

Flight

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2002

ISSUE 111



DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.

www.ducks.org.nz

For Wetlands and Waterfowl.

Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc.

28th Annual Conference

19-21 July 2002.

Alcorno Hotel, 290 Ulster Street, Hamilton

(note correction from January issue)

Rooms have been reserved for the Friday and Saturday nights. It would be helpful if members would show an expression of interest as soon as possible so that we can confirm with the hotel.

Full Registration includes AGM attendance, morning tea, wetland bus tour, lunch and wine tasting, Saturday night dinner and auction: \$80.00 per person. (Other meals are not covered in the registration fee)

Saturday night dinner and auction only: \$35.00 per person.

Room deposit: \$50.00 per person.

Send your registration and payment to:

P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland.

Conference inquiries: Ray Hayward (07) 855 2205

Note: The full conference programme will be published in Flight's July issue.



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 wetland development projects to a significant level. Extra resources have come through

fundraising and corporate sponsorships like that from Banrock Station Wines. Wetland Care New Zealand actively seeks funding from private and public sources for its work.

Partnerships

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

Taking Care of Wetlands

Wetland Care New Zealand's current and completed projects and partnerships include:

Ashhurst Domain Project - Manawatu

Camm Brown Teal Wetland project - Northland

Home Lagoon Project - Wairarapa

Karori Sanctuary Wetland Development - Wellington

Magill Wetland - SH1 Reporoa

Mana Island Brown Teal Wetland - Kapiti

Pearce Wetlands - Wairarapa

Sinclair Wetlands - Otago

For further information, please contact:

William Abel - Director, Wetland Care

New Zealand (04) 478 4335

'Good Earth, Fine Wine' - Banrock Station Million Dollar Milestone

On World Wetlands Day, 2 February 2002, at the company's property in the Riverlands area of South Australia, Wine and Wetlands Centre Manager Tony Sharley announced that Banrock Station's contribution to wetland conservation has topped the \$1million mark. Mr Sharley said that reaching this level of contributions is testament to the success and importance of the programme. 'We are talking environmental stewardship and we want Banrock Station to be recognised as the most environmentally conscious and supportive wine company in the world, with a name that is associated with values greater than just wine,' he said. During 2001 more than two million cases of the company's wines were exported. The enormous success of Banrock Station Wines has made it an example to industry, demonstrating that the natural environment can be well maintained alongside agricultural activities.



INSIGHT

Neil Candy
President

Ducks Unlimited members have joined the organisation for a raft of reasons - the creation of wetlands for personal enjoyment, various conservation aims, the breeding of endangered waterfowl and in some instances a project that lets the general public have access to these wonderful wetland areas we all love.

One such project is at the Ashhurst Domain near Palmerston North where over the last four years the Manawatu Chapter has developed a wetland and constructed a cliff-top viewing platform for the public to enjoy. It saddens me to report that on a Sunday evening in late January some mindless moron, with nothing better to do, set fire to the platform and burnt it down. You have to wonder at the mental capacity of some individuals presently roaming our streets. More on this story inside.

On a happier note, Ossie Latham has taken on the role of DUNZ Operation Pateke co-ordinator and will be working closely with our breeders and DOC. He is confident that we can save this precious duck from projected extinction.

We have been approached by Operation Whio co-ordinator Peter Russell about funding for a half-way house, probably to be built at Staglands in the Wellington area to teach young whio (blue duck) how to live in their natural environment. The Board thinks this is a superb opportunity to further increase their survival rate and we are applying for funds from the Millennium Trust.

I will on your behalf take this opportunity to thank Craig Worth for his time and effort during the last two years. He has done a great job. Our financial situation is good, our membership steady, and Wetland Care has funds available for further work. If you are thinking about doing a wetland, now may be the time for action.

Personally, Julie and I have purchased a new farm (1 March) at Woodville so not only am I taking on the President's role, I am having to learn all about sheep as well. The next two years are really going to be interesting.

All this education? My head hurts already!

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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: From left - Shaun O'Connor, Pateke Team Leader; Juliet Chamberlain, Warrenheip partner; Phil Thompson, predator consultant; Dr Ray Pearce, ecologist. Warrenheip, January 2002. Photo: Ossie Latham

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OUR People



Gail Simons

A comparatively new DU member, Gail was born in Inglewood and still lives in the area as co-owner and manager of Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park (see Flight 107, April 2001).

Educated at Inglewood Primary and High Schools she worked for a professional photographer in New Plymouth - readers will have noted her ability in her contributions to Flight. She has worked for Eureka Gardens at Egmont Village, for Stratford Press, and as a reporter and photographer with the Inglewood News. Married to Trevor, a builder, they have a daughter Nicola, married with two children, and two sons who both work with their father.

Gail's interests focus on animals, birds and photography - with her greatest passion being Scottish Highland Cattle. She bred McGillie, the Taranaki Rugby Team's live mascot, which she still owns with 10 other purebred Highlanders.

Her involvement with waterfowl relates to the pond at Stoney Oaks housing black swan, Canada geese and other itinerant waterfowl, and the new wetland area with mute swan, grey teal and rainbow trout. Her pet pukeko, Pook, is one of the loves of her life, she says.

Stoney Oaks is open on advertised days and during the school holidays. In term time they host organised group visits.

Contact: phone (06) 756 7624.



Ken Barnes

Ken has been Wairarapa Chapter chairman for the past three years and a member for 15 years. He lives in Carterton with his wife and two daughters.

Born in Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands he was at the Darwin Boarding School there until he was nine, when his parents moved to NZ seeking better education for their children and greater opportunities. He attended Lansdowne Primary School and Wairarapa College.

Ken is an industrial electrician, has worked for the Wairarapa Electric Power Board as Service Supervisor and been involved in commercial fishing and paua diving.

He is currently Managing Director of a company with multi-level activities - industrial electrical contracting, paua diving and quota management and operating a charter yacht.

His interests include scuba diving, spear fishing, sporting clay and duck shooting and fly fishing which he says is marginally successful. He enjoys reading, concerts and contemporary theatre.

Ken is actively involved in DU fundraising through sporting clay shoots and chapter dinner/auctions and encourages new members and wetland development. His philosophy? Protect what we already have, develop and enhance new wetlands and nature will take care of the rest.

If any member is prepared to feature in this column please drop a note to Flight, c/o 73 Wood Street, Greytown 5953, or phone (06) 304 9729 and we will send you a simple questionnaire. All photographs are returned.

