



Drake Ringed Teal (*Anas leucophrys*)

## THE FLIGHT OF RINGED TEAL

by Noel Dudley

AFTER observing the pair of Ringed Teal (*Anas leucophrys*) which are full-winged and live in the aviary, it has been noticed that, in flight, the wing-beat of the male produces a thin high-pitched whistle. By comparison the female's wing-beat is almost silent.

As the female was incubating in July and early August, it was at first thought that she had perhaps been moulting at the time of the observation, thus accounting for the absence of 'whistle' in her wing-beat.

However, on further investigation it was apparent that the male was also moulting at this time, as several of his feathers were to be seen lying round the pen. This indicates that moulting does not affect the 'whistle'. Furthermore, it is known that this accompaniment is present in the flight of this species at all times of the year. It had been assumed that the noise was produced by both male and female, but it now seems that the wing structure of the male is in some way different from that of the female.



Ringed Teal ♀