



## “FLIGHT”

FLIGHT 2/77 ISSUE 12

JUNE 1977

### OPERATION BRANTA GETS UNDER WAY !

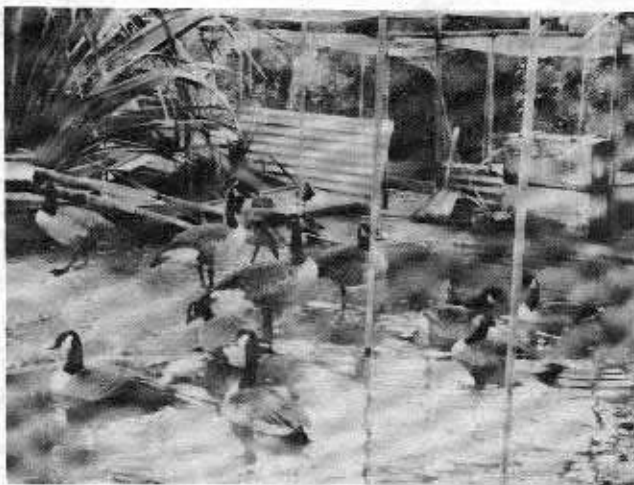
Our Canada goose project, which involves the establishment of the Canada goose in the North Island, got off to a good start when the first shipment of birds arrived at Wellington airport on 30 April. Photo 1 shows Ed Davis, DU member from the U.S.A., assisting with the arrival. Member Alan Hart and Director Peter McLeod of Christchurch had done some fine work in assembling the birds and we are indebted to them.

The birds were held overnight in the aviary of Wellington director, Neil Hayes, (photo 2) and from there, with the help of Ian Buchanan, senior field officer of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society (and DU member) they were taken to the property of our member, Mr Jim Campbell who farms in the Wairarapa. Hopefully this DU transfer of birds from the South Island will be the first of many. DU already has a sizeable list of members waiting for geese, but if you know of any other members likely to be interested, please let us know. It is interesting to note that with all the recent 'hue and cry' over Canada geese on farmland, DU has a long list of farmer members waiting for geese!

Photo 1



Photo 2



DU (NZ) REPRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

report by P.B.C. Pirani, Vice President



1937-1977 — FOUR DECADES OF CONSERVATION PIONEERING

Introduction

I was privileged to attend, together with my wife Cheryl (DU Director) and my brother Ian (President DU (NZ) ) and his wife, Dawn, the 40th annual convention of Ducks Unlimited Inc held in April (springtime) in the beautiful city of San Francisco. Your board decided in December last that a representative from New Zealand should attend and, following plans already made for a private visit, it was decided we would co-ordinate this to include attendance at the conference. Special thanks are due to CP AIR for their generosity with air transportation, service and hospitality to and from the conference - this enabled the visit to be undertaken without any cost to DU (NZ).

The Conference was held at the Fairmont Hotel atop panoramic Nob Hill in San Francisco, from Tuesday 19 through to Friday 22 April. In attendance were some 600 delegates from the United States, Canada, Mexico and New Zealand and it was with a sense of pride that we noted the New Zealand flag in prominent display at the conference table, together with those of the other participating countries - a very thoughtful action on the part of the conference committee.

Convention delegates were confronted with a busy schedule of business centred around officer elections, fund raising workshops and DU's multi million dollar restoration programme in Canada. DUMAC (DU de Mexico) and DU (Canada) added the continental perspective so necessary for the complete picture of North American waterfowl conservation. Exhibits depicting past and present project construction from both DU (Canada) and DUMAC were in prominent display. Sessions were intense, concentrated affairs conducted with a sense of urgency and purpose and would sometimes commence with breakfast meetings and end with social functions around midnight - long action packed days and nights, stimulating, exciting, thought provoking and definitely periods for learning from the point of view of the New Zealand contingent. In the four days we assimilated much knowledge during such sessions as the fund raising workshop where those present were given detailed accounts of successful fundraising techniques proven over and over. Also available were copies of all the addresses given, so we have a permanent record for use among our own administrative people and adaptation to New Zealand conditions. Many delegates based their techniques for successful fundraising on QUALITY - short, but informative programmes and functions with first class auction items and, behind all this, detailed planning and co-ordination. One underlying factor common to all was that nothing would have been achieved without the dedication and untiring efforts of the many DU 'volunteers' across the country. We were surprised to learn during this period that many chapters (as they are called,) had very small beginnings (as small as our own in some cases) and this was of great encouragement when we saw what had been achieved. Even allowing for our limitations of manpower and funds, so much is possible.

