



## "FLIGHT"

FLIGHT 4/76 Issue 10

December 1976

### NEWS

#### D.U. N.Z. FOUNDER DEPARTS - AND LICKERS LEAVES N.Z. (BUT NOT DU!)

It is with regret, and a touch of sadness, that we record the resignations of Jack Worth and Henry Lickers from your board of directors. Jack has resigned for private reasons but will remain associated with DU and we will not lose the benefit of his advice, vast experience and waterfowl management expertise. Henry and his wife, Bev, depart for far off shores - a visit home to Canada and then to the United States for an indefinite period. Henry, too, will not be completely severing his ties with DU NZ and plans to 'campaign vigorously' on our behalf while absent from the country.

Jack and Henry were among the founder directors who formulated the idea of a Ducks Unlimited in this country - both were familiar with the activities of our well established affiliated organisations on the North American continent and their 'task' was to 'design and build' in conjunction with other founder directors a DU which was applicable to New Zealand waterfowl and their needs. Both have always preferred to work in the background, quietly but effectively and efficiently.

Ian Pirani, President, comments:

'We regretfully farewell Jack and Henry and our friends leave us, to follow differing pursuits, with our best wishes and many memories of experiences shared and a contribution which just cannot be measured. Their 'memorial' and particularly that of our founder, Jack Worth, is the DU that you see today.'



Jack Worth and Henry Lickers in typical pose and as their fellow directors mostly will remember them.

#### PRESIDENT, DU (CANADA) TO VISIT N.Z. JANUARY

Mr R.A.O. Hunter, President of Ducks Unlimited (Canada) plans to visit New Zealand on a private holiday in January 1977 - we look forward to meeting with him and to showing him something of the country and Ducks Unlimited!

#### CONGRATULATIONS - DON MC CULLOCH!

Sincere congratulations to Ducks Unlimited member, and President of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society, Don A. McCulloch on his recent appointment as President of the North Island Council of Acclimatisation Societies.

#### TVI FOUNDING UNIT TO FILM WILDLIFE

TVI is to establish a wildlife film unit next year, based in Dunedin. Said Graeme Wilson, producer, 'It will be the first time there has been any concentrated attention on wildlife here by television. That seems odd, but good. It means it is a very fertile field. There is a lot of international interest in New Zealand wildlife at the moment because the country has the distinction of having the highest number of endangered species.' Filming has begun for the wildlife unit. A camera crew went to the Chatham Islands recently to film the transfer of the Chatham Islands black robin from Little Mangere Island to Mangere Island. Graeme Wilson says there are a number of interesting potential locations for wildlife filming. (item source: Auckland Star)

## D.U. N.Z. JOINS N.Z. BRANCH OF WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

Ducks Unlimited (NZ) has become a supporter member of the New Zealand World Wildlife Fund which has recently been established. The World Wildlife Fund (New Zealand) aims to complement the work of the country's many environmental organisations and give added impetus to high priority conservation projects both here and overseas. It is a funding organisation and an education organisation and proposes to provide funds to focus attention and finance approved conservation work in the field. Among primary objectives are the creation of public awareness of the WWP and its emblem the PANDA throughout New Zealand; the establishment of an Operating Fund to enable the Trust to launch a programme of publicity, education and fund-raising and the PANDA Endowment Fund to sustain basic administration; the identification of sources of regular funds; the seeking of public support for urgent conservation projects including N.Z. endangered birds, NZ endangered habitats and NZ endangered animals.




## WELCOME TO DUCKS UNLIMITED - NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to advise that N.C. Cameron of Featherston has 'transferred' to Life membership of DU NZ; we welcome warmly too Mr Guillermo Gomez Urrea, our first supporter member from Mexico; and we apologise to Mr W.J. Brown whose trade membership we reported in the last issue (however, we mis-spelt his name at that time!). In addition - the following:

Dr D. Cook	(F)	*N. Irwin	(S)	sponsored by J. Worth
*C. Cooper	(S)	B.E. Lucinsky	(F)	
		A.D. Ludbrook	(F)	
V.M. Duncan	(S)	G.A. Mulinder	(F)	
De Mont Studio, Hamilton	(T)	G.K. Portsmouth	(F)	
K.A. Hale	(S)	B.E. White	(S)	

## CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS - SPONSORED SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DUCKS UNLIMITED 'T' SHIRTS!

FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE EVERYTHING!



Now is the time for Christmas buying! Since our last issue we have been inundated with orders for 'T' shirts - with further profit to benefit Operation Grell!

Shirts are top quality polyester/cotton and there is an assortment of sizes for both types as follows: from 30-32" chest SM, M, OS and XOS

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P.O. Box 74, Hamilton

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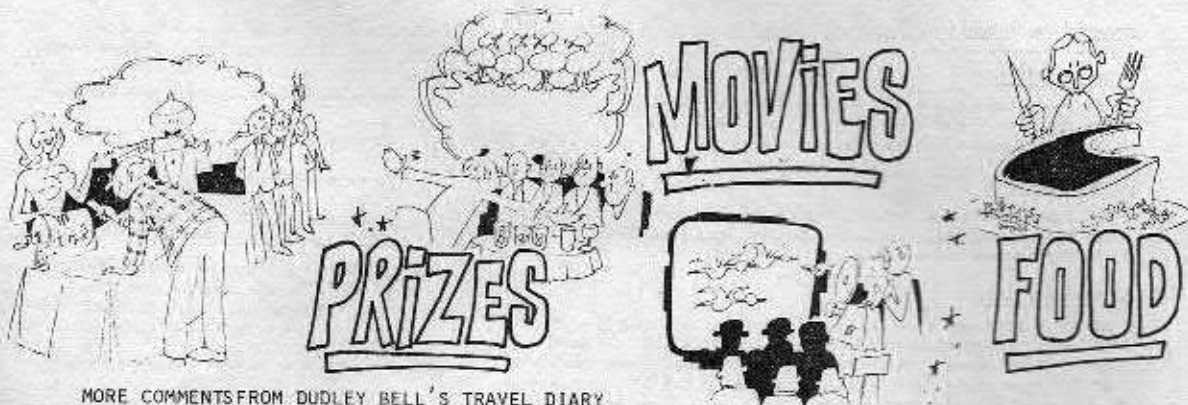
## A NOTE OF THANKS . . . .

to Dorset Studios Ltd, Frankton for generous donation of time and photographs for use with publicity work.  
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to Mr K.A. Hale of Taupo who kindly made available his home for our recent directors' meeting in Taupo.  
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to 'Gunshot' magazine for producing free our half page advertisement in a recent issue and 2 further issues.  
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REMINDER - REMINDER - REMINDER - D.U. ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 1977 AT AUCKLAND - DON'T MISS IT!



MORE COMMENTS FROM DUDLEY BELL'S TRAVEL DIARY

The Missouri Coteau is a medial moraine area deposited by the continental glacier which receded off the American continent after the Ice Age. The rolling topography of this country is unique and extends from Canada down in to the U.S.A. It is possibly one of the highest natural waterfowl production areas in North America. It is near the town of Caron - Canada and is called DU the Caron Pothole Study Area. The area includes approximately 2,500 acres and 275 potholes and takes 4 men one and a half days to walk and count each pond. The water areas vary from a few yards across up to 6 acres and the depths from a few inches, and these often dry up completely, to many feet.

The counts on the Caron Potholes are made 3 times per breeding season in May, June and August. The final count when I was there, in August proved after a shaky start that the season was to be one of the better on record. Quoting from the provincial biologist's report: 'The results of the 1974 Caron Pothole surveys indicate that greatly improved water and cover have encouraged the relatively small spring breeding population to "put out" at a record rate. The hatch for some species was delayed, for others spread out over two months or more, but the final result indicates nearly a three-fold increase in production over the 1973 season.'

Some interesting figures have come out of the counts: 394 broods counted, 532 breeding pairs giving 74% success. Indications were that the smallest breeding population recorded during the last 5 years had been able to show relatively good production figures by virtue of an extremely high reproductive success.

The Caron counts were followed by a long car journey into the East Central part of Saskatchewan to Leaf Lake near the town of Hudson Bay. A team of DU personnel visited the area, totalling 11,000 acres and 110 ft above sea level. The area was observed from aircraft, swamp buggy and air boat and I had the one and a half day job of towing the air boat to the site over Tapu Hill, Coroglen type roads - but on the flat of course!

