



## “FLIGHT”

FLIGHT NO 2/76 Issue 8

June 1976

### NATIONAL PRESIDENT - DU USA - MR GAYLORD DONNELLEY VISITS DU NEW ZEALAND

Mr Gaylord Donnelley's visit at the end of March was indeed a 'flying' one - little more than 24 hours spent mostly in the Waikato. On his arrival, Mr Donnelley met with DU Waikato directors and their wives and the following day visited member Barry Rowe's Kiwi house at Otorohanga. Heavy rain marked the entire visit but did not appear to deter Mr Donnelley's enthusiasm for seeing and photographing as much as possible. After viewing adult and baby Kiwis in the nocturnal house complex, a visit was made to Lake Whangapae (black swan country) and from there to Tony Flexman's property at Pokeno, the site of Operation Gratel nest boxes. The rain continued to fall and Mr Donnelley continued to be unaffected by the elements - in atrocious conditions, he took photographs of the nesting boxes and Tony's sheepdogs working. The final call was Auckland airport - although at one stage, when the car became stuck in a muddy patch in one of Tony paddocks, Mr Donnelley must have wondered if he would make the 'plane'!

During Mr Donnelley's visit, Ian Pirani - DU NZ President - presented him with a copy of Buller's Birds of New Zealand as well as a copy of member Jack Byrne's book - Duck Hunting in New Zealand. Henry Lickers, director and 'honorary' photographer for the visit took photographs throughout and prepared a small album for Mr Donnelley visually recording the call to this country. Although it was all too brief, the visit was appreciated by the New Zealanders and Mr Donnelley seemed to enjoy it also. It was another valuable opportunity to meet with one of our friends from North America and for discussions on our favourite topic - ducks.

Below is an extract from a recent letter from Mr Donnelley:

'You may have heard that the DU annual meeting held in Mexico city was a great success. The Mexicans went all out to give us a royal welcome and entertainment. It was an international event. I reported on my visit with DU (NZ) Inc. and all expressed our disappointment that a representative could not be with us. However, I did explain that you thought it was more important to spend the money on the ducks, rather than to travel half way round the world, no matter how much information and fun is to be had. With very best wishes to all New Zealand DU'ers and their wives. - Gaylord Donnelley.'



Mr Gaylord Donnelley with Ian Pirani (right) and Paul Pirani, President & Vice President Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc.

### FURTHER NEWS - OPERATION HQ

As reported in our previous issue, a search is under way for an area of suitable land to be made available by interested landowners for the establishment of DU's national headquarters and waterfowl display area. We have been delighted to receive several offers to view land which may be suitable. Mr Y.L. Sands, Chairman of the National Council of New Zealand Acclimatisation Societies, has also offered his personal support and that of the society in assisting with DU's work and in the establishment of a national headquarters. Mr Sands offered to assist with discussions with a Domain Board for the use of an area of land owned by the board and which he considered would be very suitable for our purposes. This most welcome offer is being investigated along with other generous offers from DU members, and several farmers - all offers are most appreciated and the generosity of these persons is overwhelming. We will keep members fully informed of progress with regard to the location of an appropriate property.

### NEW MEMBERS - We welcome warmly the following new members:

P. Ashley	(F)	Mrs P. Gilmer	(S)	J. O'Hearn	(F)
R.J. Berg	(F)	G. Girvan	(F)	Thomas Powell	(F)
CAC Industries Ltd	(T)	D. Harvey	(S)	W. Pritt	(S)
J. Campbell	(F)	H. Jones	(F)	Mrs G. Pym	(S)
J. Cheyne	(S)	D.W. King	(F)	G. Pym	(S)
M.H. Davidson	(P)	I. McLaren	(P)	Rotorua Gun Dog Club	(F)
R. Donaldson	(F)	A. Martin	(F)	K.R. Stutt	(S)
R.S. Foden	(S)	D.A. Nehoff	(F)	C.W. Thomas	(F)
K. Gamble	(F)	M. Nehoff	(F)	D.J. Thompson	(F)
				G.M. Thomson	(F)

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We have decided to set ourselves a target of **DOUBLING** our membership (at March 222) this year! This is a rate of approximately 20 new members per month. What about helping us! We will report in each issue of **FLIGHT** on our progress at achieving the target. We had 28 members join since production of the last **FLIGHT**. Let's see if we can **TRIPLE** this to **60** next time!