Ian and I were privileged to be invited to address the executive committee, at which time we were given the opportunity to convey something of New Zealand conditions and what we were endeavouring to achieve. We were also invited to address conference delegates later in the programme. In this latter respect, we felt at a distinct disadvantage, following as we did superbly polished presentations employing slides and movies by the American, Canadian and Mexican Delegations - our efforts seemed very small in comparison (particularly as they had just adopted a budget of some US\$ 12.5 million for the 1977/78 year!) However, we were graciously and warmly received and delegates appeared very interested and curious as to what New Zealand was doing in the waterfowl conservation field. The American and Canadian presentations were 'punchy' and informative. The Americans first dealt with administrative and financial reports, and the Canadians with how funds had been expended and the location of present and future projects, results achieved and so on. The Mexican contingent had its own dramatic presentation of work done in their country which was also very impressive.

As well as the numerous general business gatherings, there were many social gatherings and an opportunity to see a great deal of the San Francisco area than would otherwise have been possible on our own - it was also an opportunity to get acquainted with the other delegates on a more personal basis. Visits were made to the Napa Valley, the major wine producing area in California, house tours and sightseeing for the ladies, wine tasting at the historic de Young Museum which houses an extensive collection of oriental art and sculpture and where we also viewed an exhibition of waterfowl art specially arranged by Ducks Unlimited Inc. The conference concluded with a special banquet on Friday 22 April which was a glittering occasion and during the evening an auction was held and items, such as collector's shotguns, waterfowl art and waterfowl porcelain were auctioned for very high prices to defray conference expenses.

The People we met, we will remember always. We were fortunate in meeting most of the DU officials in the Canadian and American organisations, and also people with whom we have corresponded for the past few years - people who have gone out of their way to be of assistance from such a long distance. I feel our New Zealand members should be made aware of the constant and continuing encouragement we receive from the Ducks Unlimited organisation, without which, at times, we just could not carry on. We were shown great kindness and hospitality by all we met and it was heartening to meet with persons encompassing all areas of business and waterfowl activity on common ground - our great concern for the future of all waterfowl. Ducks Unlimited (NZ) has some very good friends and active supporters on the other side of the Pacific.



After the Conference we drove from San Francisco through to Vancouver, B.C. and en route called at various private waterfowl collections. The first call was at the home of the Sebastiani family in the major wine producing region of California, the Napa Valley. In addition to his expertise in wine, Mr August Sebastiani is a world renowned ornithologist and great friend of Ducks Unlimited in the United States. His son in law, Dick Cuneo, kindly invited us to view the waterfowl collection, which was an extensive one. Sebastiani Vineyards have developed a three acre irrigation pond into a haven for migrating ducks and geese. Secluded among the vines of their 300 acre Schellville ranch, as many as 4,000 waterfowl a day have taken refuge there and, to New Zealand eyes, it was a most impressive sight to view the many waterfowl in occupation. At Seattle, Washington, we were delighted to meet with Mr Charles Pilling, also world renowned ornithologist and the only breeder to successfully breed and rear Hooded Mergansers in captivity. His collection was housed on a reasonably small lot in a built up city area and was an example of what can be achieved where space is limited. During these visits we saw many new species (to New Zealand eyes), first hand, among them - the wood duck, mandarin, pintail, Canada geese which were naturally a familiar sight, the canvasback, greenwing teal, merganser, black duck, lesser and greater scaup, snow geese and numerous other species - we have dozens of photographs of these species which will be available and displayed at the annual conference for those interested.

