

Flight



ISSUE 135 - April 2008



Conservation Minister Steve Chadwick takes part in Pateke return to Tawharanui on World Wetlands Day

Cape Kidnappers Feature for Napier Conference Details

Lois and Murray Tapp Wetlands Five Years On

and much more inside



wetland care
NEW ZEALAND

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

Wetland Care members recognise that wetlands are vital to the wellbeing of the environment, acting as huge ecological sponges by soaking up pollutants and filtering water before it reaches streams, rivers, lakes, aquifers and the sea.

Our initiatives focus on matters as far-reaching as groundwater replenishment, flood control, nutrient and contaminant management and climate change – all critical factors for the conservation of freshwater and saltwater wetlands and marshes.

We want to preserve and conserve the flora and fauna of our most endangered ecosystem so that vibrant wetlands are our legacy to future generations.

Funding for projects comes from the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust which was established by Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc in 1991, as well as membership, donations and corporate memberships such as that from Banrock Station Wines.

Central to Wetland Care New Zealand's mission is forming partnerships with people and organisations with similar aims. An example is Banrock Station Wines who place the Wetland Care New Zealand logo on their wine bottles distributed in New Zealand. In return, Banrock contribute a fee, which is based on each bottle sold, to Wetland Care New Zealand.

Money from this partnership has been given to wetland conservation projects done by:

Tutukaka Landcare Coalition
Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc.
Ducks Unlimited Operation Pateke
Port Charles release 2005 at Coromandel
Henley Trust, Masterton
Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, Wellington
Kitchener Park, Feilding
Manawatu Estuary Trust, Foxton
Mangaone Wetland, Raetihi
Masterton Intermediate School, Masterton
Steyning Trust, Hawkes Bay
Travis Wetland Trust, Christchurch
Wairio Wetland, South Wairarapa
Wetland Trust New Zealand, Rangiriri
Waitakere Branch of Forest and Bird, West Auckland
Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, Dunedin

For further information, please contact:
William Abel - Director, Wetland Care
New Zealand, phone 06-362 6675
PO Box 281 Levin.



Our Website is : www.ducks.org.nz

A message to DUNZ members from from Sandra Pipes, Administration, re the new postcode system

When renewing your yearly subscription I have noted on the invoice, your details as we have them in the database and I would ask you to kindly check them and make any alterations as necessary. Over the last two years especially I asked for your new postal codes, but unfortunately very few of you have responded! I have subsequently spent the time, using the information available, to find all of your codes which will be required on all mail later this year.

Those I have found so far are already on the label attached to the envelope your Flight magazine arrived in. On the invoice you will be receiving shortly it is in RED or you will have a *. This * indicates that I do not have enough information to get the postcode or not enough to know for certain which is the correct one, taking into consideration that there can be as many as three for just one address when the detail is not specific. Please provide either more information/details or the correct code. Check the details VERY CAREFULLY as your mail may be misdirected (or lost) if this is wrong.

Email any changes to info@ducks.org.nz or

Mail the changes with your renewal payment to the PO Box 9795, Auckland 1149 address.

Also enclosed with your invoice is our new brochure.

If you would like any more to pass onto anyone who you think may be interested please email me and I'll post them out.

I look forward to receiving your subscription renewals and conference registrations and meeting you there in July.

Sandra Pipes
Administration
DUNZ, PO Box 9795
Auckland 1149
info@ducks.org.nz

Welcome to our new members!

Bruce Ebbett, Pahiatua
Daniel Allen, Masterton
Robert Holmes, Te Kauwhata
Shane O'Hagan, Palmerston North
Mical Treadwell, Wellington
Juliet Oliver, Greytown
John & Pauline Campbell, Hastings
Jeremy Thomson, New Plymouth
John and Yvonne Harvey, Martinborough
Robin Minton, Porirua
Chris Satherley, Palmerston North
Sian Lawler, Auckland
Yolande and John Robinson, Papakura
Peter Morrin, Wairoa

Insight

Membership

Once again it's time to pay your subscription so that we may carry on the work of saving and enhancing wetlands.

In a year when a large part of the country is suffering from drought it brings into focus the essential part wetlands, swamps and marshes play in slowing down water runoff and conserving what little water there is.

As I have said before, DUNZ is in a very sound financial state but the number of members we have is becoming of real concern.

So with this in mind a DU brochure is being sent out with the renewal subscription with the challenge for everyone to sign up at least one new member.

What with the drought and the fact that conservationism is flavour of year that should not be too difficult!

The next job after that is get them to meet like-minded web-footed people and become involved in the fund-raising aspect so that the organisation can go forward with solid membership base.

Ross Cottle

President.



