

Flight

J
A
N
U
A
R
Y

2001

ISSUE 106



DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.

For Wetlands and Waterfowl.

What makes Spicers different?

Established in 1987, Spicers provides financial advice to individuals and organisations throughout New Zealand. Our mission has grown to include investment management and the international links maintained by our locally based team of investment and research professionals ensure that Spicers enjoys a truly global perspective on investment matters.

Spicers Advisers provide their clients the highest level of personal financial advice and are backed by expert investment management in global financial markets. Spicers nationwide network of professionals Advisers, ready to meet your needs, no matter where you live.

So, if you would like to turn your personal objectives into attainable financial goals, why not give your local Spicers Adviser a call on

0800 102 100

Spicers Portfolio Management Ltd

www.e-spicers.co.nz



Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust

The Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust funds are handled by Spicers Portfolio Management Ltd. The investment began in May 1998 with the sum of \$265,000 after establishment costs and at 31 December 2000 stood at \$900,000 after all costs and no withdrawals.

The trustees are very satisfied with Spicers' performance. The advertisement placed on this page by the company has subsidised the cost of this issue of Flight.

- Chairman, David Smith



Goose Population Threatens Arctic Habitat

In the last three decades, the mid-continent light goose population of America has tripled as a result of man-made changes to the birds' migrating and wintering habitat. One major factor is the abundance of agriculture the birds find in the south each winter.

"The food supply during the seven months the birds are not in the Arctic is virtually unlimited," says Dr. Bruce Batt, Chief Biologist for Ducks Unlimited. "But when they fly north to breed in the spring, the arctic habitat cannot sustain the number of birds feeding on the fragile native plant communities. As a result, portions of whole ecosystems are being destroyed. In many places scientists believe the damage will last for decades, even centuries. The consequences of this devastation are unprecedented and will ultimately lead to the collapse of habitats that are not only vital to light geese, but to a whole array of other resident and migratory wildlife species as well."

One response to this threatening ecological catastrophe, largely brought about by human activity, has been the implementation of special hunting seasons to lower the populations of critically overabundant mid-continent light geese. This strategy appears to be working.

According to preliminary harvest reports by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), hunters in the US bagged 1.3 million light geese during the 1999-2000 regular and conservation seasons. With an expected harvest of more than 100,000 birds in Canada, the total North American harvest most likely exceeded 1.4 million birds. Waterfowl experts say that at this rate, the overall population of mid-continent snow geese could decrease by half; and by 2008, snow geese could reach a level that their habitat can support.

"These preliminary numbers give conservationists a reason for hope," says Paul Schmidt of the USFWS and co-chair of the Arctic Goose Joint Venture Management Board. If these levels of harvest

are sustained for the next several years, devastation of the fragile Arctic ecosystem may be averted and the long process of restoration begun.

In 1999, in the face of this ecological crisis, the USFWS developed new conservation measures that allowed 24 states in the Central and Mississippi Flyways to permit the use of unplugged shotguns and electronic calls during regular light goose seasons. The rules also permitted states to allow hunters to take light geese after March 10, when seasons typically close. The Canadian Wildlife Service adopted similar measures in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

In the summer of 1999, following a legal challenge, the Service decided to withdraw these new rules and complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analysing the impact of such regulations.

In response, Congress and the President enacted the Arctic Tundra Habitat Emergency Conservation Act, which extends until May 15, 2001, and gives states the ability to implement the rules while the Service completes an EIS.

Although the first year's special season harvest did not hit the 1.4 million mark considered necessary to start bringing populations under control, last year's harvest estimate was more encouraging.

"Thanks go out to the thousands of conservation-minded hunters and supporters along with the state fish and game agencies and non-governmental agencies such as Ducks Unlimited, for pulling together to address the problem," says Jamie Clark, Director of the USFWS. "This preliminary success wouldn't have been possible without the co-operation of so many people and organisations, including the Congress of the United States."

[Adapted from *Good News for Geese*, Ducks Unlimited Inc. website at: www.ducks.org.]

INSIGHT

Craig Worth

President

Since my last Insight column, I took part in the Hamilton Chapter's field trip, which was a leisurely walk around Lake Ngaroto, just on the outskirts of Te Awamutu.

Murray, Roy and Malcom Dench guided us around the lake viewing the restoration work that has been undertaken by the Waipa District Council. We viewed recent plantings, silt traps of various forms, and work that had been carried out some years before.

As we made our way back to the vehicles, we passed through a large area of replanted manuka, kahikitea and various other native trees. The walkways are well under way, and the whole project is a tribute to the Waipa District Council. Then it was off to Murray Shaw's for a BBQ lunch, absolutely great, those possum patties! (If you just felt sick, it's ok - they were really venison, compliments of Malcom Dench.) The second part of the day was a look at Murray's ponds and wetlands.

The DU Board's November meeting in Hamilton provided an opportunity to visit Lake Waikare, Whangape and part of the Whangamarino swamp. Directors found the visit most useful, and were pleased to see the state of the lakes at first hand.

One of the most noticeable features of both the field trips I have recently taken has been the lack of mallards. This has become a real concern. At the time of writing, the Board had successfully negotiated with DU Canada to have Ron Coley brought out to give some expert advice on Waikare. Hopefully in the next issue of Flight, we will be able to provide you with an update on this.

As time goes on, I am really enjoying my role more and more every day, but the biggest problem is trying to find the time this job deserves. I received a delightful piece of correspondence from Bruce McWilliams of Whitianga complaining bitterly about the fact that he had received an overdue subscription notice signed by myself. He had personally handed me his cheque a few days after subscription notices were issued. The letter was very humorous. I would have asked the editor to publish it, but once I removed all the bits that needed censoring, in particular his description of my ability to take charge of the \$35.00 cheque, there was not much left to print. If you have received a similar notice and have already paid your subscription, my apologies. I recognise there have been some problems this year in this area. The Board is taking steps to ensure that any problems that may have occurred with membership renewal are rectified.

Finally, I trust that you have all enjoyed the festive season and are looking forward to another year which we all hope will see our organisation move further in realising its aims.



CONTENTS

Special Features

In the North American Wetlands by David Smith	6
Launching of Wetland Care New Zealand	8
The Waimara Wetland Developments	10
Predator File: The SaF Trap by Graeme Goucher	12
Wetland Facts: Positives and Negatives	14

Regular Features

Our People	4
DU News	5
Conservation on the NET	13
&c.	14
Drawing: The Blue Penguin	15
Flight EcoFile	15

OUR MISSION

We are a voluntary membership-based society dedicated to the conservation of New Zealand wetlands through:

- wetland restoration and development;
- conservation programmes for threatened waterfowl;
- advocacy and education of wetland values.

By these means we seek to ensure the ethical and sustainable use of wetland resources by all existing and future users.