In Vancouver, we called at the farm property of Mr Richard Trethewey, DU (NZ) member who had attended the San Francisco conference, accompanied by the chief executive of DU (Canada) Mr Hugh Mackay and his wife, Geraldine and Mr Tom Sterling, provincial biologist DU (Canada). Richard Trethewey's collection is extensive and housed in an exquisite rural lake setting. We were taken on a tour of the property and its waterfowl, were impressed with the many wood duck nesting boxes erected in trees around the perimeter of the property -(and also with one of Richard's more extrovert Canada geese who gave DU (Canada) President, Hugh Mackay a hard time!) and with the layout of waterfowl nesting boxes and their construction. We have gained many ideas for our Operation HQ from these visits.

DU (Canada) in British Columbia Ducks Unlimited (Canada) had made extensive preparations to ensure that our visit, although short, was enjoyable, factual and informative, and intensive use of time was made so that not a minute was wasted. We were taken to view several projects in British Columbia, each financed by a particular state of the United States of America, and at each location is a reference or acknowledgement to the funds source - generally the United States chapters of Ducks Unlimited Inc finance waterfowl conservation projects to benefit waterfowl using their particular 'flyway' to Canada i.e. the flightpath taken by waterfowl through to the winter breeding grounds in Canada.

One such project was the 2,700 acre Pitt Meadow programme, located along the Pitt River near Vancouver. Development work commenced late in 1976 to improve a dyke built some years ago which was designed to prevent flooding. Further dykes and several water control structures will complete this project. Phase 1 is scheduled for completion, leaving only the construction of nesting islands for a later date. This project is funded by the state of California and is being developed in co-operation with the provincial Wildlife Branch which recently acquired the land from agricultural interests. During 1977, DU will build interior dykes to separate the project into compartments for marsh management. Engineering works will be constructed to divert infertile mountain runoff water past the marsh and directly into the Pitt River. In addition, the improvement of existing exterior dykes will assure flood protection from the nearby Fraser River.

A call was made at Douglas Island, 15 miles east of Vancouver - here we saw the results of extensive dragline work resulting in control structures at the 245 acre project. Canada geese were in attendance and checked on our progress from time to time as we walked over areas of recently developed wetland - we also saw many wood duck nesting boxes erected in the treetops.

Reverting a little - we had experienced a thrill when we drove through to Canada from the United States - just over the border we passed a huge waterfowl area running parallel to the expressway and to our delight saw hundreds of Canada geese (a fitting welcome we thought). We were further delighted to pay a visit to this region later during our visit and to learn that it was administered by Ducks Unlimited and was the Serpentine project, about which we had heard and read a great deal in the past. This is the location of a Canada goose release programme in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia. A breeding flock has been established at Serpentine, 20 miles south of Vancouver where a total of 466 young Canadas were produced during the year, 264 of which were banded and released at selected sites in the Fraser Valley. We also saw soft, fluffy Canada chicks having their first view of the outside world, on the day we visited.

A call was also made at the Reifel Range - this is an area of scientific study, a waterfowl resting and display area located on property donated by George C. Reifel. It is administered by a board of directors which has been responsible for developing the region into the extensive sanctuary it is today. Ducks Unlimited has also provided funds for waterfowl development at the Reifel Range, which is open to the public and well planned with walkways and observation points for the many groups and school parties who were visiting at the time we were there. Here, too, we saw many many species of waterfowl.

The projects we visited, together with others in the region of British Columbia, administered by DU (Canada) have added 1,681 acres of marsh habitat for waterfowl using the Pacific Flyway - we are indeed grateful to the executive officers of DU (Canada) for this glimpse of practical waterfowl conservation in action. Our special thanks, at this point, to Mr Robert (Bob) White of DU (Canada) who was responsible for our Canadian visit and who made arrangements for our care. We also spent several hours at his weekend retreat, were entertained to lunch, which was superb (and which he organised!) and to a fine display of retrieving by Bob's Labradors - we also viewed his collection of waterfowl at the conclusion of a delightful visit.

DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC - ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1977 - BE THERE !

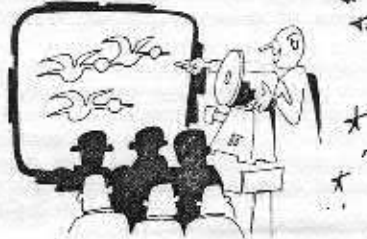
Details of our annual conference follow . . . . this promises to be an exciting and stimulating gathering. Interesting guest speakers, highlights of the year's programmes, slide presentations, waterfowl movie, auction items from the unusual to the practical - all promise an informative and enjoyable experience for those planning to attend.

MARK SATURDAY 9 JULY IN YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR EVENT OF THE YEAR.

VENUE: Gateway Lodge (formerly Hunters Lodge), Kirkbride Road (Mangere)  
DATE: Saturday, 9 July 1977 TIME: commences 2 pm (note time change from that previously advertised)

\*\*\* A G E N D A \*\*\*

- 2.00 pm Registration and payment of conference fee
- 2.30 pm Official opening, welcome speech, and apologies
- 2.35 pm Minutes previous meeting
- 2.40 pm President's annual report, and presentation annual financial statement
- 3.00 pm Election of two directors from the floor, representing members. Under the provisions of Rule 3, K. Mackie being eligible offers himself for re-election. (G. Butts has advised he is not available this year.)
- 3.10 pm Report - Operation Gretel (Messrs Butts/Mackie)
- 3.30 pm Guest speaker - Mr M.O.W. Pomara, Trustee, World Wildlife Fund of N.Z.
- 3.50 pm Break for refreshment (President's 'shout')
- 4.20 pm Report - Operation Pateke (I.H. Pirani)
- 4.35 pm Report - Operation Branta (P.M. McLeod) and - Operation HQ (D.G. Bell)
- 4.50 pm Guest speaker - Mr D.A. McCulloch, President, North Island Council of New Zealand Acclimatisation Societies
- 5.10 pm General business
- 5.30 pm Ducks Unlimited movie - 'The Canada Goose' (kindly loaned by Ducks Unlimited Inc Chicago, USA)
- 6.00 pm Refreshments
- 7.00 pm Dinner
- 8.15 pm Auction - Auctioneer: Mr K.G.W. Wilkinson
- 8.45 pm Refreshments (note: bar will be open throughout conference)



Registration Fee: We are pleased to advise that we are able to keep this charge to \$ 10 per head, the same as last year. This covers the excellent menu, conference room hire and allows a very small profit for DU (NZ). Members are welcome, and encouraged, to bring along wives, girlfriends, friends and sportsmen. This could be your opportunity to introduce a friend to DU. The cost for each guest is also \$ 10 - we are confident this low figure will help you attract many more guests! There is also an opportunity for those members who have not renewed and wish to do so, to pay their 1977/78 subscription and, of course, to enrol new members.

Accommodation: If you wish to reserve accommodation at the Gateway Lodge for the evening, it would be wise to do so now direct with the motel (phone Mangere 54 079) which is located near to Auckland international airport.

Dinner Menu: an excellent selection has been arranged for the occasion from . . . hot beef curry and rice, cold ham, cold roast beef, cold roast chicken, corned silverside, with selection of salads . . . potato, coleslaw, beetroot, tomatoes, eggs, bean, cucumber etc, followed by: . . . trifle, apple pie, fruit salad, ice cream, creme caramels and gateaux.

Your attendance: Many have returned the attendance indicator form in the last issue of FLIGHT. However, so we can finalise numbers for catering etc, would all those who hope to attend, who have not advised us, please complete the form below. If you wish, you may enclose your conference fee - see form.

RETURN TO: Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc, P.O. Box 74, Hamilton

Name: . . . . . No attending . . . . .  
Address: . . . . .

