. Intensification and/or abandonment of freshwater fish farming, changes in water quality and changes in predation pressure were put forward as contributing to the situation in Europe, with hunting and habitat loss from silting, dredging and destruction of riparian vegetation proposed as being key issues in South America.

Other papers in the journal include interesting updates on programmes to restore Trumpet Swans *Cygnus buccinator* and Aleutian Cackling Geese *Branta hutchinsii leucopareia* to their former breeding distribution and to improve their conservation status. Meanwhile, assessment of habitat use by Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica* and Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus* at a site in Malaysia focuses on birds that have received relatively little attention in the scientific literature to date. Recent trends in numbers are described for the Icelandic Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* population, which has now reached 34,000 birds, for Greylag Geese *Anser anser* in south Sweden, where there is evidence for breeding density influencing the production of young, and for seaduck and diving duck species wintering in Japan. A small, isolated population of Goosander *Mergus merganser* in the Balkans is described for the first time. The journal is completed with reports on habitat use by Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* in the Baltic, on hunting bags for duck populations in France, and on how a combination of the type of nest box mounts and habitat cover influences conspecific brood parasitism (and thus breeding success) for Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* in North America. Overall, *Wildfowl* 66 provides an eclectic range of new information on the relationships between the birds and their environments, which I am confident will be of interest to readers of the journal!

In July 2016, the world of waterbird and wetland conservation lost one of its most significant pioneers and mentors when Hugh Boyd died at the age of 91 years. There have been many tributes to Hugh in the broadsheets, scientific press and social media, detailing his major contributions to our knowledge and conservation of migratory waterbirds on both sides of the Atlantic, and the inspiration he provided to a generation of waterbird ecologists. These few words therefore dwell mainly on his contribution to this journal, both as editor in the early years (when *Wildfowl* was still known as the *Annual Report of the Severn Wildfowl Trust*), and in the papers that he authored which were published herein over some 50 decades. The first two issues of the journal were released before Hugh joined the Severn Wildfowl Trust (now WWT) in 1949, but he appears for the first time in the third issue with a note on the dominance relationships observed in flocks of wild geese during winter 1949/50, which was one of the first studies that

he undertook as the Resident Biologist at Slimbridge. This very first article noted the importance of recording and using numerical data for statistical evaluation of bird behaviour, rather than relying on observer intuition, and this was a constant thread in Hugh's research and his advocacy for science-based conservation throughout his life-time. In 1953, Hugh joined Peter Scott as co-editor of the 6th edition of the *Annual Report of the Severn Wildfowl Trust*, became editor-in-chief in 1959, sole editor in 1962 and finally relinquished the role on moving to the Nature Conservancy (Edinburgh) in 1965, having produced the *18th Wildfowl Trust Annual Report* with Malcolm Ogilvie as co-editor. Thereafter he continued to make regular contributions to *Wildfowl*, ultimately publishing over 50 papers in the journal in addition to his publications elsewhere. His most recent paper, on "Effects of climate change on the breeding success of White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons flavirostris* in west Greenland" (with Tony Fox as co-author) in *Wildfowl* 58 (2008) is not only highly topical but is still regularly cited, as are many of his other works, and these will continue to provide a valuable source of knowledge for years to come.

I am as always much indebted to the many individuals involved in the preparation and publication of *Wildfowl* – the referees for their expert reviews of the papers, the Editorial Board and Associate Editor Tony Fox for their invaluable help and advice, Ellen Matthews (EM Typesetting) for preparing the proofs, Paul Marshall for designing the cover, the staff at Henry Ling Ltd for the printed copies and Maggie Sage, Linda Dickerson and Jane Gawthorne-Dover for kindly providing administrative support. I am delighted with the content of this year's issue of the journal and I hope that you, the reader, will be equally fascinated by the papers presented here in *Wildfowl* 66.

Eileen Rees

Editor: *Wildfowl*
WWT Martin Mere



Photographs: Hugh Boyd imprinting Mallard ducklings (left) and weighing them (right, by Erica Koch) at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, during the early 1950s.