Wildfowl 76: Editorial

Following the excitement of moving *Wildfowl*-online to The Royal Danish Library in November 2025, we continue to be delighted with its new home at https://tidsskrift.dk/Wildfowl, where the full back catalogue will be held in perpetuity. Further information about the transfer is provided in *Wildfowl* 75's editorial (Rees 2025), and it's immensely reassuring to know that papers in the journal will continue to be readily available (open access for authors and readers alike!) for posterity. Some fine-tuning of anomalies – mostly correction of typing glitches (which arose on transferring the metadata) – is scheduled for the long winter evenings and, given the venerable history of the journal (dating back to 1948), this may take a while to finalise. Pdfs of published papers can all however be downloaded, free of charge, and printed copies of recent issues (from *Wildfowl* 71 onwards) are also available by subscription on contacting the Editor.

This year's issue – *Wildfowl* 76 – continues the journal's strong tradition of publishing fresh insights into the ecology and conservation of wildfowl and associated waterbirds. A paper on trends in the abundance and diversity of waterbirds at the Mandrozo Ramsar site in Madagascar illustrates its importance for several endemic and threatened species, such as the Malagasy Pond Heron *Ardeola idae*, Malagasy Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis bernieri* and Madagascar Grebe *Tachybaptus pelzenii*. Description and testing of an electronic device, used in North America (but not yet in Europe) to determine the principal metal types of shot within intact shotgun cartridges, should help to advance assessment and thus promotion of the use of non-toxic alternatives to lead shotgun pellets by hunters. Potential mitigation measures for wildfowl management were also investigated in a study of the effectiveness of lethal *vs*. non-lethal scaring in displacing geese from arable crops. The extent to which micro-plastics pervade the environment are of increasing concern and, following on from an analysis of synthetic micro-particles ingested by geese in Great Britain and Ireland published in *Wildfowl* 75 (Coughlan *et al*. 2025) we now learn that they are also evident in the diet of Chilean Flamingos *Phoenicopterus chilensis* wintering on Chiloé, in southern Chile.

With the advance of GPS tracking, we have much better knowledge of the amazing migrations undertaken by waterbirds, in this case Whooper Swans *Cygnus cygnus*. The overseas migration between the Icelandic-breeding populations' summer quarters and their wintering sites in Britain and Ireland was already considered remarkable for such a large bird relying on flapping flight (Pennycuick *et al*. 1996), but we now discover for the first time that the swans can, and do, fly > 2,000 km directly from the Netherlands to Iceland. Other fascinating contributions include a paper on the importance of small kettle-hole wetlands in farmland as safe brood-rearing habitat, thought to have facilitated range expansion for Greylag Geese breeding in Denmark; an assessment of the effects of nasal saddles on the body condition of Common Teal *Anas crecca*; and analysis of factors affecting variation in the flushing distance of Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* females from their nests. There are also several gems in the short communications section: on the response of Harlequin Ducks *Histrionicus histrionicus* to

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conservation measures in overseas North Atlantic French islands; on whether aggression levels (found to be very low) influence the dispersal of Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* in Aalborg Bugt, Denmark, during winter; and on the number of Brent Geese *Branta bernicla nigricans* at a key wintering site for the species in East Asia, where their winter distribution is still poorly known.

At the start of 2026 the Editorial Board agreed that it was time to extend membership of the board, and we embarked on a recruitment process. I'm therefore delighted to report that Dr Ádám Lovas-Kiss from the HUN-REN Centre for Ecological Research, Hungary, and Prof Scott McWilliams from the Department of Natural Resources Science, University of Rhode Island, USA, have joined the team. All Editorial Board members have kindly acted as Handling Editors, by processing papers submitted to *Wildfowl* 76, and I'm inordinately grateful to them for their time and expert knowledge in ensuring that scientific standards are maintained. The professionalism of Ellen Matthews (EM Typesetting), Kevin Parnell (Copy Editor) and the printers (including Andrew Hopwood) at Henry Ling Ltd have again resulted in *Wildfowl* being published effectively and seamlessly on schedule, whilst Paul Marshall has once again produced a beautiful design for the cover. Last, but by no means least, I thank the referees for reviewing the papers, and the authors for submitting their work to the *Wildfowl*. That papers continue to be submitted 78 years after the first issue seems to me to reflect not only the esteem in which the journal is held, but the immense enthusiasm for wildfowl (ducks, geese and swans) which persists unabated among researchers, conservationists and the public more widely in these very different times.

Eileen Rees
Editor: *Wildfowl*

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