Board Business

The 121st Board Meeting was held at Hatepe on Saturday 23 February, with three apologies. The minutes of the September meeting and November Teleconference were confirmed with no matters arising. The President's report was tabled, and the most interesting piece of correspondence came from Yugoslavia with an offer from a group of fourth-year Belgrade veterinary students to assist with the Chatham Islands Brown Teal release to gain field experience. The Board regretted we could not accept this interesting offer. The Treasurer's Report was circulated and it was pleasing to note that we have a healthy financial position with nearly \$10,000 in the cash account and \$63,000 in the reserve account - this is tagged to the Lake Waikare court case and for wetland development subsidies. The budget for the coming financial year was established and a proposal from the Waikato Chapter to raise our subscription rates was discussed. It was decided to make no changes at this stage. Waikato also raised the issue of family memberships and suggested that all members of a family living at the same address should be registered as members to increase our membership, which would help when it comes to seeking grants. The idea was agreed to and will be implemented in April when renewals are sent out. It was encouraging to note that our membership is up slightly.

David Smith reported on the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust investment with Spicers which showed an excellent return for the December quarter. At 19 February it stood at \$291,924.83.

Details of the July Conference Weekend were discussed and the organisation is well in hand.

PROJECT REPORTS

David Smith reported that the balance of the Chatham Islands funding had been returned to the Millennium Office; it is intended to reapply for the funds to build a captive blue duck pre-release enclosure.

Operation Pāteke

An audit of DOC's Pateke Recovery Programme was completed in October 2000. Those consulted included DU members Gurr, Smith, Worth, Evans, Hayes and also Grant Dumbell. Of interest to DU are two of the author's statements:

'The Brown Teal captive management Plan (Dumbell 2000) should be implemented, and the captive-breeding programme revitalised.'

'There must be a new relationship between DOC and DU, managed by a Recovery Group Leader who has adequate time to professionally manage the relationship.'

The report listed 10 major objectives, including:

- Revitalise the captive and release programme with new blood from Great Barrier Island.
- Secure the breeding populations on Great Barrier Island and in Northland.
- Establish secure breeding populations at new managed locations. Recent assessment has identified Okarito, South Westland, and Moehau, Coromandel, as prime sites. Release proposals are being prepared.
- Investigate and identify optimum release techniques via experimental release.
- Broaden the public support base and involve all elements of it in the programme.
- Revitalise the Recovery Group and undertake specific research on pateke recovery.
- Develop and apply best practice principles to all pateke conservation management and research activities.

Site Visits

I accompanied two DOC staff to Warrenheip, the property of Juliet Chamberlain and David Wallace at Karapiro, which is an impressive 16ha predator-free environment. If found suitable as a technical release site, it would enhance the efforts in advocacy as the owners network well across a broad range of conservation organisations.

I visited Tiritiri Matangi Island (a follow-up from DU Waikato Chapter's visit last year), and I believe it would be a wonderful release site. The Tiritiri Supporters have a wetland development plan for approximately 30ha at the north-eastern end of the island, and a potential sponsor.

Contacts

Kevin Evans - a positive and informative discussion, and I've asked Kevin for an up-to-date captive-breeders list, which is not yet to hand.

Paul McCarthy - one pair and eight ducklings.

Ron Munro - three pairs and six ducklings.

Russell Langdon - two pairs and two ducklings.

Shaun O'Connor, team leader for the Recovery Group. Shaun was an enjoyable person to meet and I believe his leadership bodes well for Pateke.

Conclusions

It appears that some very good work has been going on restructuring the Pateke Recovery Group and its objectives, which DU members and breeders have not been aware of until now.

DOC staff were frank in the review and have acknowledged the value of DU. I believe we should look to the future with a positive attitude and clearly identify our capacity to contribute to the success of pateke.

- *Ossie Latham (abridged)*

Operation Whio

Another good year for blue duck with 12 ducklings reared so far. We will again release captive and wild birds in Egmont National Park in late February, probably eight captive and three wild. All captive ducklings will have dummy transmitters fitted while they are in quarantine with real ones fitted the day before release. Peacock Springs and Orana Park have produced most of the ducklings with the Orana Park pair flock mated, the male producing at eight months and the female at 20.

Good to see on TV some coverage of blue duck in Fiordland with good results from stoat control and duckling survival. Just hope DOC can give more money to stoat control as this will not only help blue duck but also other native species.

Just had an update on a wild release, one taken out by a stoat after 36 hours.

- *Peter Russell*

A proposal from Peter Russell was tabled, to create a 40 x 15m enclosure at Staglands, containing a small aviary at each side. The main enclosure will include a waterfall with rocks and logs, a pool and plenty of vegetation to give juvenile birds some experience in handling the conditions they are likely to meet in the wild. They will learn to feed naturally in the water and on land; live natural food will be seeded in the stream daily. They will also develop skills to handle fast flowing water (20,000 litres an hour), climb large slippery boulders and steep terrain, move through dense vegetation, develop flying skills, relate to other birds and possibly pair bond. It will also provide an indication of when the birds are ready for release. The total cost is a little over \$30,000 so the millennium funding would go a long way towards meeting this.

The Board has heard complimentary comments from outside sources about Peter's work and we congratulate him.

(See item on stoat control and book review in Predator File, page 9)

Operation Royal Swan

Nothing much to report yet, however the numbers are not looking as good as last year. I have firm sales for five pairs and two singles as of now.

Unfortunately, I have been told that our top swan breeder, Trevor Hughes, has had a stroke. Hopefully he recovers fully.

- *William Abel*

The Board wishes Trevor a speedy recovery.

Auckland Chapter

A dinner and auction is being organised and chapter members will be notified. For further information contact Graham Gurr, phone (09) 489 5337.

Wetland Care Report

Since the September report we have authorised a development subsidy to build another dam on Geoff Reid's Miki Miki property north of Masterton, to be supervised by Jim Campbell. Neil has visited three more prospective projects and the go-ahead has been given to one in Rongotea for 2002 funding. One in North Wairarapa and the other at Feilding await application returns. We still have \$700 left from the current year's funds.

The Masterton District Council has approved the Masterton Intermediate School development using the Banrock Station \$10,000 and we now await resource consent from the Regional Council.

We look forward to the 2002 funding availability and also need some ideas for the expected Banrock \$10,000 due approximately November this year.

- William Abel and Neil Candy

Operation Gretel

The breeding for waterfowl has been outstanding in the Waikato, with the much-maligned rainfall setting records for the last few months. Water levels are up, there has been very little flooding, and luxurious grasses have provided cover for ducklings. There is a healthy number of black swan cygnets, mallards aplenty, and a mother spoony with ducklings. The teal have also thrived with nest box occupation since July 2001.

I have noticed a number of teal and mallards nesting in hunters' possies under stands or in boxes and drums left on the floor. The criteria seems to be that any dark niche would be suitable - perhaps we should encourage the hunters to leave a drum or box behind with some litter at the end of the hunting season.

The big call for this newsletter is to ask you all to assist with our national grey teal census, to be held at 10am on Sunday 7 April this year. This might have happened by the time you see it in Flight, so please contact me (151 New Castle Road, Hamilton) if you wish to be involved in the next count.