CONTENTS

Administration issues	2
New members	2
Tawharanui pateke release	
World Wetland Day	4-5
Preparing for wetland planting	5
Photos Cape Kidnappers and Canadian hunting trip	6
Cape Kidnappers conference venue and history	7
Flax attack	8
Tapp Wetlands Covenant photos	9
Pateke reports -	
Tuhua and Travis Wetland	10
Wild Duck Casserole	12
Wairarapa Chapter Annual Lunch	12
Tapp Wetlands story	13
Obituaries	14
Tapp Wetland's non-human visitors	15
Wairio flora surprises	15
Pateke release dates	15

Our Mission

To deliver effective wetland restoration, development, research, education and advocacy;

While supporting the preservation of threatened waterfowl and the ethical and sustainable use of wetlands

Flight is published by:
Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc.
P.O. Box 9795,
Newmarket, Auckland 1149, New Zealand.
ISSN 1173-2776

Flight Advertising Rates (excluding GST)
Full page \$334, 1/2 page \$167, 1/4 page \$84, 1/8 page \$42

Waterfowl adverts are free to members. Please contact the Editor with any suggestions or to book a space.

Contributions from members and other readers, including photographs, are welcome.

Deadline for all copy and illustrations, Flight 136:
15 May 2008

Editing & Production:

Gail Isaac
129 Grant Rd, Thorndon
Wellington 6011
tel: (04) 499 9747 or
Greytown, Wairarapa (06) 304 8034
or cell 027 3222 944
email: gail.isaac@xtra.co.nz or gail.isaac@gmail.com

Printing:

Lamb-Peters Print,
106A Main Street,
Greytown
Wairarapa

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patrons		
Lady Isaac, QSM	Christchurch	
Jim Campbell	Masterton	
President		
Ross Cottle	Masterton	(06) 378 7408
Chairman		
Neil Candy	Palmerston North	(06) 376 4448
Vice-president		
Ossie Latham	Feilding	0274 433 033 (text only)
Treasurer		
John Bishop	Cambridge	(07) 823 7070
Directors		
William Abel	Levin	(06) 362 6675
David Smith	Auckland	(09) 298 4719
Jim Law	South Wairarapa	(06) 307 7855
John Dermer	Feilding	(06) 328 9740
Kevin Campbell	Napier	(06) 834 1063

Front cover

At Tawharanui on World Wetland Day February 2, pateke are released into the wild.

Inset: Minister of Conservation the Honourable Steve Chadwick with TOSSI stalwart Chris Turner, holding a pateke, prior to its release at the event at Tawharanui. (Photos: Peter Isaac).

Story and more photos pages 4 and 5



Pateke released on World Wetlands Day



Ossi Latham gives a talk to the children of Matakana Primary School who participated in the event releasing the pateke into the wild.



Above: Speaking at Matakana Primary School is Debbie Latoa (Senior Imported Brands Manager, Nobilo Wine Group) with her son Nico Bosma

Below: Vyndie Smith of 'WillowHaven' Waterfowl Refuge Inc. near Whangarei, a wellknown waterfowl refuge specialising in the care of wild and protected species



Shirley Jenkins of Warkworth, captive breeder



Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc project leader Jo Ritchie on left, with Sharon Kast, also a very active TOSSI member.



At left: Kara Goddard of Hamilton Zoo was at the Tawharanui celebration of World Wetlands Day.

Photo below shows Andrew Nelson who participated in the pateke release. He is the native fauna specialist at Auckland Zoological Park.



Pateke airlifted from Peacock Springs on World Wetlands Day February 2 2008

A flock of pateke was airlifted from the South Island to Northland on World Wetlands Day, Saturday February 2.

The Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society and the Auckland Regional Council organised the release of the group of pateke, also known as New Zealand brown teal. The disease-screening and transfer logistics were a Department of Conservation project.

The airlift had been made possible by Banrock Station wines, which sponsors wetlands habitat restoration worldwide. Last year Banrock Station contributed to the plantings and development of the special native flora which has made possible the release of the birds at the ARC reserve at Tawharanui, and also to the planting of native habitat flora.

The Honourable Steve Chadwick, Minister of Conservation, was present at the event. The waterfowl released at Tawharanui were bred in captivity and the re-settlement scheme is designed to rescue the bird from near-extinction by spreading the pateke to new habitats in the North Island.

A total of 30 pateke that day were released into the Tawharanui Open Sanctuary which is protected by an anti-predator fence. The pateke were collected from the Isaac Wildlife Trust's Peacock Springs at Christchurch.

At Peacock Springs radio transmitters and identifying leg bands were attached. The pateke were wormed, weighed and inspected to ensure the best chance of survival once they are released at the Tawharanui Open Sanctuary.

