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"SWAN UPPING"

CENSUS ON THE THAMES.

Picture.:-

The ancient custom of taking a census of the swans on the Thames, is carried out by the King's Swan-Master.

The majority of these graceful birds belong to the King, while the

remainder are the

property of the Dyers and Vintners Companies of

the City of London. The King's birds are unmarked, and it is the duty of the Swan-Master

to 'nick' the beaks of the remainder to indicate to which Company they belong.

The process of 'nicking' is in no way painful, but nevertheless

the birds don't like it. The ordeal is

soon over and the birds are once more free to

roam the peaceful reaches of old Father Thames.