

International Swan Symposium at Slimbridge

In association with the annual Executive Board Meeting of the International Waterfowl Research Bureau, which took place at Slimbridge, a 2-day symposium on swans was organized jointly with the Wildfowl Trust on 7 and 8 December 1971. It did not prove possible to publish the proceedings of the symposium in book form, but a number of the major papers are printed in this issue of *Wildfowl*. These are the contributions by William W. H. Gunn (Canada); Professor W. J. L. Sladen (Co-ordinator of the I.W.R.B. Swan Research Group), James G. King, Calvin J. Lensink and Henry A. Hansen (all of the United States); Mrs. Rose Lesser (Japan); Dr Sven Mathiasson (Sweden); Dr Murray Williams (New Zealand). A major part of C. M. Reynolds' (U.K.) contribution was published in *Wildfowl*, 23:111-118, 'Mute Swan weights in relation to breeding performance'. Mary Evans outlined the Bewick's Swan research being carried out by the Wildfowl Trust and Dr Janet Kear introduced 'The Swans', the monograph by Peter Scott and the Wildfowl Trust which was published shortly afterwards. Two papers on particular aspects of the Trust's

work on Bewick's Swans complete the presentation in this volume.

Other papers presented to the symposium were those of Dr C. D. T. Minton on 'A study of Mute Swans in Central England'; Dr C. M. Perrins and Malcolm Ogilvie on 'A study of colonially breeding Mute Swans in Dorset'; Dr J. Cadbury on 'Swans on the Ouse Washes, eastern England'; A. Timmermann 'On the occurrence of swans in the Netherlands'; P. Andersen-Harild 'Swan research in Denmark'; Dr A. Haapanen on 'Whooper Swan research in Finland'; and R. F. Rutledge on 'Distribution of Whooper and Bewick's Swans in Ireland'. Dr Tom W. Barry (Canada) presented a draft 'Bibliography of the Swan' and this has since been extended, in association with Dr Janet Kear, to cover more than a thousand annotated entries. It will shortly be published by the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Other participants were G. L. Atkinson-Willes (U.K.), H. Boyd (Canada), Professor P. Grenquist (Finland), Mr K. Honda (Japan), P. N. Humphreys, Professor G. V. T. Matthews, Dr M. Owen, B. L. Sage, Sir Peter and Lady Scott, Dafila Scott, N. A. Wood (all U.K.) and Mr S. Yoshikawa (Japan).

Figure 1. Feeding time of the wild Bewick's Swans *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* is demon-

strated to the symposium participants on a misty morning.

K. Honda