The birds were put into transfer containers at Peacock Springs on the morning of the release and then flown to the release site where they were set free.

World Wetlands Day dates back to the Ramsar Convention of 1971, to which New Zealand is a signatory. The Convention, signed on that day at Ramsar, February 2, in Iran, certifies wetlands sites of international importance.

The North Island wetlands registered under the Ramsar Convention are the Kopuatai Peat Dome, the Whangamarino Wetlands and the Firth of Thames, all in the Waikato. Also, the Manawatu Estuary at Foxton.

In the South Island: Farewell Spit in Golden Bay and Waituna Lagoon, near Invercargill.

Also involved in the February 2 airlift to Tawharanui were pupils from Mahurangi College and Matakana Primary School.

See photos on front cover and page 4.



Feilding farmer and Wetland Care New Zealand member Ossie Latham was the subject of Triangle TV's show "A Conversation" with Noel Cheer in March.

During the half hour programme Mr Latham (left) outlined his passion for developing wetlands and his involvement in Wetland Care New Zealand, which is responsible for deploying conservation grants from Banrock Station. He said he intends to devote the rest of his life towards his interest in the field of wetlands development.

Preparing ground for wetlands planting

Ossie Latham recently gave advice to Liz Brook who is developing a wetlands near Feilding and allows us to reprint it here.

Release-spray with Roundup and when ground is bare, plant. As soon as possible after planting, spray ground with Forsite at 60ml to 15 litres (knapsack) - this should be done when ground is wet/damp and can be done in the rain. This should keep the plant space reasonably weed-free for six to nine months and it gets you through the dry period well.

If grass gets away in the next spring, release spray with Gallant at 75 mls per 15 litres, once again with kna sack.

I figure it takes three minutes per plant starting from spraying ground with Roundup, planting and a release spray. This formula helps me plan how much time I will need over the first year to look after that year's planting.

Most of my planting is large root trainers (RTT) and a few PB 3s. I expect losses to be at least 10%, whatever the size of plant. The reason for losses varies from year to year, but mainly climatic conditions of one sort or another.

Through trial and error, I have come to the conclusion that the following species are the hardiest for my area.

Olearia Virgata, Kanuka kunzia ericoides (drier), Manuka leptospermum scorparium (wetter), Coprosma Propinqua, Coprosma Robusta, Cabbage tree, flax, carex secta and virgata.

LOST MEMBER

Does anyone know Miss Caroline Ammundsen of The Terrace, Te Aro, Wellington.

Please inform Sandra Pipes.

(See page 2).

The Ocean Beach Wildlife Preserve at Cape Kidnappers - our breathtakingly beautiful 2008 Conference venue



Lake Lopez



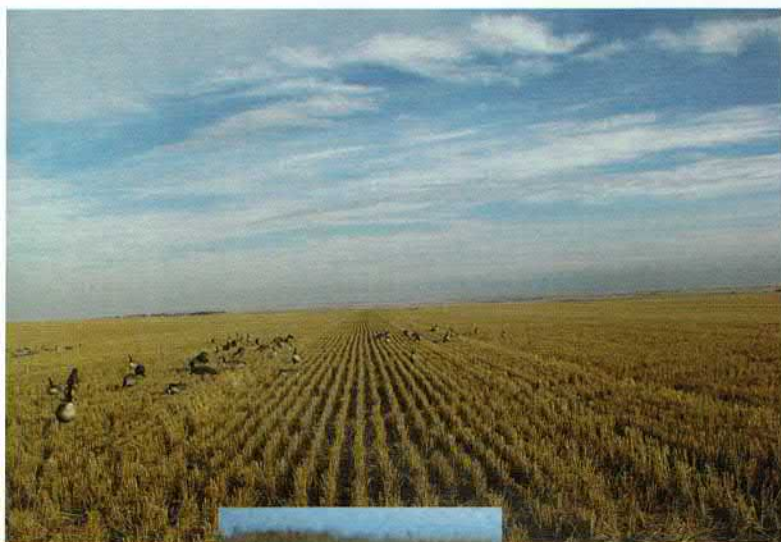
The Ocean Beach Wildlife Preserve - the peninsula



Andy Lowe
with son
Hunter and a
kiwi- photo
Liz Lowe



North American Trip



Speckled-belly geese and snow, in Saskatchewan



Graham Gurr, Reporoa's Dave Johnston and David Smith went to Saskatchewan, Canada and South Dakota, USA recently. Graham sent these photos... They hunted ducks and geese in Saskatchewan and pheasant in South Dakota.



Andy Lowe – a man's mission, to realize a dream

This year's Ducks Unlimited Conference is to be held in Napier, Hawke's Bay. A highlight will be a field trip, scheduled for July 26 to visit the Cape Kidnappers and Ocean Beach Wildlife Preserve. This is a golden opportunity for members to learn a little and get an inside view of this remarkable project, and the main man behind it, DU member Andy Lowe.

