

Ducks only use it as a feeding place by night, and it is at least four miles from any large water where they normally rest in the daytime.

Summary of Ducks caught from 1951-52 to 1954-55

Season	Species	Sex	Number Ringed	Recaptures	Number Caught
1951-52	Mallard	Male	5	0	16
	Mallard	Female	2	0	14
	Teal	Male	0	0	22
	Teal	Female	0	0	10
		Total ringed	7	Total caught	62
1952-53	Mallard	Male	50	36	86
	Mallard	Female	38	20	58
	Teal	Male	4	7	11
	Teal	Female	4	1	5
		Total ringed	96	Total caught	160
1953-54	Mallard	Male	59	94 (Both sexes)	153
	Mallard	Female	62	—	62
	Teal	Male	0	1	1
	Teal	Female	0	0	0
		Total ringed	121	Total caught	216
1954-55	Mallard	Male	24	15	39
	Mallard	Female	32	22	54
	Teal	Male	2	3	5
	Teal	Female	2	2	4
		Total ringed	60	Total caught	102

From the total of 284 ducks ringed there have been 45 recoveries to date, and of these 13 have been from abroad. Two Mallards ringed in February 1954 were shot within three days of each other in April the same year, one near Leningrad and the other on the Volga.

Of the total of 540 ducks caught in four seasons, 256 have been caught during dark periods and 284 during moonlight periods.

NOTE.—No ducks were caught at Mileham in 1955-56 because the pond was dry until January, and Mr Wayre was away after that.

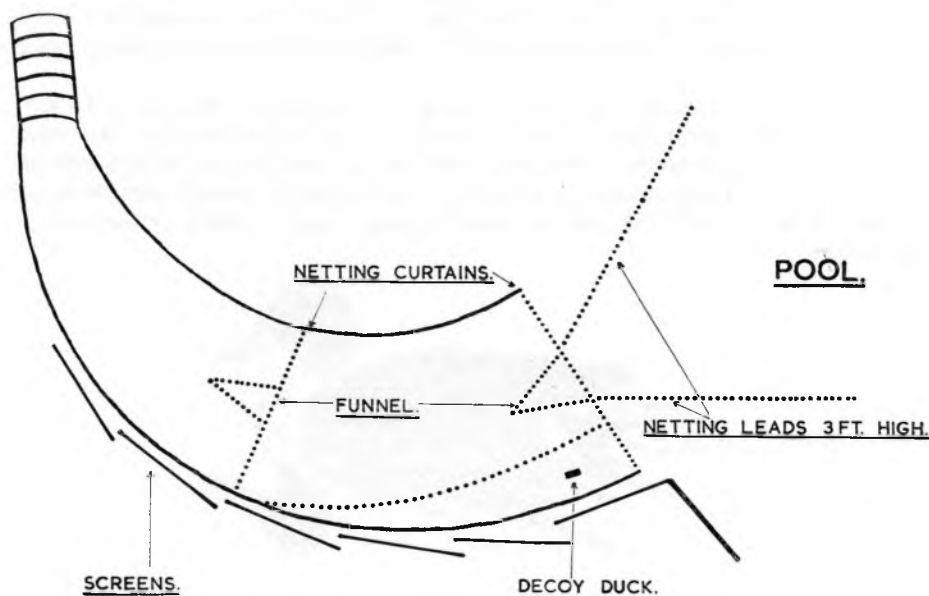
ORIELTON, 1955-56

By R. M. Lockley

One thousand and six birds were caught at Orierton in the winter of 1955-56, of which 470 were retraps. Wildfowl newly-ringed were 536, made up of 434 Teal, 26 Mallard, 25 Wigeon, 19 Tufted Duck, 11 Coot, 10 Shoveler, 8 Moorhen, 1 each Pintail, Snipe and Manx Shearwater. This is a modest increase on

recent seasons when the decoy was left almost abandoned because of lack of local interest and funds, and a supervisor. Recoveries have been as interesting as ever, with many from the Baltic and Russia.