The emergent vegetation comprised Raupo (cattail) Bullrush and Reed grass with very few submergents, accounted for by the acidic musky bog surrounding the whole area, and in part caused by the huge 20-30 lb Carp which, during their feeding, disturb the bottom causing the water to be cloudy, disallowing light penetration and so no weeds could grow. This is the major problem in many of Canada's waterfowl marshes and lakes. Altogether 52 pair of duck were counted on the area of lake and its surrounding bogs.

Low production farmland on the south side of the lake was suggested as a purchase proposition by the government as lure crop area and both upland and large game winter feeding.

An old "Lamb" (named after a fellow who designed them) Dam was constructed across the lakes outlet but this had been washed out. The dam was formed to flood the lake and bogs as a Muskrat breeding area for future trapping. Now no Muskrat were observed, and it is also noted that these animals are used as a criteria to good waterfowl waters. Hence, no Muskrat ..... few duck.

In brief, the development proposals for Leaf Lake and surrounding marsh are to reconstruct a control on the outlet stream to maintain a balanced water level in the large open water area. The South Western Marsh to be dyked off and used as a separate management area. All proposals including the dredging deeper of the outlet channel were feasible but a cost analysis had to be established. How it stands to date, I am uncertain but if I know DU (Canada) it will have been done by this time and will be another controlled acreage of thousands now utilised by Ducks Unlimited and the North American waterfowl population.

D.G.B.



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## OPERATION PATEKE

We were hopeful that, with this issue of FLIGHT, we could give a comprehensive report on the results of this breeding season - however, due to lack of comment from members who have Brown Teal, we are unable to do so. We have heard, unofficially, that the season has not been a good one and we urge all holders of Brown Teal to communicate with DU headquarters the results achieved to date. Watch for FLIGHT issue 1/77!

## REPORT ON OPERATION GRETEL

Diary notes of inspections of Grey Teal nesting boxes at Pokero carried out by Paul Pirani, Kelvin Mackie and Glen Butts, with the kind assistance of Tony Fleeman, the property owner.

2 October 1976

- 2 'O' type boxes had a total of 14 Grey Teal eggs
- 1 'Z' type box had a total of 3 Grey Teal eggs
- 7 'X' type boxes which had been converted to 'Z' type were erected.

30 October 1976

- 1 'O' type box from previous inspection had complete hatch.
- 4 'O' type boxes had a total of 39 Grey Teal eggs
- 2 'Z' type boxes had a total of 13 Grey Teal eggs

28 November 1976

- 1 of 'O' type boxes from October inspection had complete hatch.
  - 3 of above 'O' type boxes had a total of 9 infertile eggs
  - 1 of 'Z' type boxes from October inspection had complete hatch.
  - 1 of 'Z' type boxes from October inspection had 1 infertile egg.
- It was noted that no further boxes were being used by Grey Teal.

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### Summary

To date, with a further two inspections to be carried out in December 1976 and January 1977, results are:

- 5.7% 'O' boxes used by Grey Teal
- 11.7% 'Z' boxes used by Grey Teal
- 85% of eggs laid were hatched
- 15% of eggs laid were infertile

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## Season's Greetings

CHRISTMAS is a very special time . . . for strengthening family ties, renewing friendships, for reflection and for planning.

1976 has seen many changes - worldwide, and in life at home in New Zealand. Ducks Unlimited (NZ) too, has experienced a year of change with its share of success and disappointment. The rate of change will continue to accelerate at an ever increasing pace in 1977 and we must be prepared to meet this and adapt our attitudes, techniques and planning to accommodate the inevitable developments which will occur. However, whatever decisions are taken and whatever the future may bring, the overall benefits to all waterfowl are never far from our thoughts or actions. DU reaches beyond immediate political issues and personal conflicts in a positive and productive way in its efforts to assist the waterfowl population. I am most gratified when I reflect on the achievements to date and I am confident that, together, we shall meet the challenges ahead.

Special and sincere thanks to my fellow directors for their dedication to the task, their seemingly endless energy and the overwhelming support given to me during this year. My appreciation also to our Keemen, our members for their confidence in us and continuing support, and our many good friends here and overseas who have positively contributed to our progress this year - contributions which are helping to secure a more productive future for our waterfowl.

I extend a warm and sincere wish to you all for good health and happiness in 1977.

A future filled with the best life has to offer - this should be the vision for the coming year . . . for ourselves, our families and, naturally, for our friends, the ducks.



Ian H. Pirani - President  
Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Inc

