

THE THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SEVERN
WILDFOWL
TRUST
1949-1950



Published for the Severn Wildfowl Trust by
COUNTRY LIFE LIMITED
2-10 Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2

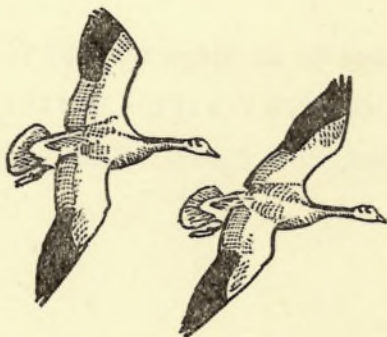
THE SEVERN WILDFOWL TRUST

THE NEW GROUNDS . SLIMBRIDGE . GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Tel.: CAMBRIDGE (GLOS) 268

Station: COALEY JUNCTION

- President* Field-Marshal the Rt. Hon. the Viscount Alanbrooke,
K.G., G.C.B., O.M., D.S.O.
- Vice-Presidents* The Rt. Hon. the Lord Dulverton of Batsford, O.B.E.,
M.A., J.P.
Sir Percy Lister
E. M. Nicholson, Esq., C. B.
- Trustees* The Rt. Hon. the Lord Kennet of the Dene, G.B.E.,
D.S.O., D.S.C.
His Grace, the Duke of Beaufort, K.G., P.C., G.C.V.O.
- Hon. Treasurers* Sir Archibald Jamieson, K.B.E.
John Bevan, Esq., C.B., M.C.
- Hon. Director* Peter Scott, Esq., M.B.E., D.S.C.
- Council* Capt. R. G. W. Berkeley
C. T. Dalgety, Esq.
H. H. Davis, Esq.
J. R. Justice, Esq.
C. W. Mackworth Praed, Esq.
K. Miller Jones, Esq.
B. W. Tucker, Esq.
- Hon. Secretary* Michael Bratby, Esq.
- Assistant Secretary* Miss P. Talbot-Ponsonby
- Membership Secretary* E. A. Scholes, Esq.
- Organising Secretary* Miss E. R. Gregorson
- Curators* J. Yealland, Esq.
S. T. Johnstone, Esq.
- Resident Biologist* H. J. Boyd, Esq.
- Hon. Agent* Col. M. Berkeley



CONTENTS

WILD GEESE	PAGE
Pink-footed Goose	6
<i>Counts (Table I)—Maximum Numbers since 1933 (Table II)</i>	
Total Numbers (<i>Graph I</i>)	7
Bean-Goose	8
White-fronted Goose	9
<i>Counts (Table III)—Proportion of Immature Birds—Family Size (Table IV)—Dominance Relationships—Marked and Distinguishable Geese—Rocket-nets—Migration Routes</i>	
Greenland White-fronted Goose	13
Lesser White-fronted Goose	13
Greylag Goose	13
Barnacle Goose	13
Canada Goose	13
Vegetation of the Dumbles	14
Proposed Bombing Range	14
Disturbance by Aircraft	14
Marking Operations away from the New Grounds	15
WILD DUCKS	
The Decoy	16
<i>The Lead—The Catch—Proposed New Decoy—Progress of Total Catch (Graph II)—Catch and Ringing Figures (Table V)—Methods of Capture (Table VI)</i>	
Status of Ducks	20
<i>Shelduck—Pintail—Teal—Mallard—Gadwall—Wigeon—Garganey—Shoveler—Common Pochard—Tufted Duck</i>	
RINGING AND RECOVERIES (<i>Anatidæ</i>)	
Birds Ringed (<i>Table VII</i>)	22
Recoveries	23
Proportion of Recoveries (<i>Table VIII</i>)	23
Details of Recoveries (<i>Table IX</i>)	24
Map Showing Recoveries	26
BIRDS (Other than <i>Anatidæ</i>) RECORDED AT THE NEW GROUNDS	27
Ringing of Birds other than <i>Anatidæ</i>	30
OBSERVATION HUTS	
Drawing of Observation Hut	31
WATERFOWL COLLECTION	
New Species	33
Important Additions	35
List of Birds in the Collection	36
Hybrids	38
Obtaining New Birds	39
The Travelling Box	40
List of Species Required	42
Breeding Season	45

	PAGE
WATERFOWL COLLECTION— <i>contd.</i>	
<i>Hatching and Rearing (Table X)—Eggs left with Parents</i>	
<i>(Table XI)</i>	
Full-winged Birds	50
Wild Birds in the Pens	51
Pathology	52
<i>Parasites—Diseases</i>	
Behaviour	52
Preening Studies	53
Research Facilities	54
THE NE-NE PROJECT	54
THE PERRY RIVER EXPEDITION, 1949	
Preliminary Report	56
Capture of Live Geese for the Collection	60
GENERAL ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION	
Visitors	65
Staff Arrangements	65
Membership	66
Finance	66
Lease and Licence	67
Bird Observatories Scheme	67
The Director's Lectures	67
The Canal Lecture Tour	67
Market Harborough Festival	68
Arrangements for Visitors	68
<i>Wild Geese—The Decoy—The Collection</i>	
<i>Beatrice</i>	69
Wants	69
THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
Minutes	70
Income and Expenditure Account	71
Balance Sheet	72
Annual Dinner	73
Obituary	74
LIST OF MEMBERS	75
PHOTOGRAPHS	97
THE SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS OF THE BRITISH ISLES	
Swans	121
Black Geese	123
Grey Geese	125
Snow Geese	129