

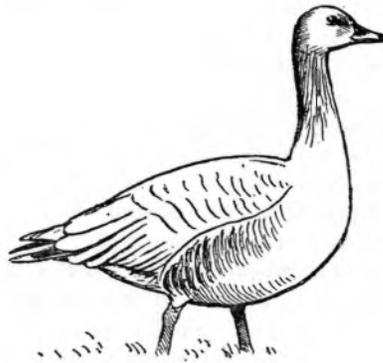
Marmila Choudhury

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF

THE
WILDFOWL
TRUST

1953-1954

EDITED BY PETER SCOTT
AND HUGH BOYD



Published for the Wildfowl Trust by
COUNTRY LIFE LIMITED

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

1955

THE WILDFOWL TRUST

SLIMBRIDGE . GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Tel. : CAMBRIDGE (GLOS) 333

Station : COALEY JUNCTION

Patron - HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

President Field-Marshal the Rt Hon. the Viscount Alanbrooke,
K.G., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.V.O., D.S.O.

Vice-Presidents The Rt Hon. the Lord Dulverton of Batsford, O.B.E.,
M.A., J.P.
Sir Percy Lister

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. Treasurer Guy Benson

Hon. Director Peter Scott, C.B.E., D.S.C.

Asst. Director
(Research) Dr G. V. T. Matthews

Council Capt. R. G. W. Berkeley
Michael Bratby
Dr Richard Clarke, O.B.E., F.R.C.P.
R. A. H. Coombes
Michael Crichton
H. H. Davis
Harley C. Drayton
James Fisher
K. Miller Jones
James Robertson Justice
Miss P. Talbot-Ponsonby
Sir Landsborough Thomson, C.B., O.B.E., D.Sc.
Major-General C. B. Wainwright, C.B.
H. F. B. Fox, O.B.E.
(Ministry of Education Assessor)

Secretary E. A. Scholes

Organising Secretary Miss E. R. Gregorson

Curator S. T. Johnstone

Central Organiser G. L. Atkinson-Willes
Wildfowl Counts

Resident Biologist Hugh Boyd

Agent Col M. Berkeley

Scientific Advisory Committee

Sir Landsborough Thomson, C.B., O.B.E., (Chairman)
Prof. F. Blakemore
Prof. H. G. Callan
Dr Bruce Campbell
Dr James W. Campbell, M.B.E.
Dr F. Fraser Darling, F.R.S.E.
*Jean Delacour
Prof. W. H. Elder
Dr D. J. Finney
Prof. Sir Ronald A. Fisher, F.R.S.
Prof. Harold Munro Fox, F.R.S.
Prof. John E. Harris
Dr Jeffrey G. Harrison
Prof. H. R. Hewer
Dr Edward Hindle, F.R.S.
*Albert Hochbaum
R. C. Homes
Prof. Julian Huxley, F.R.S.
*Dr David Lack, F.R.S.
Dr G. Lapage
R. M. Lockley
*Prof. Konrad Lorenz
Sir Philip Manson-Bahr, C.M.G., D.S.O., F.R.C.P.
Dr G. V. T. Matthews (Secretary)
Dr L. Harrison Matthews, F.R.S.
*Dr Dillon Ripley
H. N. Southern
*Prof. G. A. Swanson
Dr W. H. Thorpe, F.R.S.
Dr N. Tinbergen
J. A. J. Venn, M.R.C.V.S.
Prof. C. H. Waddington, F.R.S.
Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards, F.R.S.E.
G. K. Yeates

* Corresponding Members



PHOTOGRAPHS

The Trust is greatly indebted to the following for permission to reproduce the photographs they have taken :

J. V. Beer

Essex County Standard

D. Farrell

P. Glasier

H. J. Goodhart

Lehnert & Landrock

Nowell Peach, F.R.C.S.

