

THE DUCK ADOPTION SCHEME

Under this scheme, on payment of 5s., the subscriber is allotted a duck (or goose or swan, if preferred), and given particulars of its species, the number on its ring and the date and place of ringing. If the bird is later recaptured or recovered the subscriber is notified of the date and place of recovery and any other details reported by the finder; and all subscribers receive, for the next two years after contributing, a summary annual report of interesting recoveries.

In 1956, the ninth year of the scheme, the gross income received was £496, contributing, after deduction of the costs of administration and of the report to adopters, about £320 to the cost of ringing. Though this was a most useful source of income, the yield of the scheme dropped by nearly £200 as compared with 1955. Since it is the Trust's aim to expand, not merely continue, the ringing programme, it is important that interest in the adoption scheme should be revived, and members are invited to help. Members and their friends wishing to adopt ducks or geese should write to the Assistant Secretary, The Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, enclosing 5s. for each bird. Adopted Duck Tokens (analogous to Book Tokens) are available, price 6s.



SURVIVAL OF GREENLAND WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

by Hugh Boyd

SINCE 1946 the ringing of birds in Greenland has been actively encouraged by the Danish authorities, under the leadership of Dr Finn Salomonsen. 835 White-fronted Geese of the race *Anser albifrons flavirostris* were ringed from 1946 to 1956 and had yielded 193 recoveries by the spring of 1957. Dr Salomonsen has published details of the recoveries overseas. Most have been in Ireland, with smaller numbers in Iceland and Scotland, a few from England and Wales and one from eastern Canada. The published records have been used, together with unpublished data on recoveries in Greenland, to provide estimates of the survival of full-grown geese of this race for comparison with what is now known of other British wintering populations. A short paper will appear in *Dansk Ornithologisk Forenings Tidsskrift* early in 1958, but the principal findings may be noted here.

The annual survival rate of Greenland White-fronts more than two years old is estimated at 66%, apparently rather less than that of European White-fronts (72%), Pinkfeet (74%) and Greylags (77%). Losses of ringed juveniles in the first year after marking may amount to as much as 46%, and those in the second year of life to about 43%. Nearly all the reported losses are due to man.

Most occur between October and February (in Ireland) and in July (in Greenland).

The White-front population breeds along the west coast of Greenland from about 64° N. to 72° 30' N. Ringing has been done in sixteen places widely scattered over the breeding range. Recoveries show that the geese breeding north of 69° N. concentrate in winter in Co. Wexford, while those breeding farther south are scattered widely in Ireland. The northern breeding population is apparently increasing, but the existing data are insufficient to show whether this is due to smaller adult losses than those suffered by the southern breeding birds or to greater breeding success. Continued ringing should solve this problem.



Tufted drake

WILDFOWL COUNTS 1956-57

Fluctuations in the Winter Population of Tufted Ducks in Great Britain—A Summary

by G. L. Atkinson-Willes

The Fourth Report on National Wildfowl Counts, published by the Trust in December 1957, was devoted to a study of the numbers of Tufted Ducks found in winter in Great Britain. We reprint here the summary of that paper. The full report, issued free to all participants in the Count Scheme, is available from the Trust at 2s. 6d.

ONE of the main difficulties in assessing trends in the populations of any species by means of wildfowl counts is that continuous records over periods of sufficient length are available from only a small proportion of the waters now counted. In the case of the Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*), however, it can be shown that the small samples of records available for long periods give much the same