*Cover Photo: Field trip party at Shaw wetland, Hamilton.
Photo: Jack Worth.*

Flight is published by:
Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc.
ISSN 1173-2776
P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland, New Zealand.

Editing & Production: Gallery Books & Crafts, Box 99, Carterton
E-mail: artscape@xtra.co.nz
Printer: Lamb-Peters Print, 106A Main Street, Greytown

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-patrons	Lady Isaac, QSM, Christchurch Norman Marsh, Reporoa	
President	Craig Worth, Hamilton a/h	(07) 854 0494 (07) 846 8719
Chairman/Treasurer	Graham Gurr, Auckland	(09) 489 5337
Vice-president	Neil Candy, Palmerston North	(06) 353 6132
Directors	William Abel, Wellington Ossie Latham, Auckland Ross Cottle, Masterton David Smith, LLB, Auckland Tom van Dam, Te Kauwhata Alan Wilks, Greytown Jim Law, Pirinoa	(04) 586 2752 (09) 483 7401 (06) 378 7408 (09) 298 4719 (07) 826 3981 (06) 304 9729 (06) 307 7855



OUR People



Paul Martinson

Born in Palmerston North and educated at Boy's High, Polytech and Massey, Paul has been a member for over 10 years.

He spent four years working for his father's road contracting business and seven years as a science technician for the former DSIR, experimenting on the mineral metabolism of animals. He now lives with his partner, Uschi Behling, in Masterton with their three children. Over the past 14 years Paul has established a reputation as a natural history and surrealist artist, living from his painting. He has designed postage stamps for New Zealand and international agencies, his last series being of New Zealand threatened birds.

Currently establishing a water garden, he is a strong supporter of wetland creation and protection and hopes one day to further this through his painting. He occasionally shoots at ducks and misses but is deadly on pests and predators.

[Paul Martinson has kindly made available to Flight a series of his fine wildfowl sketches, some of which appear in this issue and others which will be published in forthcoming issues.]



Howard Haycock

A member for eight years, Howard Haycock lives in Tauranga. He grew up in Hunterville and went to school in Bulls.

Married with six children, Howard developed unbroken farm land in the Bay of Plenty and ran a dairy farm for 40 years. He now farms dry stock.

His interests are walking, planting native trees in 10 acres of scenic reserve, caring for 100 tangelo trees and tending ducks on spring-fed ponds recently developed on his property and introducing further waterfowl.

Operation Gretel

The original grey teal nesting boxes were established at a site near Pokeno (100 boxes) south of Auckland and Moutly Piggery between Ngaruawahia and Taupiri (24 boxes) as our first project 25 years ago.

Both sites were a big hit with the teal and the DU Board decided to expand the operation in an effort to raise the population of this somewhat shy bird.

Since the inception of the nesting box programme there have been hundreds of boxes erected around New Zealand with a very high usage by the teal. The general consensus among bird watchers and duck hunters is that the species is expanding at a healthy rate.

Since 1998 the Board has approved the continuation of the programme with a proviso that we collect and store certain data which will help to prove that the nesting sites are the key to the growth of this population. To this end, through Flight magazine, we have made contact with a number of interested workers and we are busy compiling the information that they have been good enough to return.

However, there is a great number of members who, for various reasons, have not registered with Project Gretel and we are appealing to them to join the effort and help us to collect the data we need. (If you know of any boxes in your area, please contact me.)

As a matter of interest, the programme has 25 members with 331 nest boxes. When the sites were last visited, 334 adult grey teal were counted.



Early days in Project Gretel - about 1976. Photo: Jack Worth

Thanks are due to the following who are helping with Project Gretel: Murray Powell, Ray Dunlop, Malcolm Dench, Roy Dench, Murray Dench, Andre Terpstra, Jim Law, Ken Cook, Neil Fitzgerald, Mr and Mrs Stevenson, Jackie Cottle, Chris Bindon, Arnold Chamovis, Geo Blair, Dave Hurst, Ray Hayward, Max Landman, Murray Shaw, Kay Kerr, Bill Innis, Murray Fisher, Noel Singer, Steve Ligtenberg and Tony Reiger.

- Jack Worth

Operation Gretel Supervisor,
151 Newcastle Road, Hamilton (07)846 3808



Annual Conference 2001

This year's Ducks Unlimited 27th Annual Conference is to be held in Wairarapa over the weekend of 20 - 22 July 2001. The conference venue will be the Copthorne Resort Solway Park hotel in Masterton. Further details will be provided in the April issue of Flight.

Wairarapa Chapter

A highly successful dinner and auction was held on 30 September at the Copthorne Resort Solway Park in Masterton. About 70 members and friends enjoyed an excellent meal and an entertaining auction conducted by auctioneer Prue Hamill of Harcourts Real Estate. The evening raised just over \$4,200.

The success of the evening was largely due to Chapter Chair Ken Barnes, Ross Cottle and their hardworking committee. The generous donation made by member Robin Borthwick towards the raffle prizes was gratefully acknowledged.

The sporting clay shoot held at the Eketahuna Gun Club on 29 October attracted more than 50 shooters and raised over \$750.

Top gun was Neil Candy, Manawatu Chapter Chair, who was heavily involved in the Chapter's dinner the night before and didn't get to bed before 3am. He claimed he couldn't even see the targets. Neil also won the Francis Murray-Aynsley Cup, a competition restricted to DU members.

The Wairarapa Chapter is grateful for the considerable help given by members in setting up the field for what was an enjoyable day.

Manawatu Chapter

The dinner and auction held at the Coachman on 28 October was attended by 113 members and friends, with some late applicants having to be turned away. Auctioneer Bob Wood was in characteristic fine fettle and the evening raised \$4,500. Once again the success of the event was due to the effort of the organising committee and the sponsors who donated many items for the auction.

Waikato Chapter

Excellent weather favoured the 18 Waikato members who took part in the Chapter's field trip on 28 October. Starting with a visit to the Lake Ngaroto Restoration and Development Project, the party was guided by Malcolm and Murray Dench who have been closely involved with the unofficial monitoring of the project to ensure maximum benefit to wildlife. The tour of the wetlands involved several hours walking across terrain ranging from muddy swamp to pasture.

The property of Murray and Margaret Shaw was the next attraction (see the article in Flight 102) where the group observed pond development and saw the incredible job the Shaws have done in creating a wetland on a former tip site. Then followed an excellent barbecue

lunch of wild pork and venison supplied by Malcolm Dench to cap what proved to be a very satisfying outing.

The next field trip planned by the Waikato Chapter will be on 11 March this year to Tiritiri-Matangi Island in the Hauraki Gulf. This is a family trip, and all are welcome. For further information, contact Ray Haywood, Waikato Chapter Chairman (07)855 2205.

