

## Numbers of geese in Britain and Ireland, 1982 – 1983

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The table below shows the numbers of the different species of ducks ringed by the Wildfowl Trust during 1982. The total is about 1000 down on the previous year, largely due to the curtailment of catching during the severe weather of January 1982, and to the very mild conditions in the later part of the year. In addition, Nacton Decoy was closed after 13 years of ringing because the low level of catches in recent years made it increasingly unprofitable to operate. Numbers caught of all species were down at Abberton Reservoir, while Abbotsbury had a much less good year. At Blunham, too, ducks were harder to catch, and here the freeze-up in January had a serious effect. Borough Fen is only operated a few times each winter but the traps at Deeping Lake nearby continue to catch useful numbers and this was the only trapping station to record an increase on 1981, with Tufted Duck

figuring well. The duck decoy and the swan catching trap were both operated at Slimbridge, the latter doing especially well with the diving ducks. Catches of ducks at Eastpark and Welney were incidental to swan catches at both sites. A new trapping station started up during 1982, at Pensthorpe, near Norwich, and quickly demonstrated its potential with good catches of Wigeon and Tufted Duck.

A single catch of 108 Barnacle Geese was made at Caerlaverock, in October, 90 being new birds, the remainder retraps.

76 Bewick's Swans were caught and ringed at Slimbridge, 30 Bewick's and 9 Whooper Swans at Welney, together with 33 Bewick's and 46 Whoopers at Eastpark. Mute Swans were again caught and ringed in Dorset, with a major round-up on the Fleet in July resulting in 187 new birds being ringed. A total of 102 cygnets were also marked later in the season.

### Ducks ringed by the Wildfowl Trust, 1982.

	Abberton	Abbotsbury	Blunham	Borough Fen	Deeping Lake	Eastpark	Nacton	Pensthorpe	Slimbridge	Welney	Totals
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	4								14		18
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	24		2		1	2		109	7		135
Gadwall <i>A. strepera</i>	81	2	2	1	4				66		156
Teal <i>A. crecca</i>	272		1		13		5	5	34		330
Mallard <i>A. platyrhynchos</i>	1059	106	1	19	515	12	56		787	7	3562
Pintail <i>A. acuta</i>	7	3			2			1	62		75
Garganey <i>A. querquedula</i>	8										8
Shoveler <i>A. clypeata</i>	6				4				10		20
Pochard <i>A. ferina</i>	101	2	161		21			9	499		793
Tufted Duck <i>A. fuligula</i>	529		297		262			177	199		1464
White-eye <i>A. nyroca</i>			1								1
Scaup <i>A. marina</i>								1	3		4
Goldeneye											
<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	1							2			3
Goosander											
<i>Mergus merganser</i>	2										2
Ruddy Duck											
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	1										1
Red-crested Pochard											
<i>Netta rufina</i>	2										2
Totals	2097	113	465	20	822	14	61	304	1682	7	6056