- Jack Worth

Lake Waikare Report

The Lake Waikare appeal has now been set down for hearing for four weeks beginning 10 June 2002. There have been discussions with Environment Waikato as to ways everyone's concerns can be met. To date it has not been possible to resolve all issues, but we are hopeful the imminence of a trial may assist in a resolution being achieved. We will be able to give a full report at Conference in July.

- David Smith

Business Reports

Editorial: A quote was received from our new Flight editor for the next four issues which the Board was pleased to accept. Also some suggestions for improving the layout of the magazine and the Board agreed changes should be left to Juliet's discretion. A suggestion was made that we could consider three as opposed to four issues a year and make the magazine larger which would be covered by the saving on printing and postage. It was felt that Flight was our only contact with many members and that it should continue as a quarterly.

Sales: Graham advised that these were steady but not outstanding.

Web Site: Craig said this appeared to be



Ashhurst Domain Wetland from the platform. Photo: Neil Candy.



Mindless destruction. Photo: Neil Candy.

Mindless Destruction.

During 1998 DU was involved with a wetland development at Ashhurst Domain with the assistance of Pacific Conservation Trust funding (see October Flight 1998).

In November/December 2000 the Ashhurst Engineering Company built a 12 x 6m viewing structure in their yard and transported it to the site, installing it on the edge of the cliff above the wetland at a cost of some \$36,000. It was officially

opened on 9 March last year by Palmerston North Mayor Jill White, and DU member Ken Cook and his grand-daughter.

Around 9.30 pm on 27 January the structure was torched. The fire inspector said a lot of accelerant had been used as the building burnt evenly even though the plywood lining was not very flammable. A sad commentary on today's society. Fortunately the structure was insured and the steel frame re-usable.

working well and our expert would update it.

General Business: Comments were received from Joyce Brooks regarding the National Raffle. She felt that only four prizes for a \$5 ticket made them hard to sell and we should have at least 10 prizes of good quality. Her comments have been passed on to the raffle organisers. The next meeting was set for 25 May.

Obituaries

We regret to advise the passing of two long-time Life Members, Graham Henry, Wellington, and Tony Flexman, Pokeno. Tony will be remembered for his grey teal nest boxes. Both were staunch supporters of DU. We extend our sympathy to the families and share your sad loss.

MacMaster Trophy and Tararua College Wetland.

(see January Flight)

We had hoped to have a photograph of the

wetland brimming full but at the time of writing it is still dry. Although the power pole is installed and the base for the pump poured, there is as yet no pump. They are relying on goodwill and must be patient. Better luck next issue.

Zoonews—

Brown teal at Hamilton have had a good year with two clutches from pairs on the ground and another on the way. There are 15 ducklings so far. Auckland welcomed a new pair last August, which settled quickly and began breeding even before they made it to the aviary. Two ducklings were hand-raised and another three have just hatched from artificial incubation. The female is now incubating her fifth clutch. Growth data will be collected to help with the aging of wild ducks.

Blue duck - two new pairings at Hamilton have produced no young this year but are hopefully establishing bonds for next season.

From NZ CmaG News, January 2002.

THE BT REPORT: Kapiti and Mana Brown Teal Releases 2000-2001

By Sue Moore



Brown teal about to be released at Okupe Lagoon, Kapiti Island, in July 2001. Note the transmitter aerial.



This pateke nest in Waikoko Wetland hatched five

Sue Moore is currently doing a Masters thesis on brown teal through Massey University, looking at brown teal (pateke) diet and other factors affecting translocation success. As well as monitoring the Kapiti and Mana teal releases, she has been observing teal on Great Barrier, and will be analysing faecal samples and gut contents from wild teal to learn about teal diet. Her work is supported by a Julie Alley scholarship, a Massey University scholarship and the Golden Plover Award from the National Wetland Trust.

Photos provided by: Sue Moore



Waikoko Wetland, the Mana Island.

In August 2000, 13 captive-bred brown teal (pateke) were released on Kapiti Island and 19 captive-bred brown teal were released on Mana Island. In July 2001, a further seven captive-bred teal were released on both Kapiti and Mana Islands. Teal were provided for these releases by Otorohanga Kiwi House, Hamilton Zoo, Kevin Evans, Ron Munro, Russell Langdon, Queenstown Wildlife and Kiwi Park, Paul McCarthy, Neil Hayes, and Wellington Zoo.

All but one of the teal released in 2001, and most of the teal released in 2000, were radio-tagged with small transmitters mounted on backpack harnesses. The teal were wing clipped so that they wouldn't be able to fly until after their moult in October/November. I monitored the survival and breeding attempts of teal from these releases between late July and mid December 2001.

Kapiti and Mana Islands are free of introduced mammals, but Kapiti has more avian predators (weka, black-backed gulls, morepork, pukeko) than Mana. Mana Island has a small wetland area, Waikoko Wetland, that was constructed with DU assistance to provide brown teal habitat (a network of ponds and waterways with good cover).

Sadly, on Kapiti Island, six radio-tagged teal were found dead, and another four teal could not be located within two months of release. On Mana, within a month of release two of the radio-tagged teal were found dead, and another bird (which was not radio-tagged) was never seen after its release. So it seems that between six and 10 of the 20 teal released on Kapiti, and two or three of the 17 birds released on Mana, died within the first two months post-release. Survival in the first months after release was higher on Mana than on Kapiti Island, which may have been due to Mana's lower predator numbers and better food availability at Waikoko.

Most of the carcasses were predated/scavenged before they were recovered, and the cause of death could not be established. However, two carcasses were intact. One had become trapped in *muehlenbeckia* at the release site and died of starvation/dehydration (Mana Island); the other was not entangled but had also died of starvation/dehydration (Kapiti Island). A captive-bred released teal is also known to have died of starvation at Karori Wildlife Sanctuary. Supplementary feed was provided at three sites on Kapiti Island in 2001, but was essentially unavailable to most of the newly released teal. One feeder was monopolised by a family of pukeko, which attacked teal that ventured near the feeder. Another feeder was monopolised by a pair of teal released in 2000, which also attacked other teal.

The remains of the scavenged carcasses have been kept, and I plan to analyse the wing fat content of these birds. By extracting and measuring the amount of fat in the wing remains of the teal, I may be able to tell what condition these birds were in immediately prior to death, and determine whether these birds were also starving.

There have been seven known breeding attempts at Waikoko Wetland on Mana Island.

The first three (which were all within 12 months of release) did not fledge any chicks. The fourth attempt fledged four ducklings. By mid-December 2001 a further three ducklings were near fledging and four ducklings were half-adult size (from two females who appear to be mated with the same male). None of the teal released in 2001 had attempted breeding by December 2001.