The Waikato Chapter's dinner and auction was held on 25 November at the Glenview Club in Hamilton to coincide with a Board meeting. Thirty-five members and guests shared dinner and took part in the auction run by Brian Dale. The evening raised \$3,100.

2000 National Raffle

This year's national raffle has had a double spin-off for DU's work in wetland conservation. Not only did the raffle clear \$7,400, but the winner of the raffle opted to take cash instead of the prize and intends to invest this in the creation of a wetland. The winner of the 5th prize has donated it for auction at the forthcoming AGM.

Also on the up side, champion seller Joyce Brooks of Greytown sold 40 books and two winning tickets. Her effort added \$800 to the income and William Abel, a manufacturing jeweller, presented her with a gold DU logo lapel badge in recognition.

As organiser of this year's raffle, William Abel was somewhat disappointed with the response from many of those to whom books were sent. Of the 522 books distributed, 97 were returned unsold or declared lost and he had to send out 200 reminders when the raffle closed. Among those returning unsold books were three members who have in the past received substantial wetland subsidies.

The Board of DU expresses its thanks to William Abel for his hard work in organising this fundraising effort and congratulates all winners.

Raffle Results:

- 1st D.A. Kennerley, Hastings 3244
- 2nd Paignton, Te Puke 2789
- 3rd Mason and Bengston, Eketahuna 2552
- 4th Dandy, Eketahuna 2645
- 5th Fotheringham, Auckland 2856
- 6th Briscoe, Galatea 2198
- 7th Atkinson, Featherston 2427
- 8th Sandall, Greytown 1128

Mana Island Brown Teal

The October issue of Flight featured an article on the release on Mana Island of nine brown teal from DU's captive breeding programme. One of the released birds has since produced five eggs and hatched one. This is a creditable achievement for a 12 month old captive-bred teal in her first season in the wild and proof that the recovery plan works with captive breeding and a predator-free environment.

Some of the Waikato Chapter field trip party on a section of the lake walk on the Shaws' pond development. The Shaws' accomplishment was featured in Flight 102 last year.

Photo: Jack Worth.



In the North American Wetlands

The richness of waterfowl and the vast extent of wetlands in Alaska and Canada highlight how much has been lost in New Zealand and the need for organisations like DU. These were some of the impressions David Smith formed during his visit to that part of the world last year...

In advance of my trip to Alaska and Canada in September/October last year, I contacted Dr Alan Wentz at DU Inc. and inquired as to any contacts he may have had through DU. The purpose of my trip was to see what wildlife I could, so Alan kindly put me on to a number of folk in DU Canada as possibilities. He also inquired whether I could be in Edmonton for the beginning of October. The Boards of DU Inc. and DU Canada were to have their annual combined Board meeting in Edmonton. If I could be there, Alan was sure he could arrange for me to be invited. As I had no firm booking at that time, I promptly ensured that I would be in Edmonton.

I left Auckland on 16 September and spent the next two days getting to Anchorage. The mountains around the city were reasonably clear of snow and the weather was a balmy 8°C. I wore an insulated jacket and felt less than warm. The next day I flew to Cordova, a small town at the head of a fiord, with access by plane or boat only. Cordova is an interesting town, but I suspect you would go stir crazy if you had to spend a winter there. The flight down was magnificent with fiords and glaciers galore. And wetlands of which dreams are made. Even from the jet I could see migrating geese and sandhill cranes.

I had arranged via the Internet to go to the Tsiu River (pronounced "sigh-you") with Alaskan Outfitters to fish for salmon. I was wary of what I was going to, having heard horror tales of arrangements made this way. It was a relief to find my hosts to be normal, hospitable folk. The next day, together with four Texans and a Minnesotan, I boarded a Beaver (seats two pilots and seven passengers) for the two hour flight to the Tsiu. The scenery alone was worth the flight from New Zealand. We flew over huge glaciers, dodged sandhill cranes in their thousands, buzzed moose in the marshes, avoided the Canada geese and arrived safely on the sand strip at the Tsiu.

The next five days were spent fishing for salmon. To save those who are not interested in salmon fishing from boredom, I won't regale you with fishing stories. All I will say, though, is that I caught (and released) more salmon than some who have spent a lifetime fishing in the South Island.

There were thousands, if not millions, of migrating birds. Teal, shoveler, Canada geese, mallard, pintail, gadwall, trumpeter swan and thousands of acres of wetlands. Bald eagles feed on the salmon, as did numerous seals and bears. Try as I might, I never saw a bear. Their prints were everywhere, including over the top of my prints from the day before, yet I could never lay eyes on one. That was probably a blessing in disguise.

Then it was time to leave. Except we couldn't. A glacier to the north creates its own weather



"The scenery alone was worth the flight from New Zealand". Photo: David Smith.

pattern and for the next four days we waited for the rain and wind to stop. Poker with Texans is another article in itself. I managed to escape only \$5 down, so figured that was a win.

When the weather lifted we did the reverse of our trip in and the scenery was just as stunning the second time. The flight assistants at Cordova airport are well used to delayed hunters and fishermen so the amended connections through to Edmonton were easily made.

..thousands, if not millions, of migrating birds. Teal, shoveler, Canada geese, mallard, pintail, gadwall, trumpeter swan and thousands of acres of wetlands...

I had organised to stay with Blaine Burns of Black Dog Outfitters outside Edmonton before the DU Board meetings. The time lost by the delay in Alaska meant that one night was all I could manage. Blaine Burns is a former DU Canada employee who runs a duck/goose hunting camp as well as providing whitetail hunting when the season opens in November. Blaine is a knowledgeable and experienced outdoors person, as you would expect, and runs a professional operation. I can recommend him to anyone wishing to hunt in Canada and will happily supply his contact details.

I had goose shooting in pea fields for an evening and a morning. Canvas "coffins" covered in straw provided the cover. I would estimate that on the evening shoot we saw in excess of 2,000 geese with ample coming in to our decoys. The next morning was slower but

still superior to the average kiwi goose shoot.

Sunset is a great experience as the coyotes start to howl. There are enormous numbers of them and they can be quite a problem. They will operate in packs when it's to their advantage. I was told that one may come out and play with your hunting dog, and slowly lure it into the woods where the rest wait for dog dinner.

After an evening shoot for duck I was taken into Edmonton for the DU Board meetings. It looked as if someone was putting on a light show, as the whole northern sky was awash with light, flickering and moving. It was the Northern Lights.

The DU meetings were interesting. The size of the two organisations means that by necessity the work is done in committees with the Board meetings being a formal reporting process before the recommendations are adopted. That does not preclude questions but you are expected to have read all the material beforehand. What was most interesting was discovering that the problems facing DU in North America are the same as we face. The difference is in the magnitude.

