

# Wildfowl 69

Editor

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Associate Editor

Anthony D. Fox

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## **Wildfowl 69: Editorial**

Throughout its long and illustrious history, *Wildfowl* and its precursor the *Wildfowl Trust Annual Report* have disseminated the results of scientific studies on the behaviour, ecology, movements, health, and population dynamics of wildfowl – the ducks, geese and swans of the world. Early pioneering work, including on captive breeding (Lorenz 1952), ringing programmes (e.g. Scott *et al.* 1953; Cooch 1957), diet (Kear 1963), behaviour (McKinney 1959; Johnsgard 1960) and moult migration (Salmonsén 1968) provides useful reference material to this day. In recent years the journal's remit has expanded to embrace other waterbirds; for instance, an analysis of factors affecting the breeding success of the Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* and Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans* Storks appears in the current issue. Whilst the editors have long been open to publishing results of studies on birds' wetland habitats, however, it is not until now that we have received papers on the success of programmes restoring or creating wetland habitat, and these are most welcome. Reading that the renovation of lakes, shallow wetlands and seasonally-flooded grassland in the Skjern River Valley in Denmark resulted in internationally important numbers of waterbirds returning to the area, and that thousands of Greylag Geese now moult at the reinstated Lake Hornborgasjön (once the best breeding area for birds in Sweden), therefore, is particularly pleasing. We sincerely hope that researchers will continue to publish their valuable studies on wetland management and restoration programmes in *Wildfowl*, to provide an information source on best-practice for wetland conservation into the future.

From the species perspective, this year's issue of the journal includes a number of fascinating papers and short communications on topics ranging from the behaviour of captive flamingos *Phoenicoparrus* sp. in mixed-species flocks to large-scale egg-dumping by Greylag Geese breeding in Germany and a new technique for catching Brent Geese *Branta bernicla* at a coastal site. A major review paper considers the methods for managing urban goose populations and notes that the presence of geese in urban settings may provide a well-being benefit for humans in non-rural environments. From different parts of the world we also learn about long-term trends in the numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons* wintering in Japan, the influence of nest site selection on breeding success for Canada Geese *Branta canadensis* in the Canadian Arctic, nesting by Barnacle Geese *Branta leucopsis* in the Russian section of the Baltic Sea, and variation in the breeding abundance of Common Pochard *Aythya farina* in France. Black Brant *B. b. nigricans* staging and wintering on the lower Alaska Peninsula were found to employ alternative feeding strategies (e.g. night-time feeding) to meet their daily energy requirements in winter and spring. The increase in recent years in waterbird studies in Mongolia is reflected in a paper on the importance of the Dakhard Depression for a range of species. Given the importance of correct hunting bag data for the annual assessment and management of waterfowl harvests in North America, the recent evaluation published here of hunters' ability to identify waterbirds to the species level is also timely.

The year 2019 saw a notable landmark for *Wildfowl*, with the journal being awarded an impact factor (IF) by Web of Science for the first time. The IF, which is a measure of the citation frequency for papers published each year, is used to indicate the relative importance of a journal within its field, so that journals with higher impact factors are often deemed to be more prestigious than those with lower ones. Notwithstanding debate about the validity of the IF as a measure of importance, it is nonetheless very pleasing to have received it, as an indicator of the journal's standing in the scientific community.

The awarding of an IF would not have been possible without the efforts of the group of eminent scientists who serve on the Editorial Board for *Wildfowl*: Tony Fox (Associate Editor), Jeff Black, Bruce Dugger, Andy Green and Matt Guillemain (with David Roshier and Mark O'Connell also making valued contributions in earlier years). These individuals unflinchingly provide vital support and sound scientific advice and I'm immensely grateful to them all. We are also indebted to the reviewers, who kindly provide expert opinion on papers submitted to the journal. I thank Ellen Matthews (EM Typesetting) for her expertise in preparing the proofs and keeping the work on schedule, Paul Marshall for the cover design, the staff at Henry Ling Ltd for the printed copies and Maggie Sage, Linda Dickerson and Jane Gawthorne-Dover for their administrative support. This year, in addition to *Wildfowl* 69, there will be a special issue (*Wildfowl* Special Issue No. 5) which includes papers presented at the 6th International Swan Symposium, which was held at the Estonian University of Life Sciences in Tartu, Estonia, from 16–19 October 2018. I commend it to you.

**Eileen Rees**

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

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