## APPOINTMENT OF KEEMEN ANNOUNCED

We were pleased with the response to our call for Keemen - unfortunately, in some districts, we had more than one applicant and had to make a choice. However, we suggested to unsuccessful applicants that they co-ordinate with the Keeman in their area and supply him with information to give a complete coverage. The Keemen for DU have been appointed by the directors and hold their positions for a period expiring 31 March 1977 when the position will be reviewed by DU and by them. The directors are also free to appoint further Keemen in other regions if members approach them offering to undertake this work. The Keemen are:

Northland	-	N. Lowrie	Tauranga	-	S. Bronger
Whangarei	-	J.W.A. Dyer	Palmerston North	-	L. Thompson
Hamilton	-	M.R. Dench	Wellington	-	P. Taylor
Taupiri	-	R.K. Bell	Waimate	-	R.D. Fenwick

Director, Dudley Bell, is co-ordinating the efforts of Keemen and below is a summary of their first reports - we hope you find their comments as interesting and of value as the executive have done. Keemen are our voluntary observers and are persons with a keen interest in and knowledge of the many problems confronting the waterfowl resource. This is a vital role and Keemen are the 'watchdogs' of the environment and the 'key' to DU's waterfowl management success.

## KEEMEN REPORTS



### from the Waikato

Good water conditions through the summer and into autumn enabled the duck to disperse well throughout the district. It appeared that the hunter obtained very good bags during the first two weeks but pressure on the birds tailed off during the latter part of the season. Duck bagged were in excellent condition and this may be attributable to the later maize harvest. Wildlife refuges varied from 'loaded' at Cambridge Park, to 'normal' at Hurralls Lake 'E' at Horsham Downs to 'less than usual' at Lake Wapakaware at Paterangi and Hamilton Lake where a count of 2,000 (above normal resident population) was recorded on Thursday 27 May.

Lake Ngaroto near Te Awamutu had a visit from a pair of scaup on Sunday 2 May, the first time for many years. There has been a colony of white heron living on the southern shores of the lake. Lake Wahi at Huntly appeared to have an influx of swan during the season, many of which have been observed in pre nuptial courtship displays during the first week in June. Lake Waikare had its usual high population of waterfowl using the wildlife refuge in the centre of the lake during the first week of the hunting season but the numbers appeared to be lower later in the season.

### from Palmerston North and Feilding

This area has many hundreds of hectares in grain cropping but the hunting season appeared varied, along with the ducks' condition. Grey Duck population appears stable in their sedentary areas as do Paradise duck numbers. Shoveller were observed primarily near the coast during the hunting period.

### from Northland and Whangarei

Two strong flash floods ripped through rivers and lowland marshes at the season's peak causing much disruption to waterfowl production. Greys suffered poorly, as did mallards. Shoveller, a later nester, were lucky and swan did well in the areas this season as well as Paradise duck - well enough to be included on the hunting licence. There is a suggestion of many second or late broods of duck this season - possibly as a result of the flood conditions. It is considered that the 10 bag limit on Pukeko in the Northland area may be too high and as an incentive to hunters to pursue the birds and also to assist in their management, a lower limit of 5 or 6 would perhaps cause hunters to pursue them and also there may be no waste of birds as can occur when a high limit of 10 is permitted.

A swamp area near Dargaville in the Hobson acclimatisation society district has been handed over to the Wildlife branch, Department of Internal Affairs (comprising 29.4 hectares of Wharautapu C Management Area) for wildlife management. There is an excellent wildlife area at Rangitapu Bay (Awamui Harbour) in the north. It is an area suffering from partial drainage but comprises low sandstone ridges and some water expanses. Development for waterfowl in this area could benefit Northland populations. Wildlife development in the Hikurangi swamp, involving the North Island acclimatisation society council is under way and in a number of years may gain control of the Hikurangi Arm (approx 900 hectares) for management in co-operation with the Catchment Commission.

Hunting season summary of a few Northland swamps:

Hikurangi (Whangarei society) - good but not as good as in the past - although better than last year.

Rangitapu Harbour (Mangonui society) - good on the west generally, but patchy on east. Large rafts of duck on bay - 500 plus.