(tick applicable) I enclose conference fee \$ 10 for myself  my friend(s)

COME TO THE DUCKS UNLIMITED AUCTION - THESE ARE TRULY MAGNIFICENT AUCTION ITEMS

HERE'S A CHANCE YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

WATERFOWL ART - AMMUNITION - CAMERA - FREE DOOR PRIZES - LABRADOR PUP - CAMOUFLAGE GEAR

AUCTION ITEMS

*CAC Industries, Auckland*  
1 case ammunition

*F.N. Hayes - DU director*  
1 Remington shaver

*Mr Gaylord Donnelley, DU USA*  
1 print Mallards (framed courtesy  
Mr and Mrs I.H. Pirani)

*Mullins Pharmacy, Cambridge*  
Isomatic rapid camera

*Valentines, Hamilton*  
1 fabric camouflage jacket/trousers

*Mrs J. Parry/Mr S. Bronger*  
Weekend for two on Matakana Island,  
Tauranga

*Anonymous donor*  
Special mystery auction item (only  
the auctioneer is 'in the know').

*Mr I. Mackay*  
1 yellow labrador puppy (from working  
stock) aged 10 weeks at auction date

*Valentines, Hamilton*  
1 camouflage jacket

*Wellington Sporting Arms Co.*  
1 pr Bausch & Lomb shooting glasses  
(Green)

*P.M. McLeod - DU director*  
1 Jim Beam Kentucky Bourbon in Ducks  
Unlimited porcelain decanter

*Ducks Unlimited, Inc - U.S.A.*  
1 waterfowl art print - 'Autumn Snows  
and Blues' by DU artist of the year,  
John Cowan

*P.B.C. Pirani - DU director*  
1 nylon camouflage suit, large size,  
reverses from camouflage to marsh brown

RAFFLE/DOOR PRIZES

*P.B.C. Pirani - DU director*  
1 single point Optical sight

*Sports Depot, Wellington*  
1 12 gauge cleaning rod (Parker Hale)

*Mrs A. Butts, Auckland*  
2 macrame hanging baskets

*K. Mackie - DU director*  
coffee table with ceramic tiled top

*Milicich Wines, Ngahinapouri*  
6 assorted sherries

*Hamilton Pottery Studio*  
large, handmade pottery bowl

*H.I. Jones - DU director*  
1 print pair wood ducks by Canadian Game Bird  
Fine Arts, mounted

*Isco, Wellington*  
1 'Open Road' sportsman knife

*B. Wilde - Ohakune Pharmacy*  
Bags fresh 'Ohakune' vegetables

*Email Industries Ltd, Wellington*  
cans C.R.C. oil

*Anonymous donor*  
1 'Dunlopillow'

*P.B.C. Pirani - DU director*  
1 DU cap, with embroidered DU emblem

*P.B.C. Pirani and I.H. Pirani*  
4 camouflage aprons suitable for barbecue chefs

*Masport Sales & Service, Queenwoods', Hamilton*  
Stretch carrier straps

*Hallensteins, Chartwell Square, Hamilton*  
1 denim bag

*Fairfield Bridge Dairy, Hamilton*  
1 gift assortment chocolates

*Weymouth Pharmacy, Hamilton*  
Perfume, talc, aftershave

*Gail's Florist, Hamilton*  
Dried flower arrangement

*Mullins Pharmacy, Cambridge*  
'Dorothy Gray' cosmetics

*Anonymous donor*  
Assorted car accessories

*I.H. Pirani - DU director*  
Embroidered asbestos pot stand

*F. Price & Son, gunmaker, Hamilton*  
1 power lantern

*J. Worth*  
Peter Scott print (framed by Ian  
Parnham Gallery, Hamilton)

*P.M. McLeod - DU director*  
6 waterfowl art prints by Peter  
Scott/Vernon Ward





WELCOME TO DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) !