One of the concerns is the lack of progress in attracting new members. There is a difficulty in creating an awareness of DU within the major cities. The Boards decided that they could not ask the members for more unless they were prepared to put their own money up. Pledges were sought from those present. Over that weekend, \$2.2 million was raised. I am not sure whether that was Canadian or US dollars, but either way it seemed a staggering sum.

The hospitality of my hosts was much appreciated. I was presented with the prize for having travelled the furthest and welcomed by all I met.

After the Board meetings, those who could transferred to a hotel near the airport for two days of hunting and related activities. Staff from the areas nearby had been brought in to scout out hunting spots, which were then allocated by ballot.

I went on two hunts, the first on a small slough on a pea field. We arrived while it was still dark and set out a few decoys. Then the birds came. And came and came. At any one time there may have been up to 500 birds attempting to land at the same time. I have never seen so many birds in such a small area, and doubt you could see anything like it anywhere in New Zealand. It was a completely mind blowing experience. Forget shooting - just being there was fantastic.

The next morning I went on a bluebills hunt, i.e., scaup, bufflehead, canvasback. This was on a lake, which was a DU project. It was chilly at -7°C with ice out for 10 metres from the shore. The numbers were nowhere like the morning before but I thoroughly enjoyed it. The birds are fast and unpredictable. I have never understood before why scaup are hunted. I do now. They are a lot larger than our scaup, being closer to a teal in size.

Having said my farewells, I travelled to Winnipeg. Rick Wishart, who heads the DU education department, kindly picked me up and gave me a tour of Oak Hammock Marsh, the headquarters of DU Canada. I was reminded of the debate when planning consent was sought, with people claiming the building would deter the birds. As can be seen from the photograph, taken from an office window, they were clearly wrong. The marsh is large and held a good number of birds. I



Geese near the Oak Hammock Marsh headquarters of DU Canada. Photo: David Smith.

was told I had missed the best, which was difficult to believe. Birds even nest on the roof.

It was with reluctance that I continued on my travels, leaving my DU connections behind. The warmth of welcome was much appreciated and I hope I can return the favour to any travelling this way.

The trip helped put some matters into

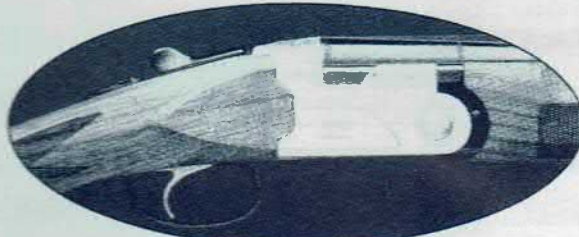
perspective for me. It is only when you are in a plane looking down on pothole country that you appreciate just how much we have lost on NZ. In many parts we are totally devoid of wetlands. The need for DUNZ is greater now than ever before. If you do not have an active committee in your area, how about starting one? Every bit helps.

BREDA

NOW REPRESENTED IN NEW ZEALAND BY HAYES & ASSOCIATES
BREDA - A TOP NAME IN QUALITY FIREARMS



ERMES 2000 12 GAUGE INERTIA OPERATED SEMI-AUTO 3 inch MAG CHAMBERS MULTICHOKE



VEGA DE LUXE SPORTING O/U 12 GAUGE S/T E/J 28 inch M/C BARRELS 10mm RIB

HAYES & ASSOCIATES LTD

P O BOX 188, CARTERTON

Phone: (06) 379 6692 Fax: (06) 379 5316

IMPORTERS & DISTRIBUTORS OF QUALITY SHOOTING SPORTS EQUIPMENT



Launching wetland care

For some time the DU Board has been aware of a degree of resistance to the name Ducks Unlimited on the part of some public and potential corporate sponsors. After 26 years DU is loath to change its name and disrupt ties with the organisation in America, Canada and Mexico.

The situation was brought to prominence by an approach from Tony Sharley (ex DU Australia Director) and Banrock Station Wines. They wanted to sponsor wetland development in New Zealand but could not do this successfully with the name Ducks Unlimited.

After much thought the Board decided on a compromise where our development arm, Operation Wetlands, would become "Wetland Care New Zealand". It would still be controlled and funded by DUNZ but have its own logo and entity suitable for corporate sponsorships and, hopefully, for the public. The latter may appreciate DU's work but have no desire to belong to the organisation. They will, however, be able to contribute directly to Wetland Care.

The name has been chosen because it is totally self-explanatory and creates a family image with Wetland Care Australia.

The new logo was launched at the Karori Sanctuary in Wellington on 3 November. A design student at Massey University conceived and developed the design for no fee.

The launch at the Karori Sanctuary was sponsored by Banrock Station Wines of Australia who provided a barbecue lunch accompanied by their fine wines for some 60 guests from the Karori Sanctuary Trust, the NZ Community Trust, DOC, the media and seven representatives from DU.

The highlight of the occasion was the presentation of a cheque for \$10,000 by Tony Sharley, Banrock Station Wines manager and environmental scientist, to Wetland Care NZ. The money, which Wetland Care NZ gratefully acknowledged, will be used for wetland control structures at the sanctuary.

Tony Sharley was an inaugural director of DU Australia and attended the DUNZ 1994 AGM in Palmerston North. He retired from the DU Australia board to avoid conflicting interests when he took up his present position. Banrock Station Wines is New Zealand's largest imported wine brand. Funds for the Karori Sanctuary work and future wetlands projects will come from part proceeds of the company's wines. Every bottle of Banrock Station wine purchased in New Zealand will mean more assistance for New Zealand wetlands from this source. The sponsorship deal is part of Banrock Station Wines' expanding support for wetland environmental projects around the world.

Tony Sharley said: "This agreement is one of a number of recent wetland sponsorship announcements from Banrock Station involving wetland projects world-wide. If we

can raise awareness of the importance of wetlands globally, everyone will benefit."

A further plus for the day at Karori was the release of four pairs of brown teal from DU's breeding programme - an example of how Wetland Care NZ and DU will work together.

Banrock Station

Banrock Station's wine making is focused on its property near Kingston-on-Murray in South Australia's Riverland covering over 1700ha. Of the total property, 230ha are new vineyards with the balance being returned to its natural state. Banrock Station has undertaken a major wetland rehabilitation project along 12 kilometres of the River Murray and built an innovative, state-of-the-art environmental information centre. Part proceeds from the sales of all Banrock Station wine brands are designated for environmental protection, with more than \$305,000 already contributed in Australia. The company has made an environmental commitment focused on becoming a world leader in growing "natural capital" and emphasising a high level of environmental, social and economic outcomes.

Banrock's success of linking a wine brand with the environment has seen this influence not only extended to wetlands and wildlife protection projects in all Australian states but now overseas to Europe and North America.

Banrock Station's Australian sponsorship activities were through an initial partnership with Landcare Australia and this financial link has recently been

extended to the Wetland Care Australia group.