Sand Dune Lakes - poor, light bags. Mallard population high, perhaps three quarters of the total and the total waterfowl population is experiencing habitat drainage in large areas. Many farm properties construct stock water ponds which waterfowl use, but this in no way replaces habitat lost to drainage.



Travel with CPAir is a global affair.

**CPAir**  
Canadian Pacific



FURTHER NOTES FROM DUDLEY BELL'S TRAVEL DIARY

We flew from New Zealand on 3 May 1974 and arrived at the head office of DU Canada in Winnipeg, ready and eager to experience one of the most dreamed about phases of our lives. My wife, Lyn, was a constant companion during my study trip in Canada although she reneged a couple of times when rather bumpy air flights were likely to be undertaken and this was one of those times. The very first insight into the great Canadian Prairies and Forest Lands was in the form of a flight in a Cessna aircraft over Lake Manitoba and its adjoining marsh areas of this huge lake. We took off from Portage la Prairie and flew for 5 hours only then covering half of the lake area and the river linking Lakes Manitoba and Winnipeg. This river is subject to remarkable changes in water levels which detracts from waterfowl use to some extent. The river was at a high flow level at the time because the lakes were still thawing after the winter freeze. Lake Manitoba was still well frozen and looked beautiful from the air, with just a strip of exposed water round the shorelines and in the shallow bays. Across the ice was evidence of winter activities such as ice fishing and hunting visible in snowmobile tracks winding their way across the icy wastes.

Many waterfowl were seen and counted by the two provincial biologists on the flight, while they kept up a constant patter of things of interest passing below us. We counted many pairs of Canada geese on marsh areas between the two lakes. These were part of the Interlaken Goose population estimated at 23,000 birds. The flight took us over many different geographical formations, one of the most interesting of which was a chain of lakes formed by ice pressure ridges. These had scant emergent vegetation and nest cover as overgrazing is depleting the habitat rapidly. Another area was a private marsh called MarstyPoint of over 3,000 acres where, with management, a very high concentration of waterfowl were able to be seen. Many Canada goose nest platforms were erected on this marsh. That year's high water levels resulting from very heavy snow fall had lowered production from this marsh noticeably, even though the season had just commenced. We then flew over an area called Lake Francis - 2,500 acres - where water levels will be controlled by a DU concrete wier. The marsh behind this wier will benefit from optimum water levels during all seasons.

Then, on passing over Delta Marsh Research Area, we observed 15,000 Snow and Blue Geese which were a wonderful sight from the plane, looking down on top of all those winging geese. I later paid a ground visit with DU Chief biologist, Mr Leith. The Delta marsh is about 36,000 acres, fed by streams off the Portage Prairie and being formed behind a ridge of built up debris along the Manitoba Lake edge. There are four gaps in this ridge and wind tides ebb and flow through these, creating variable water levels in especially the larger bays. Isolated sloughs, scattered among dense stands of Phragmites depend on surface run off for water supply. They may become dry during the summer. Duck inhabit the marsh for seven months.



Snow Geese: Location - Oak Hammock

Few regions of North America have been studied more intensely as here are located the Delta waterfowl research station and the University of Manitoba field station. DU also assist with funds for research and development. This was a fascinating place to visit and a hive of scientific activity where 15 to 20 masters and doctorate students gather information for their degrees. A particular study, which was of interest to me, gave as part of the results the following facts: nest cover more than 100 yards from water accommodated 10% Shoveller, 24% Mallard, 29% Gadwall and 31% Pintail. The first two are of interest here in New Zealand. At the end of the flight and my subsequent visit to Delta, I was sure that I would be in for many more exciting and valuable experiences. DGB.

REPORT ON OUR 1976 ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD IN WELLINGTON

This was a most successful and exciting event and we did enjoy the opportunity to meet with members from all over the country. Financially, the get-together was also a great success. Financial results were: Door sales totalled \$ 420 and, with payments in connection with the conference i.e. hall hire, dinner etc., of \$ 358-10, we netted \$ 61-90. The auction results raised \$ 776-50! This gave a total final profit for the evening of \$ 838-40 - a wonderful contribution to DU's work.