No breeding has been recorded on Kapiti Island in 2000 or 2001. This may be due to the small numbers of brown teal known present on Kapiti, or it may reflect food shortages and/or higher numbers of predators. Interestingly, small numbers of brown teal and brown teal/mallard hybrids have been regularly sighted at Waikanae Estuary, sometimes with juveniles. It seems likely that these birds are all descended from the 10 birds released on Kapiti in 1968 by the Wildlife Service as all of the birds released on Kapiti in 2000 and 2001 were colour banded, and no colour bands have been recorded on the Waikanae teal to date.

Although it was disheartening that some of the teal died post release on islands free of introduced predators, the Brown Teal Recovery Group has taken on board the lessons learnt from these releases. Future small releases are planned to test different release techniques in an effort to improve post-release survival. The next releases will focus on pre-release conditioning (getting the teal familiar with the artificial feeders and natural foods and foraging behaviours), and post-release management (monitoring feeder use to ensure feeders aren't being monopolised, providing more artificial cover, controlling pests, and intensive monitoring for the first month when mortality is likely to be highest).

These small-scale releases will be 'testing grounds' for a larger-scale release proposed for Okarito or Moehau. Adequate monitoring of these small experimental releases will help the Recovery Group adapt and refine release techniques, with the aim of identifying an optimum release design resulting in high post-release survival, residency and ultimately breeding capacity, so that self-sustaining populations are established. These small releases also provide opportunities to establish new viable small populations of brown teal which, hopefully, the development of Waikoko Wetland and the Mana brown teal releases have achieved.

Down South

Story and Photographs by Adrian McIntyre



One of the five ponds in Pond Two, with German wire-haired pointer Tessa.

Our farm is located in West Otago out of Gore, where there is a dairy industry boom at its height today. This is a sixth generation sheep, beef and cropping property owned by our family trust, which I run in partnership with my father Alex.

Our wetland area runs along the Waikoikoi Creek which flows into the Pomahaka River. What I'm trying to do is to put the water back into the places where it was before the 1970s when every bit of land was used for maximum farming. This is after all what Ducks Unlimited is all about.

I started in 1992 and have created two wetland areas at different ends of the farm. Pond one is about three hectares and has been ring planted with elder to prevent farm activities from disturbing the waterfowl. Pond two is larger, about four hectares; it really consists of five peat swamps running into each other, which enables me to control the water flow. The wetland is fed by creek and gully run-off from the farm.

Before we started the area was all moss and swamp, but with the help of Fish and Game and my hunting mates we brought in a Hi Mac digger - and my dreams started to come true. Now there are areas of open water a maximum of three metres deep with lots of islands and clumps of nigger-head sedge.* Over time we have spent between three and four thousand dollars on digger hire, fencing, and planting willow, pine, elder, flax and oats. The fenced area has had to be enlarged as the wetland grew.

We have an ongoing predator control programme not only for TB and possums but also ferrets and rats which we trap, poison and shoot regularly.

It has been most rewarding to see the noticeable increase in bird life since the ponds were created. We have provided habitat for mallard, grey and paradise duck, pukeko, spoonbill, Canadian goose, shag, teal, stilt, fernbird, oystercatcher and many more.

It's been well worth the effort.

* pukio, or *carex secta*.

(Nice to have some Mainland input - thanks, Adrian. If any member has the basis of an article like this we'd be very pleased to hear from you. You don't have to write it, just send us the facts and some photos, preferably showing the different stages and states of your wetland (they will be returned), or give us a call on (06) 304 9729 and we'll send you a questionnaire. Ed.)



Part of pond Two, newly developed - the foreground will soon be under water.



The end of one of the five ponds, showing increase in growth.

Stoat Control Needs More Funding

The war on possums is pointless if it is not also waged on stoats, Conservation Minister Sandra Lee told the National Possum Control Agencies conference in Wellington last December. The way of the future lies with integrated pest control, she said. About \$42 million was spent last year on possum control, while in contrast about \$6 million over six years has been put towards stoat control techniques, through studying stoats raised in captivity and developing new lures and traps. Freeze-dried rats are currently being tested as a field bait, for example. 'Another lesson from mainland islands, in this case Trounson Reserve in Northland, is the use of dogs trained to find female stoats and their kits in their dens, hitherto notoriously difficult using conventional techniques,' Ms Lee said.

Source: *The Dominion*, 12 December 2001

Mustelid Booklet Produced

The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust hosted a practical workshop on mustelid control techniques in August 2000. At the request of attendees, a follow-on field guide has now been published by the Trust. This A5-sized booklet outlines the biology of the mustelids (stoats, ferrets and weasels) including reproduction, diet, range, and signals the implications of predator guild relationships. Placement of traps (when, where, how many), technical aspects of trapping and types of traps are all discussed. There are sample data recording sheets and explanations of the importance of accurate records, including recognising nil returns. The legal obligations under the Animal Welfare Act are also included in this booklet.

Aimed at both amateur and experienced trappers, the Trust hopes it may assist in the practical eradication of one of the threats to the rare yellow-eyed penguin and other endemic species.



Wild ducklings. Photo: Gail Simon

Review

Field Guide to Mustelid Trapping

By David Blair

Published by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, 2002

Reviewed by Tony Silbery

Years of research and fieldwork have been summarised in this book, and it shows - there's not a wasted word in the whole publication. In 36 pages you'll learn about the damage these predators can do, their natural history, how to tell one from another and, most importantly, how to set, bait and space traps for best effect.

You'll also see why it is important to keep accurate records, and there's a handy format supplied, along with a section on the rules and regulations that cover use of traps.

Each section has key information highlighted for even quicker reference. Even the most experienced trappers will find something useful here, and if they are honest will say that they'd love to have had this when they first started. For those who are starting, or even better still thinking about trapping pests, this book will help you avoid an awful lot of missed chances.

Copies are available from the Trust Office for \$7.50 plus \$2 p&p, from: Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, PO Box 5409, Dunedin
www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz

Catchy Tunes for Possums

Sound could be the next breakthrough in trapping possums. Graham Lynch of Novel Ways, Hamilton, has high hopes for his new automatic electronic trap, which features a sound chip with recorded noises. It is thought to be the first time this technology has been used against possums. It is compact and powered by a solar panel, ideal for use near bush margins.

The company is conducting trials in a low-density possum area near their premises, and the sounds are attracting possums from outside the area being filmed. The possum comes close enough to smell the bait and is strangled once it triggers the trapdoor. The trap then releases the dead animal and re-sets itself. Up to two possums a night have been caught during testing.

The trapdoor is driven by a motor-gearbox from a car's power window. Initial research with an infra-red camera allows the staff to see how it's working, which noises are most effective and how possums behave near the trap.