Australian and international projects already benefiting include the Mason Park Wetland near an Olympic Games site in Sydney, wetlands in South Australia's Riverland, at Seaford in Victoria and bushland near Brisbane.

International projects include rehabilitation of wetlands in the De Weerribben National Park in the Netherlands and sponsorship of the Finnish branch of the World Wildlife Fund to conserve migratory bird breeding areas at Liminganlahti Bay. Banrock Station is also involved in projects in Canada, UK and USA.

The Karori Sanctuary sponsorship in partnership with Wetland Care NZ is Banrock Station Wines' first sponsorship project in New Zealand.



*One of the brown teal released at Karori Sanctuary.
Photo: William Abel.*

NEW ZEALAND

Wetland care
NEW ZEALAND

The Karori Sanctuary Wetlands

The Karori Sanctuary is a former water reservoir which was adopted by the Karori Sanctuary Trust with the intention of restoring the valley to its natural state. A major part of the restoration has been construction of a unique fence which excludes pests and predators. Into what is in effect an island on the mainland, little spotted kiwi and the four pairs of brown teal have been released. Over the next 10 years the Trust anticipates releasing a total of 19 endangered species into the sanctuary.

The funding from Banrock Station and

Wetland Care NZ is to support work in developing wetlands in the sanctuary. The first wetland area to be constructed will lie along the southern shore of the lower lake. Landscaping of the steep shoreline and material removed from it will be used to raise the lake bed and create a broad rush margin suitable for several species of waterfowl.

Wetland control structures will be built in the lake head area of the Lower Reservoir Lake. Construction of a series of weirs, including fish ladders, will improve management of flows of the Kaiwharawhara Stream to the lower lake and create significant wetland pools upstream.

*“...If we
can
raise
awareness of
the importance of
wetlands globally,
everyone will
benefit...”*

*Banrock Station's Tony Sharley with one of
the captive bred brown teal.
Photo: William Abel*



Wetland Care New Zealand

Wetland Care New Zealand's mission is to:

“harness community, business and government resources to restore and develop lost wetland areas within New Zealand.”

Funding

Funding for projects comes mainly from the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust which was established 12 years ago and has underwritten significant levels of wetland development projects. Additional resources have come through fundraising and corporate sponsorships like that from

Banrock Station Wines. Wetland Care NZ actively seeks funding from private and public sources for its work.

Partnerships

Central to Wetland Care NZ's mission is forming partnerships with people with common aims. Alliances are being established with conservation groups like DOC, NZ Fish and Game, Forest & Bird and regional councils.

Taking Care of Wetlands

Wetland Care NZ's current and completed solo and partnership projects include:
Ashhurst Domain Project - Manawatu

Camm Brown Teal Wetland Project - Northland

Home Lagoon - Wairarapa

Karori Sanctuary Wetland

Development - Wellington

Magill wetland - SH1 Reporoa

Mana Island Brown Teal Wetland - Kapiti

Pearce Wetlands - Wairarapa

Sinclair Wetlands - Otago

Further Information

Please contact:

William Abel - Director, Wetland Care
New Zealand (04)478 4335



The Waimara Wetland Developments

DU's Jim Campbell is unswerving in his determination to see the whole of Wairarapa under water. Last year, two areas on his property north of Masterton were turned into more wetlands subsidised by Wetland Care New Zealand. These pictures speak volumes for what can be achieved and how it can be done....



The site (right) in the early morning before the first day's work started. The Waipoua River is at the extreme left.

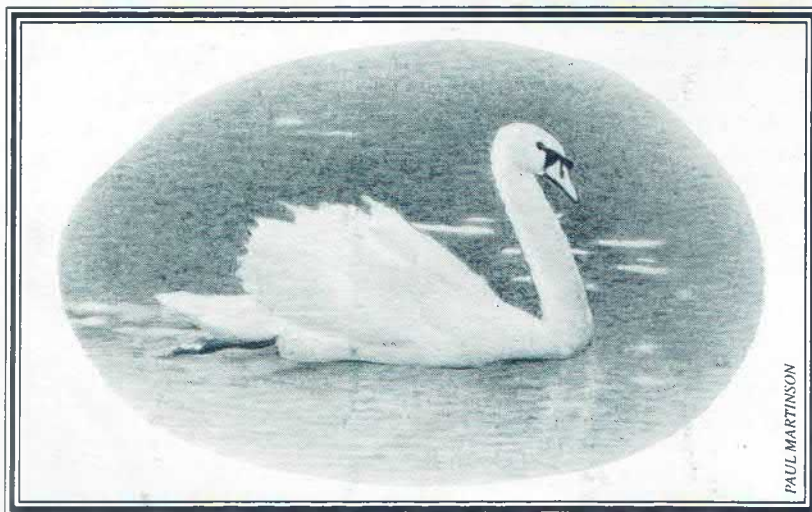


Looking north over the completed development as the first water begins to flow over the spillway.



The southern prospect of the wetland now full on its first day and ready for waterfowl and later planting.

Photos courtesy Jim Campbell.



PAUL MARTINSON





The second wetland development (above) before work began. A drain along the tree line in the right middle ground had to be left undisturbed and parts of the site were extremely wet.



Construction in progress (left) in very soft conditions.



The wetland full (below). Jim says "It's not the best shape, but we were severely constricted by the conditions."



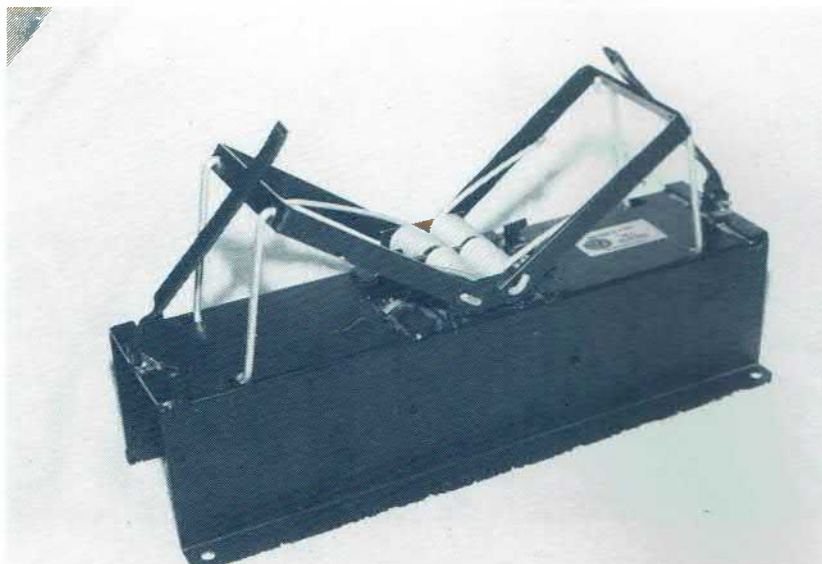
Predator File

The SaF Trap

There is now a new weapon available in the fight against ferrets, stoats and weasels. The "SaF Tunnel Trap", produced by the SaF Trap Company, is an efficient, all-in-one tunnel trap which incorporates a tunnel and two traps in a single unit. Inventor of the trap and DU member Graeme Goucher explains the origins and advantages of the trap...