Members will experience a trip that will be informative on conservation matters beyond the scope of a wetland tour. The preserve encompasses all facets of environment from coastal beach, dunes, flats, hill country, ravines, scrub, bush, coastal sheep stations, and all the way to the manicured greens of an internationally-renowned golf course.

This is an ambitious, privately-funded restoration project involving the construction of a 9.5km pest-proof fence across the neck of the Cape Kidnappers peninsula, south, to encompass a good proportion (2500ha approximately) of the unique Ocean Beach dune system. The project involves the removal of pest species and reintroductions of native species.

The Preserve is a joint project involving three landowners, whose property the project straddles: Julian Robertson, the American owner of Cape Kidnappers Farm, Golf Course and Lodge along with Warwick and Juliet Hansen of Huapiri Station, and the prime mover behind the project, Andy Lowe, wife Liz and son Hunter.

Andy became a member of Ducks Unlimited Inc eight years ago when he became involved with restoring Lake Lopez, a 10ha wetland area on one of his properties. He became passionate about the opportunity for improving the area for wetland bird life and with assistance from Ken Cook, a member of the Manawatu Branch, began by establishing Royal Swan.

When Andy purchased Lake Lopez from Fish and Game in the early 90s it was little more than semi-dry swamp. Ten years later and after extensive digging, planting and pest control, it is now home to thriving bird life. This consists of 20 pairs of dabchick, Australasian coot, grey teal, grey duck, paradise shelduck, pied stilt, and of course the ever-present mallard and black swan. Recently royal spoonbill have been observed. Incidentally, if anybody has scaup available, this lake is ideal and so far none are evident.

The past three years have seen an increase in the number of mute swan sourced through DU. Four young birds have been introduced since 2005 and these have been supplemented by four incoming transients which shows that the lake is attractive to the species. Presently there are six residents, with one pair attempting to breed this year.

Andy appreciates that in Hawke's Bay most of the wetland areas have been drained and there are few bodies of water remaining, which is the reason why areas like Lake Lopez are so precious. The topography of the land was conducive to enhancing its wetland potential.

This year Andy plans to dig out some of the lake edge margins to increase its potential for pied stilt and other waders and open up the track surrounding the lake to the public. It is really a great gift to the people of Hawke's Bay.

The Ocean Beach and Cape Kidnappers Wildlife Preserve project is indeed a farsighted and far-reaching project. It is the result of Andy's vision that stretches out to the next century and beyond. The dream of a predator-controlled environment, and the re-establishment of what was once common in the area, has started. It offers the nation a unique location encompassing a large diversity of land types unmatched on such a scale anywhere else in New Zealand.

"I am keen to restore and enhance any area where there is water and in the summer-dry environment at Ocean Beach these areas will become oases," he said.

"The May release of pateke into the Preserve is a great milestone for the project.

"We are grateful for the assistance from Banrock Station, the Department of Conservation and our many dedicated volunteers who have put so much of their time into planting some of the dams and ponds already," he concluded.

Within the Preserve, Andy has already made progress with wetland development, scooping out small seeps and beginning the replanting journey. In the last two years North Island robin, tomtit and rifleman have been re-introduced with some already successfully breeding in the predator-controlled environment. Kiwi will soon be joining them. Pateke, with the help of Ossie Latham and the Banrock Station team, are to be introduced. Other projects under way are the establishment of sea bird colonies (gannet are already famously there) and with sea birds it is hoped to create the multi-tiered environment which can aid in the introduction of tuatara.

In the last three years the kiwi project has been intense. Kiwi in the wild have been captured and fitted with transmitters. Once nesting eggs were collected, incubated, and the chicks reared to survivable age. So far the chicks have been returned to their source, in the wild, but this will change in the future. The policy is to place half the chicks back to their origin to sustain the wild population. The other half destined for the Preserve.

Most chicks have been sourced at Maungataniwha, to the north of Napier, on land owned by Auckland businessman Simon Hall. Like Andy, Simon has the capability and the drive to make a difference in conservation. Partnerships such as these are vital for the future.

More kiwi were located two years ago, in the northern Ruahine Ranges. These are the southern-most known, North Island brown kiwi. In mid-March the first chicks were released back into the area. Projects such as this involve the cooperation of the Department of Conservation and the support from this department gives credence to the overall importance of what is being achieved at the preserve.