With the 'arrival' of those new members below, our membership now totals exactly 350! Welcome to:

|                  |     |                       |      |                           |      |
|------------------|-----|-----------------------|------|---------------------------|------|
| C.R. Anderson    | (F) | E.G. Halidone         | *(S) | M.O.W. Pomare             | (S)  |
| Ms Ellen Brook   | (S) | A.J. Harbottle        | (F)  | R. Rayner                 | *(F) |
| E. Bright        | (S) | Miss C. Hudson        | (S)  | D. Rushton                | *(S) |
| G. Butler        | (F) | Katikati Bird Gardens | (S)  | J.L. Sherwood             | (S)  |
| M.I. Christensen | (F) | Mr & Mrs B.R. Lusby   | (S)  | G.P.H. Smith              | (F)  |
| J. Clements      | (S) | S.S. McDonnell        | (F)  | A.B. Souness              | (F)  |
| A.G. Currie      | (F) | N. Mair               | (S)  | Dr M.A. Todd              | (F)  |
| P.H.W. Egan      | (J) | R.D. Miller           | (F)  | V. Wadsworth              | (F)  |
| C.J. Egan        | (F) | A.J. O'Neill          | (F)  | Whangarei Acclimatisation |      |
| W.R. Egan        | (S) | Otago Acclimatisation |      | Society                   | *(S) |
| J.E. Haggerty    | (F) | Society               | (F)  | Samantha Wright           | (S)  |

\* denotes Sponsored

Special thanks to . . . Bank of New South Wales, Waitara for a donation of \$ 20, and to Consolidated Traders who have increased their membership to Trade and made a donation of \$ 30 in addition.



SEASON'S END . . . . Season's end is a time of reflection. It quiets the restless soul within and gives us pause to contemplate seasons yet to come. It is a time of spiritual refinement that neither demands explanation nor requires any. Season's end is also a time of re-dedication and resolution. It is a time when Ducks Unlimited looks back to say thank you and looks forward to serving the remarkable waterfowl resource that gives welcome to each spring and substance to each autumn. Season's end is a time of reflection, and with your contributions, Ducks Unlimited will continue to reflect your concern for New Zealand waterfowl all year long.

HAVE YOU RENEWED FOR 1977/78?

KEEMEN AND KEEMEN REPORTS

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr N. Mair, Gore, as a Keeman representative in his area and, regretfully, we record the resignation of Mr Leigh Thompson who has performed well and with enthusiasm - Leigh has said he will still be available for working parties and we thank him for his past support and contribution.

Keemen reports . . . from the north

'Keemen report that owing to success in the Paradise duck breeding season of 1976, the Department of Internal Affairs have permitted an extended hunting season from 2 to 7 days. There are reports of up to 300 birds using the Hikurangi oxidation lagoon area, and it seems the Paradise is establishing itself very successfully in the north. . . . . A proposed wildlife refuge area visited by one Keeman, an area of about 800 m. long, contained many hundred, perhaps thousands, of grey and mallard duck. Also observed was the not so often seen shoveller. . . . . Swan numbers in many areas appeared better than last year after the breeding season. . . . . It appears that 'progress' (that is, swamp drainage in the Hikurangi area) may create an imbalance of habitat for duck in that area, particularly the grey duck.'

. . . . central North Island

'It was pleasing to note that the Forest Service have dedicated Lake Rotokuru and 235 hectares of surrounding bush a forest reserve, to preserve rare native birds, waterfowl and fisheries. The duck population appears to consist of 8 New Zealand dabchick, up to 60 grey duck and a recently observed pair of Australian coot. . . . . The last breeding season appeared to favour the grey and Paradise duck and the Waimarino Society have conducted an assessment of the population; figures may be available later. Grey teal may be located in the district but few people have ever seen them or even know what they look like. '

finally . . . from the Waimate district, South Island

'A game census at the most important waterfowl habitat areas in the region shows figures down on last year. The Wainono Lagoon opened to the sea for three to four weeks, and a noticeable decline took place with black swan who seemed particularly affected by the reduction in weed beds. The summer droughts also affected the breeding season, and the grain harvest became problematical when, during wet conditions, duck converged on pea crops.'

(note: the observations of Keemen are personal opinions only on conditions in their respective areas for the information and benefit of DU members and friends.)

PROJECT REPORTSOPERATION BRANTA

See report page 1!