The Novel Ways trap uses a mixture of recorded bird, animal and computer-generated sounds. The 'calls' a computer makes are also being tested. As Mr Lynch says, 'This type of technology has not been tested for possums, we had to start from scratch. We are trying to use sounds possums find interesting; they are very curious. We have put about 20 tracks into a sound chip and placed them in the trap, which is triggered remotely.' The puzzle for him and his staff is to figure out what sounds the possum likes best and how loud to play them. 'If our trap is going to be cost effective, it has to be better than any other and kill possums from a wide area,' he says. (And could it be adapted to trap stoats? Yes, he says.)

Novel Ways aims to develop enough traps to cover 10ha zones, to take in whole farms or bush areas. The trap will wake up (the door opens) and start calling every night, before shutting down at dawn. 'So it doesn't need to be particularly good on any given night to do a very good long-term job. We'd like to see it clobber four to five possums a night initially, there's no real reason why it won't,' says Mr Lynch. They hope to match the costs/ha of current poisoning and trapping methods.

'We would like the government to purchase the traps in bulk, and they could be moved on 500m grids through areas of the conservation estate. Once possums are eradicated or heavily reduced, the bulk of the traps would be moved on, leaving monitor traps in place. Each trap will record kills, and evolve its own best calls for the area around it. Each would be installed at a known GPS location so they could be traced later,' he says.

Work on the trap has been supported by the Foundation of Research Science and Technology, but further development funding is still needed. The traps will be on sale at Mystery Creek in June.

The company is keen to hear from anyone interested in testing their new trap. They will supply prototypes (one per site) for a month or so, and ask people to return them with a log of results. They will also supply a range of lures for people to test during the period. For farmers and wetland owners, the use is in protecting bushline or specific treed areas, with no poison, low maintenance costs and low labour input.

Contact: Graham Lynch, phone 07 856 6270 or email: sales@novel.co.nz

Source: *Farm Equipment News*.

'Oh, we have it at home, use it for floral art - it's lovely...'

DU member Glenys Hansen works for the Wairarapa Department of Conservation. She recently took the weed by the stalk to go public over a pretty purple-flowered plant she added to her wetland area four years ago. She had bought the purple loosestrife or *lythrum salicaria* plant in a Dannevirke plant nursery. By now, new growths have self-seeded more than 100m from the original plant. Standard weedsprays have been ineffective, and she is reluctant to risk stronger ones that could kill her other wetland plants. Glenys said she was unaware of how invasive the plant could be until a Canadian couple told her it had taken over



Glenys Hansen displays the culprit at Tidsfordriv. Photo: Lynda Feringa (Wairarapa Times Age.)

massive tracts of land in North America - on one trip they had seen it growing on both sides of the road for over 1100km. 'I don't know what I'm going to do, to be quite honest,' Glenys said. 'It's awful to think you've been the culprit to bring this stuff in.'

Wairarapa DOC conservation officer Aalbert Rebergen said that if the weed is found people should contact the Regional Council. Purple loosestrife has become a major problem in Waikato, Auckland, Canterbury, Horowhenua, Otago and Southland and now it seems Wairarapa will join the list. It is an attractive but aggressive weed on water margins. The more we find out about this species the more frightening it gets; it grows up to 3m tall with attractive purple flowers, and can produce over 2 million seeds per plant. As this species will tolerate salty as well as fresh water, it could also become a serious threat in coastal wetlands such as Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere.

(Adapted from a Wairarapa Times Age report. 25 February 2002)

Ednote: A friend tells me that at the first picnic held by the New Zealand Company on the beach at Pito-One (Petone) in the 1840s, the entertainment included a most enjoyable game of 'casting thistledown to the wind'.

Delectable Ducklings, Delicious meals for Eels

Being a conservationist I admire the enthusiastic work carried out by members of Ducks Unlimited. Species almost extinct have had their numbers boosted and no longer face extinction. My wife Margaret and I farmed in South Wairarapa at Pirinoa for 30 years until we retired. During that period we also commercially fished for eels.

The first eel factory in New Zealand was in Greytown. Each day the live catch was delivered and released into water-filled concrete holding tanks. Eels are very stressed at finding themselves trapped in a concrete tank. With shock under these conditions, eels regurgitate their stomach contents - little trout, perch, flounders and in spring many baby ducklings.

In eradicating the larger eels from fishing ponds or lagoons it is still important to retain some as they do the essential job of aerating the water. If they are all taken the water goes green and slimy. Eel traps will release the small ones.

Please contact me if you require help to save your ducklings from eels. I pay \$400 per tonne of live eels, but with very small areas of water it may be necessary to charge a small fee to cover transport costs. Well-stocked areas can yield one tonne per acre.

- Michael Atkinson

Contact: Michael Atkinson, 105 Upper Plain Road, Masterton. phone 06 370 9294, fax 370 9293

Forest and Bird Backs Pet Ferrets Ban

Forest and Bird wants a ban on keeping ferrets as pets after boat owners were found exercising five of them on a beach at Great Barrier Island - a haven for native birds - in January this year. The owners and their pets were on a cruise in the Hauraki Gulf. The island was made ferret-free for native birds and wildlife after a multi-million dollar programme eradicated imported exotic pests.

An Auckland Regional Council spokesman said the owners may be prosecuted. A conviction could mean a maximum \$100,000 fine or

prison. DOC had undertaken public consultation on pet ferrets, with 77% of respondents supporting a ban.

Source: CmaG News, from NZ Herald, 24 January 2002.

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Letters

Dear Editor

There have been errors in the last two Flight magazines regarding the Notice of Motion I moved at the Masterton AGM.

My Notice of Motion was "I move that the name of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc. be changed to Ducks Unlimited Wetlands (NZ) Inc."

The reasoning for my motion to change the name is attached for members to think about before the Hamilton AGM.

- Murray Dench

DU Proposed Name Change

There are many good marketing reasons for the name of any organisation to reflect the type of business the organisation is involved in.

Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc. does not clearly identify who we are, and we have had to add the text 'For Wetlands and Waterfowl' to our logo. The name Ducks Unlimited Canada does not clearly identify their mission either and they have added the jingle 'It's Not Just the Ducks' to their letterhead, to better portray their aims.

There is no question that the name Ducks Unlimited should remain a part of any new name so that we retain our connections with DU (Inc) and DU Canada, and the associated technical and financial benefits.

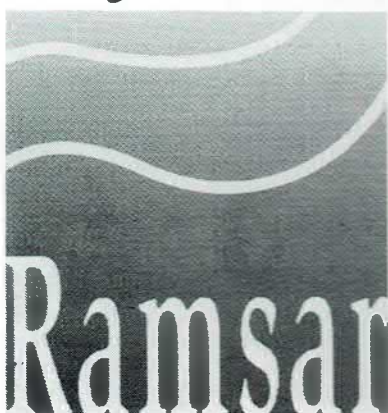
We could change the name to Ducks Unlimited Wetlands and Waterfowl (NZ) Inc. by adding our current logo text but that is getting too long winded. In addition it is not necessary - an increase in wetland area and/or health is going to produce more waterfowl in any case.