Andy's philosophy takes on reality in his other projects as well. As a property developer his Hill Country Estate, on the northern slopes of Te Mata Peak, is testament to this. Begun in 2001 this is now a prime residential community and what was once a bare Hawkes Bay hillside is now a haven of native planting and small wetlands, mixed with vineyards, supporting wildlife with all the trappings of contemporary lifestyle thrown in – proof that property development and conservation are not necessarily mutually exclusive. If time and weather permit it could be possible to take a look at this project during the conference tour.

Members should make a special effort to attend this year's conference. There will be plenty to experience in a wonderful environment. Given that Andy's team of environmental experts, Tamsin Ward-Smith and Dr John McLennan, are to host the field trip, attendees will have an opportunity, seldom available, to learn about conservations past losses, present effort, and future gains.

We hope to see you there.

(Thank you Kevin Campbell and Tamsin Ward-Smith)



YELLOW LEAF GETS HOLD ON FLAX

DU stalwart Howard Egan is sounding the early warning alarm on a disease that is cutting a swathe through his own flax plantations at Canada Flats in the Wairarapa. He has discovered that the flax hopper insect carries the blight and that the malaise has much in common with the cabbage affliction of recent times.

He first observed the blight eighteen months ago, took careful note of its progress, and is now sounding a full scale alert as it makes its seemingly inexorable path through his wetlands plantation. Noting that flax is one of the pillars of wetlands he sees big problems ahead and thus he set out on the diagnostic and research trail.

He has now ascertained that the disease is known as Yellow Leaf disease and is so called because its becomes discernible with leaves taking on the yellow shriveled look.

The disease is caused by phytoplasma, a specialised bacteria, which eventually causes the flax stand to collapse and implode.

It starts underground. The roots die as the rhizome tissue collapses and the rot spreads to the crown of the plant. The adult native flax plant hopper injects the phytoplasma into the tubes of the leaf in order to suck the sap, in much the same way as a mosquito

injects its anticoagulant into the flesh of the human being it is drawing blood from.



These hoppers flourish in summer, and live in the dead leaves they have created, with the females laying their eggs there. Here, they take on a strong degree of invulnerability through their ability to seal their galleries from predators with a fluffy white material, which also keeps the water out – and insecticides.

Mr. Egan has learned that systemic insecticides such as Orthene which is carried by the plant has a measure of control over the new generation of adults providing it is applied in December to February.

He urges that infected plants are dug out and buried so that they cease to be a source of further infection. He recommends burning the diseased plants with diesel. He counsels against replanting with flax because of the presence of the hoppers and, instead, advises replacing with tree lucerne or manuka.

Pateke choose mobile home

“The old roost at this pond - Pond 1, at Okiwi, Great Barrier Island was slowly disappearing and deteriorating. I thought I'd build a raft - and a local mussel farmer, after a beer, gave me some pontoons. I asked the Rec team for ideas, hammer hands, and extra materials and we built a raft with levels to give the pacific swallows and a pied shag, who use it, protection from hawks.

This is the end product - and see the pateke sheltering there! It only took them a couple of days to move in.”

Joanna Sim, Ranger - Pateke, Great Barrier Area Office, Port Fitzroy.



'Mallard's-eye view' by Graham Eaton (UK)

Animal Portraits Runner-up, Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition 2007.

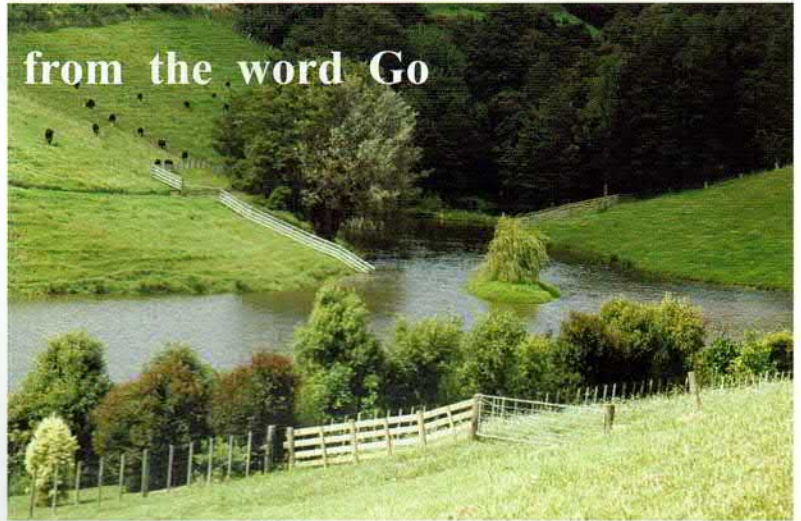
Owned by the Natural History Museum, London, and *BBC Wildlife Magazine*, and sponsored by Shell. www.nhm.ac.uk

Graham spent several chilly October days diving among local mallard in Wales. 'Whenever I dropped below the surface, this one would look down at me,' says Graham. He finally found the shot, a beautiful sunburst.