As the owner of the SaF Trap Company, I started with an idea three years ago to help deal with some large rats on my own property which other traps failed to catch or kill. The tunnel trap I made soon took care of the rats. Then, one morning I was woken by our startled 10 year old son who rushed into our room babbling about a "ferret in the trap". A ferret had indeed run through the tunnel and sprung the trap. This started a series of requests from people who heard about "our" ferret catch. They had tried fenn and gin traps without result and they wanted to borrow the trap to put an end to their own ferret problems.

The success of my trap prompted someone to suggest that we manufacture them. Over the last summer the traps were extensively trialled by Epro, a Taupo-based pest management company. Epro used the traps in Hawke's Bay, Bay of Plenty and in the Waikato. During the trial, ferrets were targeted especially, but a good number of stoats as well as weasels were caught. The success of these trials meant that we went ahead with manufacture and the traps are now on the market. Epro have



included the SaF trap in their pest management programme which extends into the South Island.

Ian Roberts, the Operations Director for Epro, commented in a testimonial for the traps:

"It is important to note the reliability of these traps, as not once during this trial was a trap sprung without a result. A pleasing feature is the SaF trap's ability to catch more than one animal, effectively doubling the trapnights of opportunity.

"The SaF trap brings a new concept to mustelid control and is welcomed as an effective tool of the trade."

Because the trap mechanism is incorporated in the tunnel, only the target species - ferrets, stoats, weasels and rats - are caught. The traps are designed to deal with the tough ferret but are easily tripped by stoats and the

lighter weight weasels and, of course, the animal that started it all: the rat.

Once an animal has set the trap off, there is no likelihood of it getting out. Caught animals are quickly and humanely killed, unlike other traps available which frequently catch animals by the legs or lower body, meaning a slow and painful death.

The SaF traps are user-friendly and are easy to set without the risk of fingers being caught if the trap is sprung accidentally.

SaF Traps are available from the SaF Trap Company, 1174 Poihipi Road, RD1, Taupo. The traps are competitively priced at \$65.00 including gst, packaging and postage.

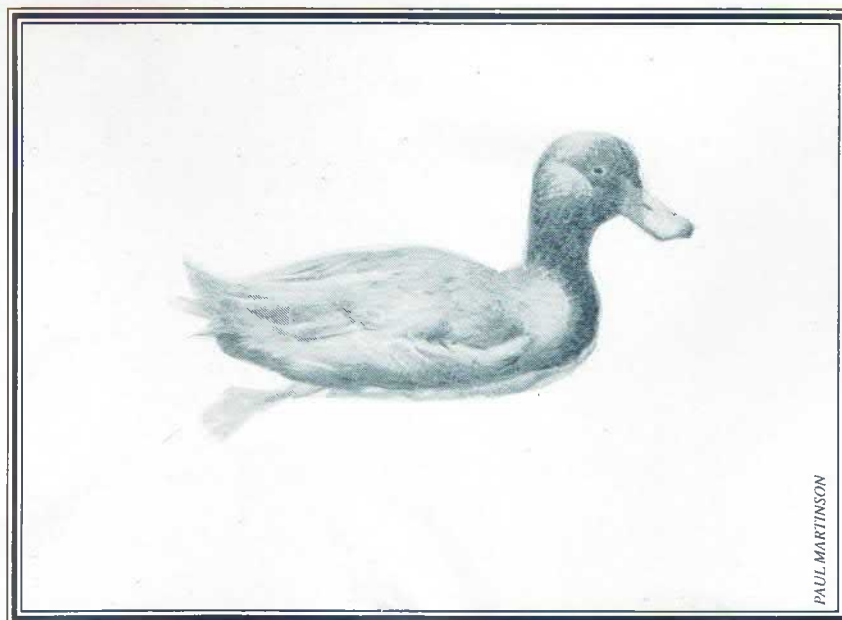
STOP PRESS

DU Member's Work on Country Calendar

Members are urged to watch for an episode of Country Calendar on a Saturday evening on TV1 in March or April which will feature Mitredale, ex-DU Director Di Pritt's property at Ohakune.

Flight 93 (October 1997) carried an article profiling Di Pritt, and gave background on the work she has done for wetland conservation at Mitredale. She is a recipient of the Bill Barrett Trophy, awarded to her for outstanding service to DU in New Zealand.

The property, the family farm which she took over in 1989, has over 20ha of wetlands with an abundance of waterfowl. Since 1982, over \$40,000 has been spent on wetland habitat and conservation.



PAUL MARTINSON

Conservation on the NET

The Internet provides a vast amount of material on practically every aspect of the environment and conservation issues. It's a major source of sharing of concerns, research and education about the world and national environments.

Below are just a few websites the team producing Flight has found useful. Readers are invited to submit details of sites they find useful and would like to recommend to other DU members. Email to: anscape@duza.co.nz

www.nzero.co.nz

The New Zealand Tree Crops Association's main aims are to promote interest in useful trees, dissemination of information about useful trees, research into breeding, propagation and care of tree crops, use of trees for many purposes including fruit and nut production, animal fodder, bee forage, energy (firewood), multi-tier farming and orcharding, shelter and timber, and water conservation.

<http://freeautoadvice.com>

Ill-tuned vehicles are an environmental hazard and expensive to operate. This site is, from the editor's personal experience, proof of the best aspects of the Internet. Even if you're not mechanically inclined, the advice and assistance this site can provide will help you to diagnose vehicle problems before you throw yourself on the mercy of your garage. For those attempting basic vehicle maintenance, the site gives access to a vast network of experience, advice, and problem-solving in lay person's language.

www.nzfarming.co.nz

Largely a directory to agricultural and rural services, the site also offers rural news, weather forecasts and directories of products and services the person on the land or wetland might need to know about.

<http://passporttoknowledge.com/rainforest>

Rainforests now cover less than 7% of Earth's land surface but they are home to over 50% of all known species. Some researchers think that millions more may exist - especially in tropical rainforests - waiting to be discovered. This site provides fascinating information on rainforest ecosystems and facilitates interaction with and learning from the researchers who study them. A terrific interactive site for anyone, with superb graphics, maps and virtual tours of the rainforest.



**WE
SUPPORT
WATERFOWL
AND
WETLANDS**

**SPORTWAYS
GUNSHED LTD**

49 NORMANBY ROAD
MT EDEN
AUCKLAND

Phone 09 631 5275 09 638 7279



DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.