Royal Air Force

Peter Scott

C. Sellick

Dr W. J. L. Sladen

Miss P. Talbot-Ponsonby

R. Webbe

F. Williams

G. K. Yeates





CONTENTS

REPORT	7
WILD GEESE AT THE NEW GROUNDS	13
Grey Lag Goose	13
European White-fronted Goose (with notes on recoveries of ringed birds)	13
Lesser White-fronted Goose	18
Bean Goose	18
Pink-footed Goose	18
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	19
Barnacle Goose	19
Red-breasted Goose	19
WILD DUCKS	20
Berkeley New Decoy	20
Borough Fen Decoy	20
Recoveries of Ducks	20
ABBERTON RINGING STATION, <i>by C. B. Wainwright</i>	25
WILDFOWL COUNTS IN THE BRITISH ISLES, <i>by George Atkinson-Willes</i>	29
Regional Organisers	31
WINTER COUNTS OF MALLARD IN BRITAIN, 1951-54, <i>by George Atkinson-Willes</i>	39
THE DUCK ADOPTION SCHEME	46
WATERFOWL COLLECTION	47
The Present Status of the Ne-ne or Hawaiian Goose	47
The Breeding Season, 1954, <i>by S. T. Johnstone</i>	51
Pathological Investigations, <i>by J. A. J. Venn</i>	55
ROCKET-NETTING IN 1953 AND 1954	56
RECOVERIES OF GEESE	59
Metal Swedging in Rings	61
THE WILDFOWL TRUST'S SECOND EXPEDITION TO CENTRAL ICELAND, 1953, <i>by Peter Scott, Hugh Boyd and W. J. L. Sladen</i>	63
Plants of the <i>Þjórsárver við Hofsjökul</i>	93
THE BRITISH POPULATION OF THE PINK-FOOTED GOOSE, ITS NUMBERS AND ANNUAL LOSSES, <i>by Hugh Boyd and Peter Scott</i>	99
THE ROLE OF TRADITION IN DETERMINING THE WINTER DISTRIBUTION OF PINKFEET IN BRITAIN, <i>by Hugh Boyd</i>	107
FLUOROSCOPIC MEASURES OF SHOOTING PRESSURE ON PINK-FOOTED AND GREY LAG GEESE, <i>by William H. Elder</i>	123
THE RELATION OF AGE AND SEX TO THE WEIGHTS OF PINK-FOOTED AND GREY LAG GEESE, <i>by William H. Elder</i>	127

THE MYCOFLORA OF WILD PINK-FOOTED GEESE SAMPLED IN ICELAND AND SCOTLAND, 1953, by <i>W. J. L. Sladen and P. K. C. Austwick</i>	133
ASPERGILLOSIS IN WILD GEESE : A NEW TECHNIQUE FOR ITS DETECTION	138
THE DISCOVERY OF PINK-FOOTED GEESE NESTING IN ICELAND, 1929 : <i>Extracts from the diaries of S. W. P. Freme</i>	139
A VISIT TO KROSSÁRGIL, NORTH-CENTRAL ICELAND 1954, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE PINK-FOOTED GOOSE, by <i>G. K. Yeates</i>	146
OBSERVATIONS ON GATHERING AND DEPARTURE OF PINK-FOOTED GEESE AT ASGARÐ IN CENTRAL ICELAND, by <i>N. G. Blurton Jones and Robert Gillmor</i>	153
GOOSE-RINGING IN VEST-SPITSBERGEN 1954, by <i>James Goodhart, Russell Webbe and Thomas Wright</i>	170
WILDFOWL AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS ACT, 1954	177
NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR BIRD PRESERVATION	181
The Numbers of Brent Geese in Europe	181
Oil Pollution of the Sea	183
Wildfowl Habitats in Ireland	184
THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BOMBING RANGE ON THE KNECHTSAND, N.W. GERMANY, AND ITS EFFECTS ON MOULTING SHELDUCKS	184
GENERAL ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION	186
VISITORS TO THE NEW GROUNDS	186
DIRECTOR'S LECTURES	186
SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	187
BALANCE SHEET	188
ANNUAL DINNER	192
PHOTOGRAPHS	193
MEMBERSHIP	217
OBITUARY	218
LIST OF MEMBERS	219