The profit figure above reflects the tremendous generosity of the auction donors and we wish to thank them here. After publication of the last issue of FLIGHT, in which we mentioned the donors, several other donors came forward and we list below all those who have assisted in the achievement of this great fundraising effort. We publicly thank again:

Allan G. Mitchell Ltd, Auckland	Mr and Mrs Gerry Malaher, Canada
Colonial Ammunition Company, Auckland	Ngans Sport Centre, Te Awamutu
Ducks Unlimited Inc. U.S.A.	Ian Parnham Gallery, Hamilton
Email Industries Ltd, Wellington	Rice Printers, Hamilton
The Gallery, Hamilton	Sports Depot, Wellington
Groudswaard Taxidermist, Cambridge	Roy Outway, Hamilton
I. Gaskell, Tuarau	Waikato Locksmith & Gunsmith Services
Hamilton East Sports Shop	Wellington Sporting Arms Company
Iscos Limited, Wellington	Wilson's Sports Shop, Hamilton
Mullins Pharmacy, Cambridge	Wilf Wright - Potter, Waikane

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE DONORS WITH YOUR CUSTOM - REMEMBER, THEY ARE BEHIND DU AND THE WORK IT IS UNDERTAKING FOR WATERFOWL - THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR GOODWILL AND ENTHUSIASM FOR OUR WORK WITH THEIR GENEROSITY.

We also thank the directors who made generous donations toward the auction; thanks also to T.G. Hunt and Wilf Wright who could not attend the annual conference but who sent a donation towards dinner profits. Special thanks go to Mr K.G.W. (Bill) Wilkinson, our excellent auctioneer who, with his infectious personality, set the mood for the auction which went with a swing.

**AUCTION** The auction was undoubtedly the climax to a very exciting day's proceedings. Bidding was very spirited on all items and all were 'knocked down' at well in excess of their true value. With the help of our enthusiastic auctioneer, Bill Wilkinson, members present became quite carried away with bidding - however, all purchasers seemed genuinely pleased with their acquisitions. The highest price reached was for Larry Toschik's print 'Symphony of Autumn' and the successful bidder was a prominent Wellington member. It was a pleasant way to 'extract' funds from wildlife supporters - again we thank the donors and, of course, the bidders who also let their generosity run away with them.

#### MINUTES

Below are formal minutes of the annual conference. Regretfully, lack of space prevents inclusion of the verbatim addresses of the interesting speakers who addressed members present. Many speakers went over allotted time and members added to this time factor with their questions - positive proof of audience interest. It was a long meeting but at no time did interest appear to 'flag' and everyone present appeared to enjoy immensely the proceedings and meeting with members from other regions.

#### MINUTES OF THE SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC., HELD AT THE WHITE HERON LODGE, WELLINGTON ON SATURDAY 24 APRIL 1976 AT 1 PM

#### WELCOME

The President, Mr Ian Pirani, welcomed the members (a total of 42) and recorded the following apologies - Messrs R.T. Adams, S. Bronger, R.J. Cook, J.W.A. Dyer, T. Hunt, I. Jensen, F.R. Lickers, D. Morrison, D. Peryer, Y.L. Sands, Dr M. Williams and Wilf Wright. He mentioned that many present had travelled long distances to attend the meeting - from Auckland in the north as far as Christchurch in the South Island.

Mr Pirani said that Mr Y.L. Sands, Chairman of the National Council of New Zealand Acclimatisation Societies had been invited to attend - he was not able to do so but had telephoned offering his and the society's support for the work DU was undertaking. He sent with his apologies warmest regards to DU members and best wishes for a successful meeting and said he would assist in any way he could to establish DU's Operation HQ, plus with other work. Mr Pirani said DU needs, and wants, close liaison and co-operation with the Auckland Society and this approach from Mr Sands should be considered a breakthrough.

Mr R.T. Adams sent his sincere regrets at not being present - he was unwell and could not be speaker. He had arranged for Mr Noel Hellyer to speak in his place. The President wished Ralph best wishes for a speedy recovery.

#### MINUTES PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated to all members in FLIGHT 3/75, were taken as read and confirmed.

#### CONSIDERATION ANNUAL REPORT

Mr Pirani delivered his annual report which had been circulated to all members previously and commented further on specific items i.e. the visit of Mr Gaylord Donnelley, National President of Ducks Unlimited Inc. U.S.A., the Malahers from Canada and the news of Mr Y.L. Sands offer to assist with Operation HQ. He also added there had been offers of land usage from other interested landowners, farmers - a thorough investigation would be made of all offers to evaluate and adopt the most suitable site.