For Wetlands and Waterfowl

P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland.

YES, I would wish to join Ducks Unlimited as a member Please send me further information, I may join later.

.....
Title First Name Surname Phone Fax

.....
Address

Membership is available in seven categories:

Junior (under 16) \$10 Contributor \$35 Family \$50 Life (one payment) \$1000

Note: Bronze, silver, and gold sponsorships, which can be changed annually, include the membership fee of \$35.00 inc.GST. For the balance, sponsors will receive a receipt as proof of a tax deductible donation

Bronze Sponsor \$60 Silver Sponsor \$125 Gold Sponsor \$250

My donation of \$ is enclosed. Please find my cheque attached.

Please charge my VISA/MASTERCARD No:

Expires: Signature:

Please renew my membership each year and charge my credit card YES/NO

ALL DONATIONS TO DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC. ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.



&c.

A longtime member's previous incarnation as a freelance actor in radio, stage, film and TV has returned to haunt innocent television viewers. Some months ago he was approached by a company for whom he had appeared in several television commercials 25 years ago with a request to use a clip for a rerun.

Declining any fee, he suggested that a donation to the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust would be perfectly in order. They said, "How about \$500?" He said, "How about \$1,000?"

The Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust has since received a cheque for \$750 from Mark Bell-Booth Ltd.

"The answer lies in the seaweed, son."

Volunteer Aid for Conservation

A new national organisation has been set up to help co-ordinate volunteer resources for environmental and conservation projects. The New Zealand Trust for Conservation Volunteers Inc. (NZTCV) will act as a broker between those who need help to carry out conservation projects and the many volunteers willing to do voluntary conservation work locally, nationally or while travelling overseas.

The trust is setting up a database of organisations and individuals who seek assistance and volunteers who could be matched to particular projects.

Projects contributing to conservation of New Zealand's ecology will qualify for the database and could involve tree planting, pest control, clearing or walkway construction.

NZTCV contact: Secretary, P.O. Box 8038, Symonds Street, Auckland, (09)528 1013. fax (09)528 1073, email: valerie@mentora.co.nz.

Eco-friendly Herbicide Gel

A practical and effective solution to weed control in ecologically sensitive areas is now available as a low-toxicity herbicide gel (Vigilant TM). This can be applied directly to the cut stems of target weeds. The herbicide's advantages include the smaller quantities required, lower concentration of the active ingredient, avoidance of spray drift to other species or pasture, and less danger of run-off or contamination of the soil. The gel has been successfully trialled on cotoneaster, Darwin's barberry, elaeagnus, kahili ginger, tree privet, Chinese privet, gorse, wandering willie, and agapanthus. Most effective 100% control has been achieved in old man's beard, climbing spindleberry, Japanese honeysuckle and grey willow. The herbicide gel was developed by HortResearch scientists Brian Ward and Ron Henzell.

Infinite Nature

"One is constantly reminded of the infinite lavishness and fertility of Nature - inexhaustible abundance amid what seems enormous waste. And yet when we look into any of her operations that lie within reach of our minds, we learn that no particle of her material is wasted or worn out. It is eternally flowing from use to use, beauty to yet higher beauty; and we soon cease to lament waste and death, and rather rejoice and exult in the imperishable, unspendable wealth of the universe, and faithfully watch and wait the reappearance of everything that melts and fades and dies about us, feeling sure that its next appearance will be better and more beautiful than the last."

- John Muir (1838 - 1914) founder of the Sierra Club and recognised as the father of the environmental movement.

Wetland Facts: Positives and Negatives

Wetlands have enormous social, economic and environmental significance. Their steady destruction has had consequences only belatedly realised. Often located at the margins of towns and cities or the undeveloped areas of farms, wetlands are often regarded as being of little economic or aesthetic value.

Natural Protection from Flooding

Wetlands store floodwater runoff, slowly releasing flood waters back into streams, lakes, and groundwater; making flooding impacts less damaging. One acre of wetlands can store more than 360,000 gallons of water if flooded to a depth of one foot. Wetlands reduce flooding and serving as buffers during coastal storms.

Destroying wetlands and converting the land to agriculture increases water runoff from fields by 200 to 400%. Conversion to roads and pavement increases runoff even more.

The Environment's Water Treatment Plants

Wetlands remove pollutants from runoff and keep water clean by removing sediment from surface water. Wetlands serve as a natural filter absorbing waterborne pollutants and damaging nutrients before the water enters rivers, lakes, and streams.

The Ecosystem's Nurseries

Most fish and waterfowl species are born in wetlands. The US Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that up to 43% of the threatened and endangered species need wetlands for their survival. More than half of America's migratory birds use wetlands as important seasonal habitats where food, water, and cover are plentiful. Offshore fishing industries depend on inshore wetland habitats for continued viability of fish stocks. Species like shrimp are wetland dependent species, being important in the marine food chain and as a catch species themselves. Viability of shellfish beds often depends on the cleansing action of wetlands.

The Silent Guardians of Recreation and Tourism Industries

Poor water quality can affect recreation and tourism industries, whose most popular destinations are beaches, lakes, and rivers. This underscores the importance of the water cleansing role of wetlands, their habitat for waterfowl game species and recreational fish.

The Major Threats to Wetlands

Hydrologic Alteration

Anything which alters the natural cycles of inundation of wetlands affects the plant species and soil chemistry of the habitat. Wetland loss and degradation through hydrologic alteration by man has occurred historically through drainage, dredging, stream channelisation, ditching, stopbanks, deposition of fill material, stream diversion,

ground water withdrawal, and impoundment. Unforeseen consequences can include subsidence of coastal land, saltwater intrusion into freshwater areas, and changes in the composition of plant and animal populations of affected areas.

Urbanisation

Urbanisation is a major cause of damage to and disappearance of wetlands. Damage is due to: changes in water quality, quantity, and flow rates; increases in pollutant inputs; and changes in species composition as a result of introduction of non-native species and disturbance. Urban pollutants include sediment, nutrients, oxygen-demanding substances, road salts, heavy metals, hydrocarbons, bacteria, and viruses. These pollutants may enter wetlands, affect aquatic life and, therefore, the food web. Storm drainage systems disrupt the frequency, duration, and timing of flows of water through wetlands, affecting spawning, migration, species composition, and thus the food web in a wetland as well as in associated ecosystems.

Roads and Bridges

Wetlands tend to be regarded as being of low land value so roads or bridges are built across wetlands rather than around them. Roads, bridges and culverts disrupt water flows, impede movement of certain species or result in increased mortality for animals crossing them. Construction and maintenance degrades water quality through sedimentation and may add chemicals into the wetlands. Herbicides can damage wetland plants and the chemicals may concentrate in aquatic life. Chemicals introduced by construction, maintenance or traffic flows can include hydrocarbons, heavy metals, and toxic substances like lead, rust, and those from paint, solvents, abrasives, and cleaners.

