

one in a pool of water several yards downstream. Later that day, with an ebbing tide when the top of the nest was just visible as a small island in a large expanse of water, the female was standing on the nest and pulling at bits of seaweed in a desultory manner with her mate looking on. After a week both birds lost interest in the nest. They made no attempt at breeding elsewhere.

Elizabeth A. Garden

Continuous musical note produced by the primaries of gliding Mute Swans

WHILST at Blagdon Reservoir, Somerset, on 2nd April, 1956, I observed two Mute Swans *Cygnus olor* gliding on to the reservoir from a considerable height. Against a light breeze the descent lasted about 25 seconds and not until immediately prior to alighting could I detect any movement of their outstretched wings. I was particularly interested as the birds' primaries made a pleasing and continuous musical note which throughout appeared to remain at an even pitch, though the sound intensity decreased as the birds descended. On numerous occasions I have heard the fluctuating notes made by swans flying, but never before, or since, have I heard a noise like this.

Bernard King.

A Greylag family homing on foot

EARLY in April, 1960, my Greylag gander (full-winged) which came from Slimbridge in July, 1958 disappeared with one of my two full-winged Greylag geese, which have been here (Sandhurst, Kent) since 1954, but after an absence of about a week they both reappeared, only to depart again a few days later. Soon I located them on a friend's farm just under two miles away where they had settled in near one of his small ponds. I decided they had considered the population of my own pond (about 25 geese of various sorts, mostly Canadas, and about 100 duck) too congested for breeding, though in 1959 they had nested and reared 3 out of 4 successfully hatched.

On 12th June, at about 7.30 a.m. when I went to feed my birds, I was astonished to see a couple of greylags walking outside my perimeter wire. I immediately recognised them as "Yellow" the gander and "Green" his mate from their chicken rings and to my utter amazement a two- or three-day old gosling was with them.

I immediately telephoned my friend who after, inquiring of his man, said they had been seen on his pond on Thursday, 9th June, with two small goslings, but no one had seen them since.

The plain facts therefore, are that this pair of geese had come home on foot over 2 miles of rather enclosed country, including crossing a stream, usually at this time of year only a few feet wide, but with rather high precipitous banks five or six feet high, taking some fifty to sixty hours for the journey and losing one of their two offspring on the way.

Is there any other possible explanation of how they travelled? Is there any record of geese having carried their young as for instance woodcock have been proved to do? I would have said quite impossible for a number of