I personally like the name "Ducks Unlimited Wetlands (NZ) Inc." because it:

- maintains our existing connection with DU (Inc.) and DU Canada.
- clearly identifies our wetland area of expertise.
- does not focus on just 'ducks'.
- 'Unlimited' can refer to both 'Ducks' and 'Wetlands'. This makes 'unlimited wetlands' a useful connotation and is a valid organisational objective.
- strengthens the conservation connotation in the name.
- ties in nicely with Wetland Care (NZ).

(Ednote: While we're thinking about names as marketing tools, there have been several comments that Flight could do with a new name. What do you think? A couple of suggestions for starters: Wetlands New Zealand or NZ Wetlands and Waterfowl, which uses part of the DU slogan. Over to you.)

Flight Ecofile



World Wetlands Day 2002

Saturday 2 February each year marks the anniversary of the 1971 signing of the Convention on Wetlands in Ramsar, Iran. The Ramsar Convention is an inter-governmental treaty, providing the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are presently 130 Contracting Parties to the Convention, with 1133 wetland sites, totalling 91.4 million hectares, designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. The Ramsar Bureau has announced new Wetlands of International Importance designated over January 2002, in Nicaragua, Argentina, Kenya, Chad, India, Ecuador, Scotland and China.

The theme this year is 'Wetlands, Water, Life and Culture'. Wetlands are storehouses of cultural heritage in many forms, from palaeontological records in sediments and peat, human-made structures and artifacts and traditional water and land use practices, to places of religious and mythological significance, offering the intangible 'sense of place' felt by many for these sites and their wildlife.

In New Zealand, Fish and Game NZ, DOC, Forest and Bird and local authorities worked together to organise 27 events around the country to mark the day. (Ednote: Please let us know if DU was involved anywhere!)

New Zealand became a party to the Ramsar Convention in 1976, and has nominated five sites totalling about 40,000ha for designation: The Firth of Thames, Whangamarino Wetland (Waikato), Kopuatai Peat Dome (Hauraki Plains), Farewell Spit and Waituna Wetlands (Southland).

For further information on the Ramsar Convention, visit Ramsar's excellent website at www.ramsar.org. There is a new mini-site on the Outreach link about communication and public awareness, including an email discussion list.

NZ Wetlands Awards

The Department of Conservation announced this year's five winners on 2 February. Important aspects of the awards are to recognise active involvement by local communities in these projects, and co-operative partnerships between organisations. Briefly, this year's recipients are;

- Lake Pokorua Adjoining Landowners Group
- Hawkes Bay Regional Council (six southern Hawkes bay wetlands)
- Wanganui District Council (Titoki Wetlands)
- Taranaki Regional Council (Taranaki Wetlands)
- Bexley Wetland trust, Christchurch.

More details are available at www.doc.govt.nz/community or contact us -Ed.



Is New Zealand Doing Enough?

In a media release Eric Pyle, Forest and Bird's Conservation Manager, said that our performance in terms of the Ramsar Convention does not compare well with other developed nations. 'New Zealand has only designated five wetlands as being of international significance,' Mr Pyle said. 'This puts us on a par with developing nations. In contrast the United Kingdom has designated 163 wetlands and Australia recognises 56. New Zealand has not designated a wetland as being of international importance for over 10 years. Many of our northern harbours, such as the Kaipara, and southern braided river systems would qualify as wetlands of international significance, and it's time the Government lifted our third-world status on the issue. The Auditor General has already criticised New Zealand's implementation of the Ramsar Convention and it is time the Government responded.' The Society hopes that the increased attention being given to World Wetland Day in New Zealand signals a move towards better protection and management of our wetlands.

New Zealand has lost around 90% of fresh water wetlands and coastal marine wetlands are also under pressure from reclamation, pollution and overfishing. However, it is over a decade since New Zealand recognised and designated a wetland site as being of international importance, and we have only five of them at present.

c.andricksen@wn.forest-bird.org.nz
www.forest-bird.org.nz



News from the Far Side

UNITED KINGDOM

...At the Waterfowl and Wetlands centre at Arundel, one of their most successful blue duck males died late last year at the grand age of 19, after a long and healthy life. This special bird fathered almost all the blue ducks at the WWT centres and contributed greatly to the knowledge of the species among the staff. This spring, WWT staff will continue developing artificial insemination techniques to increase the blue duck's chances of long-term survival.

...The London Wetland Centre in Barnes has won the tourism industry's most prestigious award, The British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Global Award 2001, against competition from more than 130 projects around the world.

The awards have been running for more than 10 years, recognising projects that benefit and involve the local community and protect the cultural, built and natural environment. Winning entries serve as models for sustainable tourism development around the world.

Professor David Bellamy, chairman of the judging panel, said of the London Wetland Centre: 'This is the culmination of Sir Peter Scott's dream to put plants and wildfowl at the heart of every major city and what an incredible achievement! The Centre at Barnes is the only project of its kind working to this scale, and is such a superb role model for all our great cities.'

(From Wildfowl & Wetlands, Spring 2002.)



Mute Swan. Photo: Gail Simon

DU NORTH AMERICA

Since its founding in 1937, DU in the USA has raised more than \$1.3 billion, which has contributed to the conservation of more than 9.4 million acres of prime wildlife habitat in all 50 states, each Canadian province and in key areas of Mexico. In the US alone DU Inc. has helped to conserve more than 2 million acres of waterfowl habitat.

...a single acre of wetland can store up to 1.6 million gallons of water, making it a natural sponge and a bulwark against flooding...given that more than half the original wetlands in the US have already been lost, the challenge for the new millennium is to achieve an annual net gain of wetlands. For the first time, rural and urban development has surpassed agricultural operations as the primary cause of US wetland loss. Private landowners' involvement in the US Department of Agriculture's conservation and wetlands reserve programmes has helped to curtail the loss of wetlands on farms across the US.

...DU signed a major agreement with Delaware and New Jersey on 8 January, to restore wetland habitats in the Delaware Bay estuary. The identification of numerous endangered shore birds added momentum to the plan to restore 15,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands.

...The country continues to lose wetlands at over 100,000 acres every year. The coastal marshes of Louisiana are a poignant example of wetlands that are virtually wasting away. 'Wetland loss tends to be especially dire in certain coastal areas where development and erosion are rapidly eliminating natural resources,' said Dr Alan Wentz, group manager of DU Conservation Programmes.

Website: www.ducks.org

From Ducks Unlimited journals and newsletters 8 Jan and 6 Feb 2002.

AUSTRALIA

...For many years the small community at Milang on the shores of Lake Alexandrina has seen its sapphire (a maritime plant) swamp as a degraded and smelly eyesore right in the middle of the main visitor area, between the holiday shacks, caravan park, shopping centre and lake foreshore. This has now changed.

