

Wildfowl Ringing, 1968

Swans

A number of amateur studies of the Mute Swan in Britain involving ringing continued with the help of the Wildfowl Trust. A joint study of the Mute Swan population of The Fleet and Radipole Lake, Dorset, was begun by the Edward Grey Institute, Oxford, and the Wildfowl Trust. Marking of the birds includes the use of large plastic coloured and numbered rings. A further 47 Bewick's Swans were caught and ringed at Slimbridge bringing the total now marked to over 100.

Geese

The Canada Goose was the only species to be ringed during the year. The Trust continued its support for ringing projects in Shropshire where the local Ornithological Society caught 250 birds, in the west Midlands where Dr. C. D. T. Minton and his team handled 871 birds, and in Yorkshire where Mr. A. F. G. Walker and his helpers rounded-up 425 birds. Associated with this last study was a

catch made of 223 moulting Canada Geese on the Beaully Firth, Inverness-shire, organised by the Hon. D. Weir.

Ducks

The Table gives the details of the 8,720 ducks ringed by the Wildfowl Trust, or by people using rings supplied by the Trust, during 1968. The total is somewhat below last year's record, largely because of a planned decrease in the numbers of Mallard caught at Borough Fen and Slimbridge at certain times of the year when there is little now to be gained from ringing. Features of the Table include the continuing success of Nacton Decoy in catching Pintail and Wigeon, and the useful numbers of Tufted Duck ringed at three stations.

Small but valuable numbers of Mallard and Teal were ringed at Abbotsbury Decoy, Dorset (Mr. F. Lexster), Valley, Anglesey (Mr. R. Palethorpe), and Orierton Decoy, Pembrokeshire (Mr. P. Stuttard). We are grateful to these people for ringing duck for us and for allowing us to make use of the results.

Ducks ringed, 1968.

	<i>Abberton</i>	<i>Nacton</i>	<i>Borough Fen</i>	<i>Deeping Lake</i>	<i>Dersingham</i>	<i>Slimbridge</i>	<i>Loch Leven</i>	<i>Other stations</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Shelduck	26								26
Pintail	1	349		1	1	2			354
Teal	475	384	713	5	423			39	2039
Mallard	1277	862	1434	199	888	326	238	68	5292
Gadwall	1				20	1	7		30
Wigeon	46	203		2	5		6		262
Garganey	8		1		3				12
Shoveler	31		4	3	2		3		43
Pochard	7			32					39
Tufted Duck	104			141	1		370	3	619
Scaup					1			2	3
Smew	1								1
Totals	1978	1798	2152	383	1344	329	624	112	8720

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