The President commented on the financial situation illustrated in the financial statement and mentioned proposals to effect an improvement in it including an approach to an oil company which grants awards for environmental study and research. An approach had been made for assistance with Operation Pateke, to assist the Brown Teal population. It was stressed that tight and watchful control was kept on finances to employ them to best advantage.

Help received from individuals was also acknowledged - Mr S. Bronger and the Waitete Timber Company, Te Kuiti for their positive and practical assistance with donated materials. Assistance and advice from DU's friends in the Wildlife Service was also gratefully acknowledged with special thanks.

The financial statement was approved and adopted by members present.

#### ELECTION OF TWO DIRECTORS (REPRESENTING MEMBERS)

Under the provisions of Rule 3, Messrs Glen Butts and Kelvin Mackie - members' representatives, being eligible offered themselves for re-election to the board. The President called for further nominations - none were forthcoming and, after being moved and seconded by members, the President declared the two men re-elected and mentioned the contribution they had made during their previous term, on members' behalf, to the operations of DU.

#### REPORT FROM MR D.G. BELL

The President introduced Mr Dudley Bell who spoke at length, and with great enthusiasm, on his visit to the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom - the summaries of which are appearing in FLIGHT regularly. Mr Bell answered many questions at the conclusion of his talk which illustrated the interest taken in his experiences.

#### REPORT ON 1975/6 WATERFOWL BREEDING SEASON AND OPERATION GRETEL

Director, Henry Lickers, was to have presented this report but as he was unable to be present, Mr Jack Worth presented it on his behalf, concluding with some remarks on the Grey Teal project and plans for the future. This was followed by questions from the floor - there was then a break for refreshment.



GUEST SPEAKER - MR NOEL HELLYER

Mr Hellyer, Wildlife Survey Officer with the Department of Internal Affairs, talked concerning the Wildlife Services habitat development programme at the Awaitei Wildlife Management reserve near Matata, Bay of Plenty - during his talk he employed colour slides which clearly illustrated the problems and how these were eventually overcome. Mr Hellyer's talk created much interest, illustrated by the many questions from the floor at the conclusion of his comments.

The President thanked Mr Hellyer for his stimulating presentation which gave members much to think about when considering management of wetland areas.

REPORT ON OPERATION PATEKE

Dr Murray Williams was unable to present his talk but he had arranged for his paper to be read by H.I. (Bud) Jones, DU Director. His comments dealt specifically with Brown Teal liberations and below is the text of his address:

'The first liberations of captive reared Brown Teal were made on to Lake Koputara and Omanuka Lagoon in the Manawatu in June 1974. Thirty-two birds from Mt Bruce, including some old pinioned stock, together with another eight birds supplied by Trevor Voss and Murray Powell comprised that initial liberation and we know that some of these, including a pinioned bird were still alive 18 months later. In 1975, 18 birds from Mt Bruce and five supplied by Neil Hayes were released and two months ago a further 16 birds from Mt Bruce were set free - in all, a total of 79 birds.

Since the initial liberation, birds have been seen regularly, particularly at Lake Koputara. There, the resident farmer often sees them feeding on his fields near the lake. We have had reports of them from Ornithological Society members when surveying the lakes and swamps and only last month we recorded them on both liberation lakes. In addition we have recorded them on Foxton No 3 lake, about 1 1/2 miles from Koputara and a single bird has been seen on Pukepuke Lagoon about 4 miles from Omanuka. This is very encouraging for it indicates that the birds will disperse away from the liberation sites. Sadly, however, we have no evidence yet that they have bred on these lakes - this is something I will be following very closely next season.

The breeding performance at Mt Bruce has not come up to expectations. Two years ago, we obtained wild birds as new breeding stock but they have taken longer to adapt to captivity than we had expected - indeed, some birds trapped as adults still have not really settled down. In some ways, that is good for we now know that we should remove only juvenile birds from Great Barrier - not adults. Despite disappointing results these past two years, I have high hopes for Mr Bruce next year.

At the moment I have a request before the Fauna Protection Advisory Council to remove 22 pairs of Brown Teal from Great Barrier Island. Half of these will be handed over to Ducks Unlimited as breeding stock; the others will be released to supplement the Manawatu liberations. The Council meets in a fortnight's time and I confidently expect them to approve these plans.