The traps were repaired in August 1955. The one pipe which has survived years of neglect and occasional snowfalls, was, as an experiment, made into an automatic trap by netting over the front and putting a small funnel trap-entrance at water level. This was later improved by putting a further netting trap-partition half-way up the pipe to prevent the trapped ducks flying back at speed against the netting at the entrance to the pipe. It was successful, and also rendered catching in the end box much simpler. Once trapped in the entrance half, ducks soon swam upstream through the second funnel into the narrow end. A decoy duck lived happily in a lane of water and land netted off on one side of the pipe (see sketch) : receiving a feed of grain each evening, it quacked to good purpose, and almost lured in a dozen Whooper Swans during the cold spell of early spring 1956. This 'pipe-trap', with four small lakeside traps, caught over 1000 waterfowl.



The new owner of the Decoy Lake, Mr David Mason, has permitted ringing to continue as before. A small executive committee has been formed by the Council of the West Wales Field Society to advise on and manage the Decoy; serving members are W. A. Cadman, A. L. Johnson, R. M. Lockley and Peter Scott. The advice of Mr Scott, and the generous assistance of the Wildfowl Trust in securing the adoption of all the ducks recently ringed is gratefully acknowledged.

Before flowing into the Decoy Lake the stream which feeds it supplies three large ponds on the contiguous walled estate of Orielton itself, a wooded and agricultural property of 260 acres which is a private nature reserve and research station owned by the writer. On these ponds we have a collection of wild, pinioned and wing-clipped waterfowl, including Canada, Pinkfeet, Greylag,

Lesser Whitefront, Ross's Snow, Ashy-headed, Barnacle and Upland Geese, and various species of duck. This collection has begun to attract flights of wild duck, especially in winter.

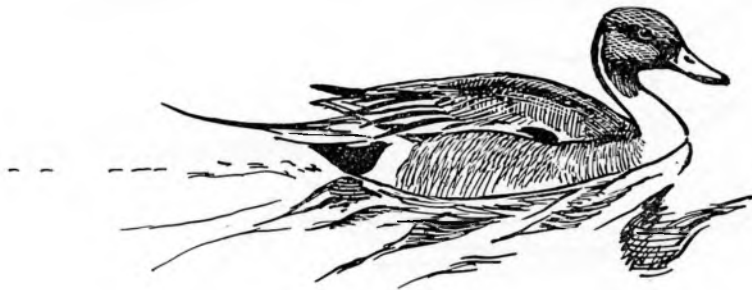
Visitors wishing to see Orielton in its early stage of development as a wildfowl refuge will be welcomed if they communicate with the writer at (two words only!) Orielton, Pembroke.

THE DUCK ADOPTION SCHEME

Under this scheme, on payment of five shillings, the subscriber is allotted a duck (or goose, if preferred) and given particulars of its species, the number of its ring and the date and place of ringing. If the bird is later recaptured or recovered the subscriber is notified of the date and place of recovery : and all subscribers receive for the next two years, after paying a subscription, a summary annual report of interesting recoveries.

Members wishing to adopt ducks or geese should write to The Assistant Secretary, The Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, enclosing five shillings for each bird. Adopted Duck Tokens (analogous to Book Tokens) are available, price six shillings.

The scheme fortunately continues to retain its popularity. In 1954 and 1955, the seventh and eighth years of its existence, the gross incomes received were £763 and £789 respectively. After the deduction of the costs of administration and of the annual report sent to adopters these represent annual contributions of about £500 towards the cost of duck ringing, nearly a third of the annual expenditure.



RECOVERIES OF RINGED DUCKS

In earlier Reports all recoveries of ducks ringed at Slimbridge, and later at Borough Fen, were presented in tabular form. But now that ringing at other stations comes within our purview the volume of recoveries has become too great to make the publication of complete lists practicable. Since the publication of selected recoveries may be very misleading to the student of migration or of population problems it seems better to avoid this practice and attempt instead to summarise the results of ringing in the form of reports on particular species. (The paper at pp. 47-51 is the first example.)

Complete records of all recoveries are kept both at the headquarters of the Bird Ringing Committee of the British Trust for Ornithology, in the British