



# “FLIGHT”

NO 1/75

To date, we have received only one suggestion, from a member in Canada, regarding a new name for this publication - his suggestion was "DUCK CALL". While we are enthusiastic about this name, it is identical to a similar publication prepared by Ducks Unlimited in North America. We have therefore decided that "FLIGHT" will be retained as the name of this newsletter in the meantime.

## SIR KEITH HOLYOAKE "I CARE YEAR" AWARD

The Tamaki Estuary Protection Society were co-winners of this award with a gentleman from Wellington. While we were disappointed that DU was not successful, we are pleased that half the funds involved have gone to an area where waterfowl habitat has been saved from drainage. Our congratulations to the Tamaki Estuary Protection Society for their courage and determination.

## GAME FAIR - AUCKLAND



This was conducted under the auspices of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society as part of the "COME ALIVE" campaign in the region. DU's participation can only be counted as outstandingly successful. We were given time on Northern Television, the only exhibitor at the Fair to be given this opportunity. The television report was factual, complimentary and a very valuable publicity tool - and an unexpected one.

The display of waterfowl, loaned by various DU members, was probably the greatest display of its type to be seen in New Zealand, comprising approximately 150 birds. The bird which attracted the most attention, from the television camera and visitors, was of course the female Maned Goose, the only one of its species in this country. Among the numerous other species on display were the Egyptian Goose, the Australian Mountain Duck, Mandarins, Chestnut, Brown and Grey Teal, Scaup etc. Around the perimeter of the display, we erected 30 Grey Teal nesting boxes which attracted a good deal of favourable comment - these are the same type of box we are using in our project "Operation Gretel".

## GAME FAIR - contd

Members of the Executive at the Fair had the opportunity to meet for the first time many members, and prospective members, plus others interested in conservation of wetlands. Also, many raffle tickets were sold - to benefit "Operation Gretel". Many times, the bridge over our display pond was so crammed with onlookers that people could not move on or off it! We estimate that something like 40,000 saw our display which appeared to be one of the highlights of the Fair - particularly in view of the publicity on television on the Saturday evening.

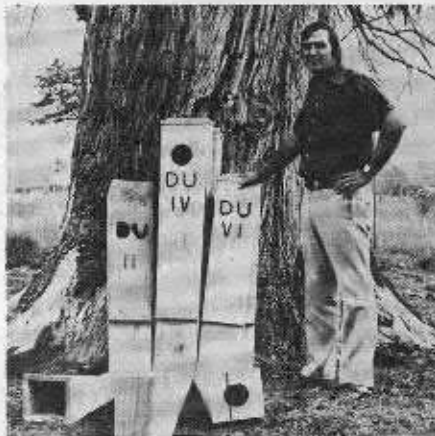
As members will know, we had to construct our own pond when Auckland Acclimatisation Society subsequently withdrew permission to use the main pond - they held a display of their own in this area.

### OUR THANKS must go to

- the many DU members (many of whom we had not met until that point) who gave their time and effort willingly to prepare the area for the birds on Thursday and Friday - and who also cleaned up on Sunday evening at the conclusion of the Fair. Without this assistance, we would just not have had a display at all,
- Armoured Freightways Limited, Hamilton. The birds were assembled at Hamilton prior to the Fair and transported to the site by an armoured van kindly loaned by this company, without which transportation would have been a serious problem
- CP Air for their willing and valuable assistance with professional display work and promotions in the DU marquees

### RAFFLE - TO BENEFIT "OPERATION GRETEL"

Sales of tickets are progressing well and to those who have already returned butts with money, our sincere thanks. Many members have requested further books - so, if you require more, please drop us a note. To those who have not yet returned butts, we would ask you to do so, with money, as soon as possible. Naturally, we require the funds to be returned well before the raffle closes - this is a requirement of the Department of Internal Affairs.



### "OPERATION GRETEL"

We have now constructed three prototype nest boxes and, during the next three years, an evaluation will be made of the type(s) most suitable for Grey Teal. Once a decision is made, work will commence on construction of 4,000 for erection throughout the country in suitable habitat. We currently have 60 boxes completed and these will be numbered with an alphabetical prefix of either "V" "X" "Z" and will carry the DU brand. In the 1975 year we will be erecting the greater proportion of the boxes on a property in the Wangamarino swamp, and the balance in the Wairarapa.

