

# **WILDFOWL 47**

**Edited by Janet Kear**

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Cover photograph: Red-breasted Goose amongst Brent Geese by John Quinn.

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## Editorial

### *WWT's 50th Anniversary*

This journal appeared originally as the *Annual Report of The Severn Wildfowl Trust* at the end of the Trust's first working year in 1947 and, even in those days, the importance of science and research for the young organisation was obvious. *Wildfowl 47* (a couple of issues were published covering two years instead of one, which is why this is not *Wildfowl 49*) is taking its part in celebrating the jubilee of what has become The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust.

I am particularly happy to publish Hugh Boyd's contribution, Hugh was the Trust's first scientist and has seen our stature and research contribution develop and flourish. Dr Ian Newton FRS has kindly reviewed the scientific output of WWT staff over 50 years, and current staff have produced detailed reviews covering WWT involvement in wildfowl counts, ringing, swan studies, aviculture, etc.

Among the more regular contributions, I am very pleased to welcome Murray Williams' contribution on the history of the Campbell Island Teal from its first discovery to its fairly perilous state today. Pairing behaviour in a colony of Mute Swans, breeding behaviour of Chiloe Wigeon, the review of recently extinct wildfowl and the possibility that Scaup and cockle fishing on the Solway can co-exist all make fascinating reading.

Denise Rogers has been a tower of strength during the preparation of this volume, and Nikki Straughan has helped select the illustrations and made all the production arrangements. This is the first issue of *Wildfowl* to have colour illustrations of some very unusual ducks and geese; I hope that it will not be the last.

This is, however, the last complete issue of *Wildfowl* that I shall edit; I wish my successor well and should like to thank the many kind referees, and other friends, who have made my task so much easier. I chose, as a cover for this volume, a very striking photograph by John Quinn that reminded me of our Founder, Sir Peter Scott, who loved Red-breasted Geese even more than I, and who first showed them to me in the wild.

*Janet Kear*