

- Spur-winged Goose** (*Plectropterus g. gambensis*).—One ; a female from Whipnade in exchange, where it was reared in 1933.
- European Eider** (*Somateria m. mollissima*).—Four ; one drake, two ducks reared in 1948 and one duck reared in 1947, all by Col. W. V. Lumsden. Eiders are subject to the fungus disease aspergillosis at the New Grounds and drakes seem more difficult to keep than ducks.
- Barrow's Golden-eye** (*Bucephala islandica*).—Five ; two pairs reared at the New Grounds in 1947 ; one drake in 1948 ; all from eggs sent from Iceland by Mr. W. F. Palsson of Laxardal.
- Red-breasted Merganser** (*Mergus serrator*).—Two ; females, one reared at the New Grounds in 1947 from an egg sent from Iceland, the other, blind in one eye, was caught in Bude harbour by Mr. R. B. Treleaven.
- Goosander** (*Mergus m. merganser*).—One ; a drake caught in the outflow of Walton Reservoir, near Hampton Court, in March, 1947. Now paired to a female Red-breasted Merganser.
- North American Ruddy Duck** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*).—Seven ; three pairs and one drake from Mr. W. J. Mackensen, Pennsylvania, and also from Liberty Park, Salt Lake City, where they were reared by Mr. Calvin Wilson and sent by courtesy of Mr. J. Sloan, Superintendent of Parks.

From this list of 106 different forms and some 654 birds it will be seen that the Trust is greatly indebted to a large number of people who have sent birds to the New Grounds. The Council wishes to thank those (not all of whom are mentioned by name) who have so generously helped to create this fine collection of living waterfowl.

VISITORS

More than 5,000 people have visited the New Grounds during the past year. Eighty-nine parties, arriving in coaches—between 30 and 40 in each party—have been shown round, and 49 of these have been from schools and educational establishments. The Council feels that these figures are of considerable significance and indicate the importance of the Trust's contribution in the educational field.

On 10th February, 1949, H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh spent a day at the New Grounds. In perfect weather he saw the wild geese at 30 yards range, watched three Wigeon caught and ringed in the decoy, and spent several hours among the tame birds. Owing to an unfortunate attack of measles, H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth could not accompany Prince Philip as had been planned.

A few weeks later, on 27th March, the Trust was honoured by the visit of H.R.H. Princess Margaret, who spent about two hours at the New Grounds. Although the wild geese had already left, Her Royal Highness crept into one of the huts overlooking the decoy and saw a number of wild Wigeon and Teal at a range of about 10 yards.

Among the distinguished visitors we were glad to welcome a number of leading ornithologists from overseas. These included Dr. Chessex of Switzerland, Mr. Jean Delacour of the American Museum of Natural History, and Dr. Ira Gabrielson, late Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and now Director of the Wildlife Management Institute of North America.

In addition, many of the leading British ornithologists were able to come to the New Grounds at least once during the winter season (and in most cases saw the Lesser White-fronted Goose).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In its second year, as much as in its first, the Trust's progress has depended on the support which it has received—both financial and otherwise—from a large number of Members and well-wishers.