I am acutely aware that captive rearing programmes have a tendency to be net consumers of wildlife, rather than producers - the whole history of captive breeding has few success stories. I intend therefore that no further wild Brown Teal will be removed from Great Barrier Island to provide breeding stock. Operation Pateke must be completely self supporting or else its continuation will further endanger Brown Teal. I feel sure that with the pairs I hope to provide Ducks Unlimited in a couple of months time, there will be sufficient captive stock available to make the project a success.

Ducks Unlimited's initial year, I think, was very encouraging and I look forward to your successes in the forthcoming year. - Dr Murray Williams.'

Mr Jack Worth, co-ordinator of the Operation Pateke project followed up with some comments, full details of which appear later in this issue of FLIGHT.

GENERAL BUSINESS

At this point the President called for questions from the floor - several questions were raised concerning future operations of the group, the matter of South Island representation and an increase in membership in that part of the country, plus the subject of membership generally and plans to increase it.

MOVIES

Two films were shown - 'Wood Duck's World' kindly loaned by Ducks Unlimited U.S.A. and consigned courtesy of CF Air and 'The Mallard' kindly loaned by member John Dyer of Northland. Both films aroused a good deal of interest.

CONCLUSION

At the conclusion of the movie viewing, the President thanked warmly all those present for participating and contributing to the success of the conference; he declared the conference closed and invited members to join him for refreshments followed by the dinner and auction proceedings.

\*\*\*\*\*

## OPERATION PATEKE

Jack Worth, Project Supervisor for the Brown Teal project has prepared the following notes on the captive rearing of the Brown Teal. Application to hold a pair of Brown Teal may be made on the form at the conclusion of these notes.

### INTRODUCTION

During the next ten years, Ducks Unlimited has committed itself to the captive rearing of over 1300 Brown Teal for liberation by the Wildlife Service at selected sites throughout New Zealand. This is a combined attempt by the two organisations to re-establish this now endangered species in some of its former haunts. To fulfill this target, we are soliciting our interested members to take a pair of these ducks with the objective of raising as many progeny as possible and so assist us in reaching our goal.

As you are aware, Brown Teal are a fully protected species and require a permit from the Wildlife Service before they can be confined in captivity. This permit will be forthcoming to members, provided they are prepared to erect a suitable enclosure and comply with the conditions of the permit which are simple and straightforward.

As a measure of compensation the Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited are jointly paying the sum of \$ 10 for every bird accepted for liberation, and this payment will be made upon receipt of an account from the breeder immediately the birds have been delivered.

The Wildlife Service will be handling the liberation part of this project but Ducks Unlimited is responsible for the assembling and consigning of the birds. To ensure that a steady delivery programme can be maintained, members participating in the breeding are requested to keep the supervisor posted with progress laying, hatching and rearing results. Special forms will be issued for this purpose and it is essential that an accurate record is maintained.

As a guide to members I have detailed some suggestions that may be of assistance when constructing a holding pen and the feeding and caring of the birds and ducklings.

### HOLDING PEN

An adequate pen size would cover an area of roughly 24 square metres and would have walls 2 metres high. The roof could be covered over, but this would only be advisable if the size of the netting being used would preclude sparrows and vermin such as Stoat and Weasels, otherwise there is little to be gained by covering the top as the birds you will receive will be pinioned and a two metre fence will contain them.

The netting on the walls should be 12mm (½) but larger netting will suffice if you already have this in stock. It is good policy to turn the bottom of the netting out on the ground for a distance of 300mm and peg it down tight with purpose made wire staples. This prevents vermin from burrowing, especially rats if they are about as in country areas. Water should be piped into the pen and a pond or tank at least one metre square by 300mm deep should be provided in an exposed position. Care must be taken to ensure that the sides of the pond are of rough texture so the ducks can climb out, and at all times make certain that the pool is kept topped up with fresh water. If the pond that you are using has smooth sides, then drape small gauge netting down into the water so the birds can gain traction.

The pen can be planted out with various shrubs to suit one's personal taste, but I would recommend that at least one good sized Toi Toi bush be positioned at a point at least six feet from the walls of the pen. The Teal favour the Toi Toi along with native grasses for natural nesting sites, and they will also provide all the necessary cover against the elements.