Many previous plans were doomed through lack of funding or official approval. But now both residents and visitors value the Milang Wetland. How was this done? Negatives were gradually changed to positives; the people behind the project worked hard to achieve a balance between community and environmental needs. Physically the project involved fencing of the wetland, interpretive signs, boardwalks, bird-hides and extra planting. Changing the mindset was done through developing a plan, getting good advice, communication at all levels (especially in schools), providing information and signage, entering awards and promoting important environmental days.

From Wetlands Australia, the annual national wetlands update, 2002.

VALUABLE ESTUARIES

Professor Robert Constanza, an environmental economist at the University of Maryland, has estimated that estuaries are the highest-valued ecosystems in the world - more than coral reefs, rainforests and wetlands. Each hectare of a coastal estuary is worth \$US22,000 per year in community services, he says.

Estuaries provide erosion control, nutrient recycling, treatment of waste matter and provision of food, transport and recreation. In countries like Australia where most of the population lives near the coast they are particularly important. These ecological systems represent part of the total economic value of the planet, however they are often ignored in policy decisions as it is difficult to quantify their usefulness to human welfare.

A useful way to think about the value of 'ecosystem services' such as those provided by estuaries, is to calculate the cost of producing them artificially.

(email: costza@cbl.umces.edu)

From WetlandLink Bulletin November 2001.

And at Home...

SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

DU Member Ron Munro's wife Gay featured in Open Space last December, after she had hosted Tim Cossar, CEO of the QEI Trust, on a tour of Southland covenants. One highlight was a visit to the Riverton Estuary where Robert Guyton and Ross Dutton of the Riverton Estuary Care Society took them around their impressive revegetation and restoration project. Another was the Shanks Bush guided walk, which incorporates walkways, bush interpretation, a blind trail and a crawl trail (with magnifying glasses for children to use). 'The overall sense of small community involvement was great,' Tim said.

Clippings

Awards Promote Sustainability

Originally established in the Waikato in 1993, the Farm Environment Awards have successfully promoted sustainable farming practices in the Waikato, and attracted over 300 entries over the past nine years. The Waikato Farm Environment Award Trust represents Environment Waikato, DOC, conservation boards, Federated Farmers, Dexcel, AgResearch, Waipac, Forest and Bird and the Farm Forestry Association.

The trust has now expanded the awards to include the Wellington Regional Council area, and intends to develop them into a high-profile national competition from 2002, when five regions will be included. All 12 regional councils will be involved by 2005. A national trust representing all regions and sponsors is being established, which will work to raise further awareness that environmentally sustainable farming is also good business practice.

While the main objective is to encourage sustainable land management, the awards have also shown farmers that profitability need not compromise environmental values. In the best examples these values have in fact been enhanced and restored. By being offered good role models, other farmers are encouraged to be proactive in their resource management, with the greatest value coming from the exchange of information and the educational nature of the process.

From an article in Wairarapa Times Age Midweek, November 2001.

QUOTING...

Anon: Those who rest on their laurels could be wearing them in the wrong place.

Pest Fish are Thriving

A nationwide survey of waterways by DOC is finding high numbers of pest fish species wherever it is undertaken.

The survey team, working its way around the North Island, has so far visited the Wairarapa, Wellington and Palmerston North regions. According to a department newsletter in the Wairarapa, the team found abundant numbers of perch, goldfish and rudd in Lake Wairarapa and its associated bodies of water. It also found silver mullet and tench in other waters there.

In the Wellington region koi carp and tench (mainly juvenile) had been caught in Whitby lakes.

Forest Lakes produced high numbers of perch and tench, with rudd in one area.

In Palmerston North the vet pond at Massey University had thousands of juvenile perch, goldfish and what appeared to be a koi-goldfish hybrid. Koi have also been reported in other waters in the region.

From The Dominion, 13 March 2002



New Zealand Scaup. Graphite drawing by Paul Martinson.

Stoats Attack Kaka Nest

At the mainland island conservation area near St Arnaud in the Nelson district, a camera which had just been moved into a kaka nest has captured grisly footage of a stoat sneaking into a kaka's hollow tree nest and killing all three 12-day-old chicks. The stoat then appeared to bury their remains.

Mainland island technical support officer Dave Butler said that though it was bad news for the kaka chicks, staff had been trying to get footage of stoat predation.

'Certainly we've been aware that stoats are a main threat but having it on camera is very useful,' he said. The information would contribute to stoat research already under way.

From The Dominion, 13 March 2002

Secret Life

At Sinclair Wetlands, rumours persist about the presence of otters. But the existence of these elusive and fascinating animals in New Zealand waters is still unproven. The late Horrie Sinclair himself was adamant that otters were there, and other locals have discounted the notion that they could have mistaken a young seal for an otter. G.A. Pollock of Christchurch gathered vast amounts of material on the animals and maintained that the Maori stories of brown furry animals kept as pets supported the otter's existence, although in spite of several expeditions he never managed to find them.

But take the camera and keep your eyes peeled next time you visit the Waipori-Waihola wetlands, you never know...

From Open Space, December 2001

A Challenge to Large Land-owners

Sir - I recently had the privilege of observing Conservation Department staff at work endeavouring to protect endangered shore birds at their breeding area on a West Coast beach. The beach rose to large sand dunes with a one-kilometre-wide strip of scrub and grasses leading to a pine plantation, which sheltered inland farmland. The main role for the staff was predator control by trapping along the seaward side of the pine forest and across the sandy scrub-covered strip. They also patrolled the dunes and beaches in an attempt to reduce the impact of human activity and the risk to the breeding birds, nests and chicks.

The wardens were forbidden to trap in the forest by the owner, who operated on lease land, yet obviously all the predators trapped must have emerged from the forest.

During 200 years of European habitation, native bush habitat cover has largely been stripped away. There are islands of habitat that the department endeavours to control so that endangered species can survive, but it seems an anomaly that large land-owners and forest organisations are not compelled to assist in predator control and to help endangered fauna to survive on their own ark. Large land and forest owners must have a moral obligation to assist in trapping possums and other predator species. It's time the Government got serious about conservation, instead of blowing wind.

From his letter to The Dominion, 2 March 2002, with thanks to Dan Shanahan, Wainuiomata.

Birds of a Different Feather



American Pintail Photo: Ron Spomer

By Matt Young, from Ducks Unlimited magazine, May/June 2001

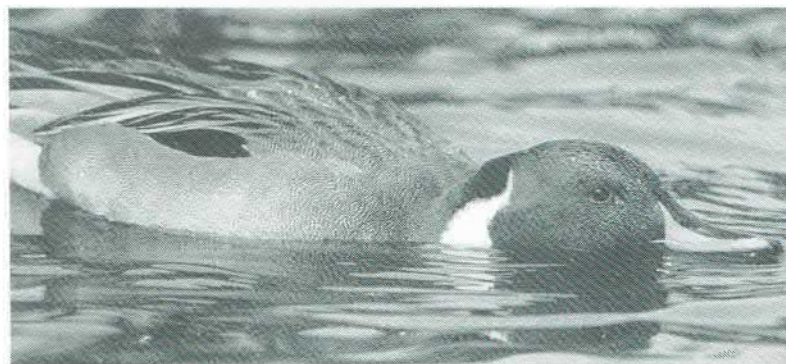


Photo: Ron Spomer

A Brief Portrait of the Pintail.