Tapp Wetlands - five years from the word Go

It is now five years since Lois and Murray Tapp purchased their property at Parua Bay, Whangarei and they send this report to Ducks Unlimited to publish in Flight:

Our retirement project has been to establish a small livestock fattening unit, create wetlands and enhance and protect habitat for wildlife. The major development work for the farm and wetlands has been completed and we wish to once again say 'thank you' to the people who contributed towards the construction of the wetlands. The following is a brief update of our project to show how the funding was used. (Full story on page 13)



Above: revegetative planting

Below: Oak Lakes



The Point - three different water levels



Oak Lake with kauri bush in background



Bund wall, stream bank revegetation and fish pass



Kauri Lake

Pateke reports

Tuhua

John Heaphy, Conservation Officer (Protected Species and Islands), Department of Conservation Tauranga Area Office has sent this pateke report:

Last update was February 2008.

John Heaphy spent four days camping in the Tuhua crater in March and counted a minimum of seven and possibly nine pateke present on both crater lakes over three days - all female except for one male. The male was a wild-bred male and first male he had seen there since early last year - unseen in February 2008. A female carrying a transmitter on Green Lake in February wasn't seen this time. All banded birds are female. Green Lake: three female unknown bands (only seen on first day). Black Lake: two unbanded female, one unbanded male.

John reports on the pateke transfer from Peacock Springs to Tuhua in March

The pateke transfer to Tuhua postponed from early February was done successfully on Tuesday 25 March with no fuss or complications. They were flown up on the direct flight from Christchurch to Rotorua, flown by helicopter directly into Tuhua crater and released by 14:45 hrs onto Black Lake. From the time Anne crated them up at Peacock Springs in the morning to release they were only boxed up for six to seven hours with no mortality and no injuries to birds.

The pateke were released by seven Bay of Plenty Polytechnic Marine studies second-year students who were part of a larger group staying on Tuhua for ten days doing the annual marine reserve survey and monitoring project in conjunction with DoC. As we did not have a boat going over there were no iwi, media or other DoC staff representatives.

The 11 males and 18 females all have individual colourband combinations and transmitters have not been used this time. Although we will still have a significant gender imbalance there is now more hope for next breeding season if the young lads can get cracking and also stay put!

I camped within 50m of the release/feeder site for the first three nights and was kept awake all the first night by a raucous teenage party as they celebrated their freedom and sorted out who was who. The second nights festivities only lasted the first couple of hours probably because they were too tired, but the third night they were back into it all night. Most of them appear to have stayed reasonably together and were not seen during daylight until the last morning when about 15 were seen roosting out in the open beside the feeders.

Anne's pateke pellets were fed for the first three nights from the standard feeders with cages underneath to exclude grey/mallard ducks. By the last night, all three feeders installed had been used so the birds were at least accessing the cages, although I had spread lots of pellets and maize on the ground outside of the cages since



release. Prior to departing on Friday afternoon I installed the spare two feeders making five in total at the release site and filled all five with whole maize.

As at leaving on Friday the original birds were keeping on their side of Black Lake and the new birds on the other release/feeder side. Some, but not much, maize had been taken from the feeders between beginning February and last week by pateke so the original birds have also been accessing the cages. Thanks to Eric at Otorohanga who supplied the cage specs and details, and also several of this lot of birds.

Sponsors:

Many thanks to Barry Dent of BDG Synthesis Ltd in Wellington for sponsoring the overall Tuhua pateke project including this transfer and helicopter flights, and also to Isaac Construction Co Ltd in Christchurch for again sponsoring the birds at their end.

Ongoing Monitoring:

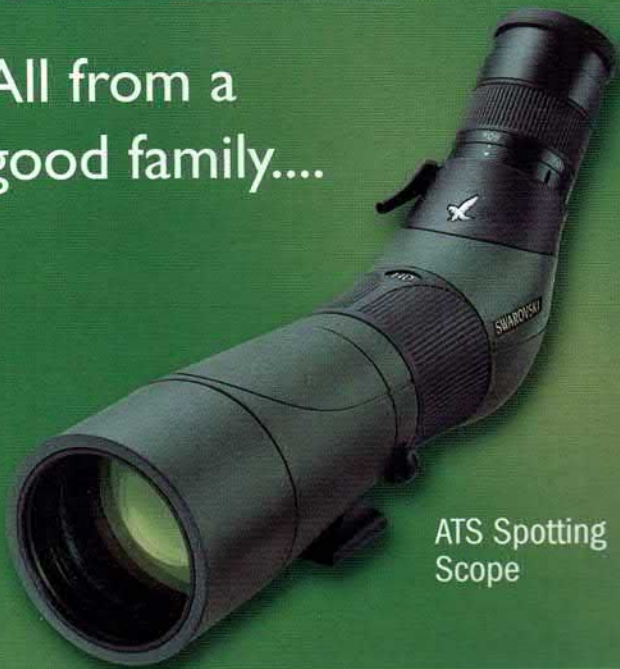
We hope to visit Tuhua every few weeks and check on the birds and fill up feeders with maize until it is used up - then they are on their own. Unfortunately, because of low water levels the feeders needed to be sited out in the open on the lake edge and if they decide to roost here, with the occasional hawk gliding past this may not be a good thing. Most of the 9ha wetland is dry underfoot at the moment and the small ponds have dried up.