### NESTING SITES

The Teal are early nesters and once you notice the drake sounding off at your approach, then you can keep an eye out for a possible nesting site. They prefer to nest in the middle of a protective plant such as Toi Toi, Pampas or similar type of bush but will use almost any type of shelter if nothing natural is available. Five gallon drums, apple boxes or old cream cans will suffice, just cutting a 5" hole in one end and half filling with clean hay or pine needles. Place the drums or boxes on the ground against some vegetation so that the entrance hole is partially hidden.

### FEDING REQUIREMENTS

The parent birds' diet should consist of layer pellets, wheat, maize, sand and oyster grit. The grit and sand can be spread on the ground around the pond, forming a tidy path and the birds can draw their needs from this source. The main diet should be pellets with a weekly addition of the grains, or if you wish to pre-mix your ration, then about five parts pellets to one part grain. This diet can be fed daily at a set time, providing sufficient, so the birds can consume their fill in about 20 minutes - or be hopper fed so that the birds have access all the time.

The ducklings should be started off on a Game Starter ration, or a Turkey Grower crumble which can be obtained from most stock firms. They should have access to food 24 hours of the day and great care should be taken to ensure that no stale or damp food is left lying about. A good policy is to change the food every day and clean up all surplus and wasted feed that may be scattered about. The food should be fed dry and the ducklings will soon learn to carry the feed to the water. Sand, fine grit and water should always be available.

### BREEDING

The duck should lay between 4-7 eggs and will commence sitting after laying the second to last egg. The incubation period is 29 days and if left to do their own thing, make (as a rule) excellent mothers. However, for the more experienced breeder, the use of Bantams as foster parents is recommended, as the removal of the eggs just after the hen has commenced sitting will induce the female to provide a second, third and even a fourth clutch on the odd occasion, thus boosting the overall production.

If trying the Bantam method, please ensure that the baby ducklings only have access to water that they can drink from, such as a small chick drinker or a saucer filled with stones or marbles, as if allowed to become wet they will become chilled and die very quickly. The Bantam has no natural method of oiling the youngsters and thus they lose their insulation. It takes about five weeks from birth for the duckling's oil gland to become functional and I recommend that they be kept away from bathing water during this period. On no account ever place Bantam reared ducklings back with their parents, as they will be attacked and killed at first opportunity.

OPERATION PATEKE - contd

CONCLUSION

Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc is deeply indebted to the Wildlife Service for the opportunity to share in this worthwhile project and we trust that this will be the first of many such schemes where we can jointly work together for the mutual benefit of our waterfowl.

Members who have the facilities outlined above and who are interested in taking a pair of Brown Teal for breeding are requested to complete the form below:

APPLICATION  
TO HOLD  
BROWN TEAL  
IN CAPTIVITY

To: Project Supervisor - Operation Pateke  
Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc - P O Box 74, Hamilton

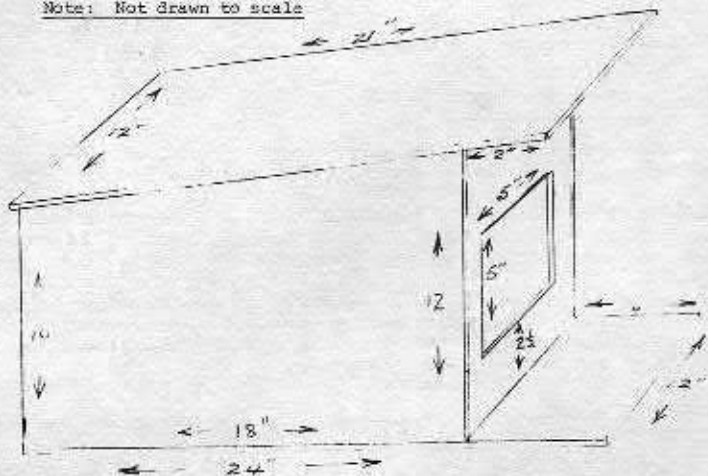
I . . . . .  
of (home address) . . . . .  
. . . . . Phone . . . . .  
being a financial member of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated wish to make application to receive, on loan, a pair of Brown Teal. I hereby agree to abide by the Wildlife Service permit conditions and fully understand that these birds and any progeny may be recalled at any time by authorisation of the Wildlife Service.

Date . . . . . Signed . . . . .

MALLARD TYPE NESTING BOXES

For some time, members have been requesting we supply them with a drawing for a typical mallard-type nest box so they can construct same. Below is a sketch plan prepared by Jack Worth which is a very suitable construction.