OPERATION HQ

Application has been made to a domain board in the Waikato region for their consideration - the land in question is a desirable and suitable wet area in the central Waikato and we are awaiting the outcome with interest.

The search continues, however, for other suitable areas for the establishment of a DU headquarters. A full report will be given at the annual conference.

OPERATION PATEKE

Nothing to report from the previous issue of FLIGHT - except that surplus birds are now being distributed to DU members according to the list of requests. Hopefully, the coming breeding season will be more successful than last season. However, although the figure raised last season was less than hoped for, it will still enable DU to make further progress towards the 50 pair required for the full breeding programme. The majority of members received birds too late for the past breeding period, but the birds will be well settled in for the next period. 1978 could well see the first liberations of DU Brown Teal.

OPERATION GRETEL

Messrs Gler Butts and Kelvin Mackie, project supervisors, together with Paul Pirani, Vice President, paid a visit to the Pokeno nesting box site in May for maintenance of boxes and to refurbish same with fresh nesting material. A full report will be made on this project at the annual conference.

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DISTINGUISHED VISITOR FROM U.S.A.

One of our few American members, Lt Col Ed Davis DFC (US Army Rtd) arrived in New Zealand just prior to the commencement of our duck season. Ed, from Yakima, Washington state, had heard that our season was coming up and 'jumped on the next plane'. (Ed reckons that he measures his life span by the number of duck seasons he gets in, so two per year is doubling his life span!) For opening weekend, Director Neil Hayes was fortunate enough to arrange for Ed and himself to shoot on DU member Bill Pritt's property at Ohakune. Bill Pritt, a former NZ Clay Bird Champion, has really done some tremendous waterfowl work on his 350 acre property which now supports close to thirty ponds. Both Ed and Neil shot limits on opening morning, which meant that Ed was reasonably impressed with our sport. Since the opening, Ed has spent several days in the Wairarapa and has been entertained in Christchurch by Messrs Alan Hart and Peter McLeod and also by executive members of the North Canterbury Acclimatisation Society. During his relatively short stay, Ed successfully shot duck, swan and Canada geese.

On his return home, Ed will be writing an article on his trip for the 'American Hunter' magazine. We hope Ed enjoyed himself and that we will see him out here again soon.



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## DU (NZ) REPRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CONTD

Conclusion Ducks Unlimited (NZ) is limited to what it can achieve because of physical restrictions of manpower and financial resources within the country. Ian and I have returned with very positive thoughts as to what can be achieved here within these limitations, particularly after viewing the project work undertaken in Canada by Ducks Unlimited, particularly with the Canada geese breeding programme at Serpentine. This has reinforced our strong feelings about the future of Canada geese in New Zealand. The physical dimensions of Serpentine are similar to several parts of New Zealand and work is possible on a similar scale at reasonable cost utilising the imaginative methods we have seen on our tour.

We have also returned greatly encouraged after viewing private waterfowl collections on the west coast of the United States and in Canada, many based on comparatively small holdings, some as small as a few acres in built up areas with waterfowl imaginatively housed and/or penned. We have seen many types of nest box construction, some made with conventional materials and many carved from natural tree stumps and hollowed out (we were privileged to see some actually in use - at Charles Pilling's property in Seattle). We will be passing on these ideas and recommendations to our practical 'volunteers' for their experimentation and adaptation to New Zealand conditions.

Communication with similarly motivated 'volunteers' at the conference has been of immeasurable benefit to the New Zealand delegates. We feel our relationships with DUErs in Mexico, Canada and the United States can only be enhanced because of our participation. It is our earnest wish that New Zealand be represented at the next annual conference which will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1978 to ensure continuity and the generation of further inspiration. We believe the communication and goodwill generated by such visits can only have one result - beneficial, and will ensure a brilliant future for the ducks in this country.

P.B.C. Pirani

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**CAC** LONG RANGE  
**High-Flyer**

**CAC**  
**High-Flyer**

— LONG RANGE 12 GAUGE 1 1/4 OZ FIELD LOAD  
AVAILABLE IN 4, 5 AND 6 SHOT SIZES