On Saturday 29 March a pateke was again seen by OSNZ at Little Waihi estuary (mid BoP mainland) but still not known if it is banded. I've also had a visit but without success. There were two pateke there six weeks ago. This/these birds are more likely to have come from Tuhua rather than the upper Coromandel as a dead transmitted Tuhua male was picked up 18 months ago nearby - a 52 km dispersal.

Travis Wetland pateke report

John Skilton, Park Ranger/Project Manager of Travis Wetland, Christchurch City Council, reports a 40 percent survival, with eight pateke on-site, four each male and female, one male having left the site some months ago, from the release total of 20. John has seen two birds mating. Although several pairs were formed on two occasions the male bird was killed by predators. The females subsequently formed new pairs. At least two pairs dispersed from the release site and took up residence in other parts of the park. Currently, John reports, there are three pairs and one female and one male not paired. Since November, all the birds seem to have adopted a more secretive behaviour, no longer being readily seen in the daytime and seeming to prefer the cover of raupo and willow. John reports no ducklings evident, but his team have not searched for nests.

All from a
good family....



ATS Spotting
Scope



EL Binoculars



SLCNew
Binocular



LG 8x30
Rangefinder



Pocket Binocular

Recognise the importance of investing in precision,
with Swarovski Optik.

- Razor-sharp and high-contrast images right up to the periphery with total colour fidelity from the exclusive use of ultra-precise lenses and prisms.
- 100% functional reliability from -25° to +55° C
- Patented SWAROBRIGHT SWAROTOP or SWARODUR coatings
- All items shown are waterproof and nitrogen filled.
- 100% image and material inspection on every single instrument.
- All products are precision engineered exclusively in Austria.



SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

DISTRIBUTED BY

Ammunition
NEW ZEALAND
COMPANY LIMITED

PO BOX 40401 UPPER HUTT, Fax: 04 527 9243,
Email: sales@nzammo.co.nz www.nzammo.co.nz



Photos from Wairarapa Chapter annual lunch at Greytown in April



Mandy Challies, Gay Thomson, David Challies, Gary Thomson



Joyce Brooks -
champion raffle
seller!



Right: Robin Minton
and Diane Laing



The Ducky Derby a good fund-raiser



Bruce Stewart - a
"visitor from
Manawatu"



Jan Clinton-Baker, Raana Campbell and
Robyn Borthwick



Ossie and Mary Latham, Neil and Julie Candy



Left: Christine
and Rob Scott -
new members by
now hopefully -
from Greytown



At the huge
Silent
Auction
collection,
Gail
Rapson,
Judy
Donald and
Marilyn
Law



Gary and Abbey Girvan



Jack (6) of Pahiatua - Hello! Your
grandparents Ann and Ross Elliott
have made you a Junior Member -
and here they are!



Matt and Lynley Wyeth with
Alex, 3½ and Cameron, 1



Right:
Brian
and Pam
Maunsell

A huge turnout at Trends of Greytown for the Wairarapa Chapter's Annual Lunch and Ducky Derby - lots of fun and a generous and delicious food, plenty to drink. There was the Silent Auction, an auction of good quality items skilfully run by Ed Beetham and the Ducky Derby won by Andy Gurney who came first and second!

June's Wild Duck Casserole

This recipe comes to us via Ossie Latham who enthuses: "June Edwards is a lovely lady and gracious hostess. Her husband Mike and and younger son, Hayden, are keen duck shooters, fishermen and hunters. Her eldest son, Gareth, lives in London and contents himself by feeding the ducks, swans and geese in the various London parks. People who think wild duck is too strong will find this recipe wonderful. I have seen dinner guests, who declare that they do not like duck, go back for seconds".