For this sleek and graceful duck, form follows function. Built for speed, with a small head, tapered neck, tear-shaped body and slashing wings, the pintail is a study in aerodynamics. Even the long twin tail feathers of drakes are believed to play an important role in flight, perhaps by acting as a rudder or stabiliser while the birds are turning and banking. Given their remarkable flying abilities, it's no surprise that pintails often journey thousands of miles during their epic annual migration.

Birds of wide, open spaces, pintails prefer to nest on the semi-arid western prairies and the treeless tundra of the Arctic. In winter, you'll find spectacular gatherings of the birds far to the south on flooded rice fields, playa lakes and coastal marshes. The troubled status of North America's pintail population is clear proof of the vulnerability of these fragile habitats and the urgent need for all who admire these remarkable birds to conserve them.

Clippings, continued...

Government Concerned about Water

Letters from the Minister of Conservation and the Minister for the Environment reveal Government concerns about the state of New Zealand's waterways and their management. The letters sound a clear warning to regional and united councils about their failure to protect New Zealand's rivers, lakes and streams, says Forest and Bird.

'The Government acknowledges that the health of our rivers and streams has declined over the last 10 years,' says Eric Pyle, Forest and Bird's Conservation Manager. 'This decline is extremely disappointing - we are going backwards. Regional Government needs to wake up to its responsibilities.'

'Many lowland streams, lakes and rivers are now unsuitable for swimming, and habitat for fish is getting worse. 'The condition of waterways is the No.1 environmental issue for New Zealanders. The public has correctly picked that this is an area where the environment is deteriorating.'

'Environment Canterbury is a classic example,' said Mr Pyle. 'It has not yet developed an effective water-planning framework for the region. The rampant expansion of dairying and proposals for major irrigation schemes, such as the Central Plains Water Scheme, are taking place in a planning vacuum. While councils do need to lift their game, it is time that the Government showed stronger leadership,' he said. 'Ultimately the Minister for the Environment is responsible for the state of our rivers, lakes and streams. The Government should also consider establishing a system to review the environmental performance of local authorities. Councils failing to safeguard the environment or meet their obligations should be identified and helped,' Mr Pyle said.

Source: Forest and Bird media statement, 22 February 2002

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

From page 14-16 in *The Mitredale Duck Club Cookbook*, by Di Pritt, Pub. The Halcyon Press, and available from the author, Mitredale, Smiths Rd., Ohakune. Cost \$15.95.

Duck Paté Times Three

Basic ingredients: Two duck breasts, skin and sinew removed and sliced, 1/2 tsp crushed garlic, 1/2 onion diced finely, 1tbsp brandy, fresh herbs. Each recipe makes about 1 cupful. The process is easy: serve it chilled with crackers or crisp toast.

Duck and Basil Paté

Melt 50g butter in a pan and cook onion and garlic gently until the onion starts to soften. Add the duck and 2tsp chopped basil; cook until the duck just loses its pinkness. The onion and garlic will caramelise but make sure they do not burn. Put the meat in a food processor with the strained pan juices, process till nearly smooth. Add brandy, 1tbsp cream and 1tsp basil; process till smooth and chill.

Duck, Chicken Liver and Rosemary Paté

Remove the connective tissue from 2 chicken livers and dice them. Heat 1tbsp olive oil and 25g butter in a pan with two 5cm long sprigs of rosemary. Add the onion and garlic and cook gently without letting it brown. Add the duck and chicken livers and chopped rosemary leaves stripped from another sprig. Stir and cook until the meat just loses its pinkness. Do not overcook. Remove from the heat and discard the complete sprigs of rosemary. In a food processor, process until smooth with the brandy and salt and pepper to taste, and chill.

Duck and Mushroom Paté

Melt 30g butter and add the onion, garlic and 50g diced mushrooms. Sauté gently until soft. Do not let it brown. Add the duck and toss for 1 minute, then add 2 chicken livers prepared as in the previous recipe, with 2tsp parsley and 1tsp oregano, chopped. Cook until the meat has just lost its pinkness. Do not overcook. Remove from heat to a food processor. Rinse the pan with the brandy and

add to mixture. Process until almost smooth, adding salt and pepper to taste. Pour in 2tbsp cream and process until smooth. Chill.

Translated from Mrs Beeton's Everyday Cookery, Eels, Fried:

Wash, skin and thoroughly dry 1-2 medium-sized eels and cut them into 5-7cm pieces. Coat them in seasoned flour, then in beaten egg and breadcrumbs. Cook in hot oil until crisp and lightly browned, drain on paper towels and serve garnished with crisply fried parsley...



In Flight

NOSLOC FEEDERS

The Nosloc feeding system has been developed in New Zealand by Dennis Colson of Te Kuiti. The feeders are suitable for duck feeding and free range feeding. Of most interest to Du members will be the duck and pheasant feeders. Different nozzles are available for feeding grains such as wheat and barley or for feeding maize. Other sizes of nozzle are available for feeding pellets to ostrich and emu. The nozzles are made of galvanised steel and will not rust or break from use.

Each feeder requires a waratah and bucket (20 litre) which you supply. Larger drums can be used for the system but require additional brackets and waratahs.

The nozzle, either parallel for maize or spiral for wheat and barley, and a waratah mounting bracket are supplied.

Nozzles are \$26.25 each (please advise spiral or parallel) and brackets \$26.95 each.

FENN TRAP MK 6

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\$30.00 each or \$50.00 pair.

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We now stock the well known and effective Timms Trap to complement the Fenn trap. The Timms Trap is perfect for larger animals, such as possums and cats.

Bait with either fruit or meat, depending on your trapping target.

\$40.00

GREY TEAL NEST BOX

As featured in Flight magazine, these grey teal nest boxes come in a prefabricated form ready to assemble and erect on your pond.

They come complete with muonts ready to fit to your own post.

\$25.00

Shopping



New Item...

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Made in NZ by Advantage Wetlands Camo.

\$15 each.

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THE POEM

Rain

I can hear you
making small holes
in the silence
rain

If I were deaf
the pores of my skin
would open to you
and shut

And I
should know you
by the lick of you
if I were blind

The something
special smell of you
when the sun cakes
the ground

The steady
drum-roll sound
you make
when the wind drops

But if I
should not hear
smell or feel or see
you

You would still
define me
disperse me
wash over me
rain

- Hone Tuwhare, 1970



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