Sketch plan of Mallard-type Nest Box  
Cut from 12" x 1" R/S-G/R Pinus Radiata  
Note: Not drawn to scale



NEWS FROM DUCKS UNLIMITED, INC. U.S.A.

A US\$ 60 million programme to provide habitat for North America's waterfowl has been announced by Ducks Unlimited. The plan, which was announced at the organisations 39th annual board of trustees meeting held in Mexico City recently, calls for Ducks Unlimited, Inc., to raise the money over the next five years for the development of wetlands in Canada, where over 70% of the waterfowl on the North American continent originate. DU Inc will forward US\$ 7 million to DU (Canada) during the current calendar year and accelerate this rate of funding over the remaining four years of the programme.

DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) WELCOMES NEW WILDLIFE OFFICER

Your Hamilton directors held a small function in mid June to welcome to Hamilton the new Wildlife Officer, Mr Stewart Moore - this is a 'first' for the Waikato as previously the Wildlife Service have always operated out of Auckland. Also present were John Cheyne and Peter Anderson from the Wildlife Service.

1976 MOBIL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

Ducks Unlimited (NZ) has been advised that it is eligible for consideration for an environmental grant, and an application has been lodged for financial assistance with Operation Pateke, to assist the endangered Brown Teal species. Mobil Oil invites interested and qualified organisations to apply for environmental grants because evidence suggests that a need still exists for the funding of environmental research and study projects. This is the sixth year of the programme and to date the company has distributed more than \$ 30,000 in cash grants amongst some 35 recipients. To quote from their publicity material, Mobil consider 'that, as New Zealanders, we must be prepared to dig into our own pockets if we want to protect our natural heritage.'

#### DU MEMBERSHIP - TAX DEDUCTIBILITY RATING

All members will be aware that DU promotes the tax deductibility rating of its membership subscriptions. We were disturbed earlier this month to learn that one of our members had had his tax form returned by the local branch of the Inland Revenue Department with the statement that our subscriptions were not tax deductible.

We have since followed this matter up with the Department who stated in their original ruling that all 'contributions' to Ducks Unlimited or donations will qualify as a special exemption up to an overall limit of \$ 200 for all qualifying donations. The Department have come back to us with a reply which is very favourable and confirms that 'subscriptions by individual members will, subject to the current statutory limitation of \$ 200, qualify for the special exemption allowable under Section 84B of the Tax Act.'

For your information, Ducks Unlimited (NZ) is approved for the purposes of the following Acts:

- Section 18 of the Stamp and Cheque Duties Act 1971 - exemption from conveyance duty
- Sections 39A and 73 of the Estate and Gift Duties Act 1968 - exemption from estate and gift duty purposes
- Section 86 (1) (n) of the Land & Income Tax Act 1954 - exemption from income tax
- Sections 84B and 126B of the Land & Income Tax Act 1954

Under Section 84B cash donations (and now subscriptions) by individuals of \$ 2 or more will qualify as a special exemption up to an overall limit of \$ 200 for all qualifying donations and private school fees.

Under Section 126B cash donations by public companies will qualify as a deduction up to a maximum of \$ 1,000 in respect of any one donee with an overall maximum for all qualifying donations of: \$ 1,000 or

5% of the company's assessable income, whichever is the greater.

The above exemptions apply to donations made on or after 1 April 1974 and all district offices of the Department have been advised accordingly.

#### STOP PRESS - 'OPERATION PATEKE'

The 1976/77 breeding season is already under way with a report from President, Ian Pirani, that one of his pairs have commenced laying. At the time of writing, three eggs have been laid - so we are off to a good start.

On 22 June Ducks Unlimited received 23 Brown Teal, taken off Great Barrier Island by Dr Murray Williams together with two other Wildlife officers. These birds are at present at Jack Worth's property being acclimatised and once they have settled in will be distributed to members who have made application to hold this species.

You will have noticed earlier in the newsletter a list of specifications for the holding and rearing of Brown Teal. We are still seeking about thirty members who would be prepared to take a pair, so if you think that you could meet the conditions and would like to make an attempt - then please complete the application form and drop it in the mail to DU headquarters in Hamilton.



Brown Teal - reared by Neil Hayes, DU Director, of Wellington.