Refuse Landfills

Landfills can cause damage to wetlands by altering the hydrology of nearby wetlands. Leachate from solid waste landfills can include ammonium, iron, and manganese in concentrations that are toxic to plant and animal life. Hazardous wastes as well as sewage sludge and industrial waste may enter wetlands through landfills.

Non-native plants and animals

As a result of disturbance and habitat degradation, wetlands can be invaded by aggressive, highly-tolerant, non-native vegetation. In constructed wetlands, including restored wetlands, non-native and tolerant native species may outcompete other species and reduce species diversity. Species like water hyacinth can rapidly fill a wetland and are a threat to water quality in some areas. Introduced predators, including feral cats and wandering dogs, prey on wetland birds.

Industry

Adverse effects of industry on wetlands can include: reduction of wetland acreage, alteration of wetland hydrology due to industrial water intake and discharge, land reclamation, water temperature increases, pollutant inputs, pH changes as a result of discharges, and atmospheric deposition.

DRAWING: The Blue Penguin

A pair of Brackets standing tall...



...draw a head in the shape of a ball, add flipper, a tail and a beak to do...

...and lastly, webbed feet so he can't fall.



... A regular feature introducing a simple drawing technique for new wildlife artists.

The blue penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) is the smallest of all penguins, measuring only 400mm from beak to tail. It is endemic and also known as little blue penguin, little penguin, fairy penguin, or by its Maori name of korara.

The sexes are alike with their upper surface blue, varying from pale to dark, with one to three white feathers on the rear edge of the flippers. The penguin's throat is grey and underbody white, bill black and feet white. The feet change colour to pink when the penguin is excited.

Found only in the northern half of the North Island and on offshore islands, the blue penguin spends most of the year at sea feeding on small fish. It comes ashore to breed and moult.

Both parents incubate the pure white eggs, which gradually turn brown, and remain on the nest for 25 days. The chicks are left alone during the day until the parents return to feed them at night.

Illustration republished courtesy of Alan Fielding.

Flight ECOFILE

Eco-friendly Dairy Farming

While dairy farming is crucial to many of New Zealand's regional economies, it is reckoned as one of the country's most polluting industries. Not only does the handling and treatment of cowshed effluent pose a problem, but pasture management regimes and drainage can affect natural waterways, bush remnants and overall biodiversity.

An article, "Enviro-friendly Dairy Farming" in the October 2000 issue of *Open Space* (magazine of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust) explores how one dairy farmer, DU member Roy Dench, has developed sustainable ways to benefit his farm and the environment.

As well as constructing a wetland, Roy Dench has fenced off and replanted stands of native kahikatea. Replanting has added obvious aesthetic values to the property.

Fencing and maintenance of drains has been introduced to keep stock out and reduce damage to banks, soil loss and siltation. Mating species like duckweed in the drains helps remove nutrients washed into the drains from pastures. The drains feed into a wetland planted with rushes and sedges which strip nutrients and trap sediments.

Roy Dench also largely avoids using nitrogen fertiliser. Heavy and repeated application of nitrogen slowly replaces clovers (natural nitrogen fixers) which creates the need for further nitrogen applications. Run-off of nitrogen-enriched water harms the life in creeks, streams, rivers and lakes.

Dairy shed effluent is run into a holding pond from where it is used to irrigate and fertilise nine paddocks. These paddocks are away from drains so run-off into waterways is low.

Attention to other aspects of overall farm biodiversity consists of predator control, removal of species like magpies, and general efforts to create a safe habitat for native bird and waterfowl attracted to the environment on the property.

There's evidence, too, that the practices of one farmer in an area result in visible enhancement of the environment which encourages neighbours to follow suit.

Diazinon Ban

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced an agreement to phase out diazinon, one of the most common pesticides in the US, for indoor uses in 2001, and for all lawn, garden and turf uses by December 2003. The agreement also begins the process to cancel around 20 different uses of diazinon on food crops.

Diazinon is one of the most widely used domestic pesticide ingredients. As one of the organophosphates, it can affect the nervous system in humans and wildlife. It is one of the most common pesticides found in air, rain, and drinking and surface water. The agreement reached in early December with the pesticide's manufacturers, Syngenta and Maktreshim Agan, will eliminate 75 percent of the chemical's use, amounting to more than 11 million pounds of the pesticide each year. [Reported in *Lycos ENS*]

The UK Countryside Surveyed

The just published *UK Countryside Survey 2000* is included in research being undertaken by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, part of the Natural Environment Council. The survey has used the most advanced rural research in the world to map changes in the UK countryside over the last decade.

The most comprehensive assessment of the United Kingdom's plant and wildlife habitats has revealed good news and bad in the measurement of changes in the countryside between 1990 and 1998.

Changes identified include a halt to the loss of hedgerows in England and Wales and an increase of 38% in plant diversity in arable field boundaries in England and Wales, but a decrease in diversity of at least eight percent in some meadows and road verges, including the loss of plants important to butterflies. Broadleaved woodlands in England and

Wales have expanded by four percent and nine percent in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

There is good news for wetlands, with a six percent increase in the number of lowland ponds in the UK and improvement in the biological quality of small rivers and streams. More than 25% of sites across the UK are in better condition and only two percent of sites declined. There has been a 27% expansion of fen, marsh and swamp in England and Wales.

As well as surveying these changes, the Countryside Survey 2000 provides a tool for managing the countryside and measuring progress. [Adapted from *Lycos ENS* website: <http://ens.lycos.com>]

A Meditation for Environmentalists

O cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration!

Soften the ground of our being and carve out a space within us where your Presence can abide.

Fill us with your creativity so that we may be empowered to bear the fruit of your mission.

Let each of our actions bear fruit in accordance with your desire.

Endow us with the wisdom to produce and share what each being needs to grow and flourish.

Untie the tangled threads of destiny that bind us, as we release others from the entanglement of past mistakes.

Do not let us be seduced by that which would divert us from our true purpose, but illuminate the opportunities of the present moment.

For you are the ground and the fruitful vision, the birth-power and fulfillment, as all is gathered and made whole once again.

- Mark Hathaway. (A rendition of "Our Father" directly from the Aramaic into English after work done by Neil Douglas-Klotz, author of *Prayers of the Cosmos and Desert Wisdom*.)



WINCHESTER®

MORE THAN A NAME. A LEGEND.



Marketed in the North Island by Kilwell Sports Ltd
and S&R Marston in the South Island.



"Home" Pond, Gretel Lagoons, Wairarapa. Photo: Neil Hayes.

Proud to support Ducks Unlimited
New Zealand Inc.
in their efforts to conserve
New Zealand's wetlands and waterfowl