

THE FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

SEVERN  
WILDFOWL  
TRUST

1950-1951

EDITED BY PETER SCOTT



Published for the Severn Wildfowl Trust by

COUNTRY LIFE LIMITED

2-10 Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2

# THE SEVERN WILDFOWL TRUST

SLIMBRIDGE . GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Tel. : CAMBRIDGE (GLOS) 268

Station : COALEY JUNCTION

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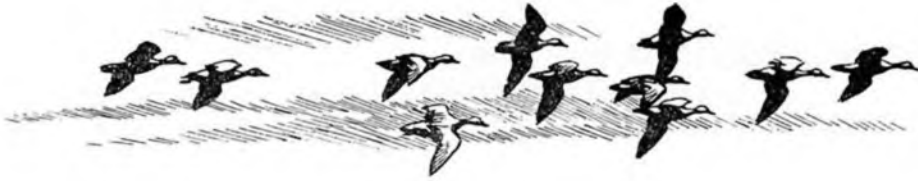
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## REPORT

THE Fourth Annual Report of the Trust's work covers the period from 1st May, 1950, to 30th April, 1951 (the Trust's ornithological year). In the scientific field there have been two important developments. First, wild geese have been caught in the rocket-propelled nets in sufficient numbers for statistical work on goose populations to be undertaken. A total of 691 geese were marked and released, and the experiments yielded interesting data on the technique of colour marking with dyes.

The second important development was the impetus given to the Trust's scientific effort by the visit of Dr. Konrad Lorenz to observe and film the birds in the collection in pursuance of his comparative study of innate behaviour patterns.

Further research has also been carried out on preening, bathing, shaking, stretching and other everyday activities of the *Anatidæ*, and on aggressive behaviour in geese.

A greatly increased catch in the duck decoy was a feature of the autumn season. On 13th September, 1950, a record catch of 145 ducks was run into the West Pipe.

Many new species and races have been added to the Trust's enclosures, and apart from the scientific uses of this unique collection of live waterfowl, it has given pleasure to some 20,000 visitors, many of them from schools and other educational establishments.

The Trust was represented at the 10th International Ornithological Congress at Uppsala, Sweden. Here and elsewhere in international scientific circles was evidence that the Trust is becoming generally recognized as one of the leading organizations occupied with the world's swans, geese and ducks.

The Key to the Wildfowl of the World, first published in the Second Annual Report, and subsequently reprinted in separate form, has been unexpectedly successful, and Members will be glad to know that a new edition is now available, with extensive corrections which bring it into line with the most recent work on the systematics of the *Anatidæ*.

The total membership at the time of the Annual General Meeting on 28th March, 1951 (reported on p. 55), was 3,830. At the previous Annual General Meeting the total was 3,118 and, in the Council's view, an increase of more than 700 members in the year is extremely satisfactory.

Details of membership are given at the end of this report, on p. 60.