We have also received permission from the Department of Lands & Survey (Waikato area) to erect boxes in various "Crown" swamps. Initially finance will restrict our operations for 1975, but we will be placing at least 60 out for the spring breeding season. These boxes are costing approximately \$ 5 each to construct - so you can see we really need an all-out effort with the raffle tickets to accelerate "Operation Gretel".

### DECAL

At last - we have pleasure in enclosing your car windscreen decal. We apologize for the delay in production, but this has been beyond our control (1975/76 members will have received their decal). If you would like further stickers, these can be obtained at a cost of \$ 1 each. As these are weatherproof, they are designed to be placed on the exterior of the windscreen, simply by peeling off the base.



## WATERFOWL BREEDING SEASON - Keemen Reports

Field observations and reports from members throughout the country indicate that the past waterfowl breeding season was a "vintage" year. Good steady rains during the winter saw every vantage point with an abundance of water and, with the subsequent aquatic weed growth, conditions were laid on for the waterfowl.

The Black Swan, although having a good breeding year, is still low in numbers compared with prior to the Wahine storm and this species should be watched closely over the next few years. From reports received, the Paradise Duck seem to have dropped in numbers in the last twelve months - so, like the Black Swan, will require close attention. In the Wellington area, there would appear to have been a "population explosion" of the Grey Duck. From recent trappings in the Wairarapa area, 90% of the birds caught were Greys and this is not due to the wariness of the Mallard.



## FURTHER BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS - DU DIRECTORS

We continue with:

F. Henry Lickers aged 30, married, student at Waikato University under the sponsorship of the Canadian Government and Indian Affairs Department. Henry is a full blooded North American Indian of Canadian descent and, prior to moving to New Zealand, worked for the Canadian Wildlife Service on waterfowl research. He has a vast knowledge of the workings of nature, derived from his early upbringing in the Canadian wilds. Currently, Henry is doing a survey of the Black Swan on Lake Whangapae.

Trevor A. Voss aged 34, married with 3 children. Dairy farmer on a family property at Hawera. New Zealand's pioneer waterfowl breeder and without doubt the top aviculturist in this country. Has donated hundreds of native waterfowl to fanciers, zoos and the NZ Wildlife Service over the years and recently received a citation from the Fauna Advisory Protection Council for his outstanding work in this field. A foundation member of DU, Advisory Member Wildfowl Trust, Vice President NZ Aviculturists Society.



## NEWS FROM DUDLEY BELL

Dudley has concluded his reports and has now left DU Canada and the United States and is holidaying in the United Kingdom with his wife. Prior to his return and whilst in the U.K. Dudley is taking the opportunity to study waterfowl conditions in that country. Dudley's reports have been extremely valuable to DU Executive and we hope you have enjoyed reading extracts from them in previous issues of "FLIGHT". We are all looking forward to his return when these matters can be discussed in much more detail.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1975/76

Enclosed is your 1975/76 membership renewal. As you may recall reading in the "His Tomorrow" brochure (further copy enclosed) membership has been widened to encompass trade, active, supporter, junior and life membership. DU is only as effective as the support it receives from members - your renewal subscription will enable us to continue work already begun - particularly accelerate "Operation Gretel". As at 31 March, we have 119 members.

Travel with CPAir is a global affair.

**CPAir**



Canadian Pacific

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Plans are to hold this meeting in Wellington on the last Saturday in June (i.e. 28th). We hope as many members as possible will attend and we will be sending out shortly more detailed information. This will be no ordinary "AGM" - we will have guest speaker (s), possibly DU movies supplied by DU Canada and U.S.A. - and proceedings will be followed by an informal "festive hour". However, more of this later.

DUCKS UNLIMITED MOVIES

A very interesting and stimulating evening was had by all those who attended the February meeting of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society. Two DU films were shown - "MIKE" and "WINGS FROM THE NORTH". All present seemed to agree that these movies were outstanding and gave an excellent picture of DU's work in the North American continent, plus exciting shots of waterfowl in their natural habitat. Wellington Acclimatisation Society are members of DU and kindly allowed us to present these films at their meeting - and it was a worthwhile experience.

Ducks Unlimited in Canada and the United States have an extensive film library and it is possible to obtain, from time to time, films for presentation to New Zealand members, plus interested organisations such as gun clubs, acclimatisation societies etc. All inquiries for films should be directed to Hamilton.

PUBLICITY

For your information, enclosed is an interesting article which appeared in The New Zealand Farmer and was prepared by our member, Mr Stuart Chambers who writes a regular Nature Column in this magazine.



Further Game Fair Shots - courtesy of an enthusiastic amateur cameraman/member



**DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INCORPORATED**

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