2 wild ducks

Boil ducks gently until cooked, drain when cool, take meat off bones, check for and remove shot as doing so. This is the key to the recipe as the boiling removes the gameness/oil and fat of the duck

1 sliced onion
1 diced clove of garlic
1 tablespoon of butter
2 tablespoons of Thai chilli sauce
2 tablespoons soya sauce
2 tablespoons of flour
1 cup of chicken stock
1 cup of orange or apple juice
Pepper and salt to your taste

Gently sauté the onion and garlic in the butter, remember to put the garlic in when onion is well on the way, so as to avoid bitterness of garlic. Stir in flour bit by bit, then stock and juice gradually so as to make a non-lumpy sauce.

Once thickened, add chilli and soya sauces and shredded duck meat. Season with salt and pepper to your taste. Put into a casserole dish and cook for one hour in a 150 to 180 deg oven.

If having guests, do 4 to 5 ducks and double the ingredients. In this case, do not overdo the chilli sauce if it is not your thing. Goes well with the traditional range of roast vegetables, and mashed potatoes, broccoli, rice, pasta, etc.

Recommended Wine: Banrock Reserve Shiraz (of course)
Kemberfield Zinfandel (a good Hawkes Bay wine) or any other decent Zinfandel

Continued from photos on page 9, the story of Murray and Lois Tapp's bush and wetland covenants, five years from the beginning...

We now have approximately nine and half hectares of wetlands and associated plantings. The wetlands act as a silt trap and filtration system for the catchment area of most of our property. The different lakes are identified by the dominant trees within the particular catchment area.

The shape of the lakes has been determined almost entirely by the natural contour of the land. The banks of the two upper lakes are quite steep in places and landscape contouring was not practical. We used the clay from our house site to construct the dam walls for the two upper lakes. The lower lake covers a wide flat area and was formed largely by pushing up the clay from within the lake to form three low islands and a bund wall along the stream boundary.

The amount of fill material required to complete the construction of the three main walls was considerable. It was too costly to open up another borrow area to create more islands, so we have more open water than was originally intended. However, the 'wilderness' areas and headwaters are providing excellent cover and feeding habitat.

The easy-contour areas and two of the islands are mowed to provide preening and resting areas. Some of the steeper banks have been block planted with native trees and shrubs. The wilderness areas have scattered plantings of *Carex secta*, flax and cabbage trees. In selected areas we have planted a variety of oaks, liquidambars, poplars and willows for aesthetics, shelter and food for the ducks. We planted acorns from the dominant oak tree which we could not save and the resulting young trees are doing very well.

The wetlands are providing very good breeding habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species - some of which are classified as threatened. As we are endeavoring to establish a 'natural' balance with wildlife and habitat, we have not undertaken supplementary feeding at any stage.

We shoot only paradise ducks during shooting season which unfortunately also unsettles the other species. Most of our resident ducks temporarily vacate the lakes and take refuge in the Whangarei Harbour and Patua Estuary. At other times, there are up to two hundred ducks on the open water and many more scattered throughout the wilderness areas.

The paradise ducks are prolific breeders and the mallards and grey ducks have also bred very well. The grey teal, scaup and dab chick have bred successfully for the past two breeding seasons. Small groups of brown teal come and go. We frequently see bittern when walking in the late evening and they can be heard booming in the still night air.

The weedy verges and shallow areas are being heavily grazed by paradise ducks and black swans in particular. Last year the damage caused by eight resident black swans was very apparent. We keep hunting them off but they return for night feeding.

We counted approximately two hundred ducklings over the 2006/2007 breeding season. The young waterfowl are constantly challenged by hawks, pukeko, black shag, black-backed gulls, rats and mustelids. It is very frustrating to watch the black shags pick off the ducklings one by one. At this stage we feel that they are probably taking more ducklings than any other predator. Early one morning recently we counted sixty shags leaving their night roost. However, the obviously diligent ducks manage to raise at least some of their brood to adulthood. We seem to have the possum, rabbit, mustelid and rat problem at least under control using bait stations but ongoing vigilance is required.

The frogs seem to be thriving in spite of the lakes having an over abundance of their natural predators. Many of our visitors have been delighted to hear frogs for the first time.

The main overflow is also a fish pass and on a full tide, mullet and other small fish can transfer from the stream up to the lower lake. The grey mullet frequently leap out of the water and 'skip' across the surface. Their wet bodies sparkle in the sunlight and their antics look fantastic on still, reflecting water. The caspian tern have a very graceful flight and are fascinating to watch as they search out and then dive for the smaller fish. Sea birds use the fresh water in the lakes to wash the salt out of their feathers, particularly after a storm.

The entire native bush has been fenced, the trees have made a lot of new growth and the regenerating understory is thriving. Revegetation



planting will continue for some time. It is very rewarding to note the increased bird life and we often sit on the deck and listen to the dawn chorus.

The increase in the native pigeon population is very pleasing. During spring and early summer they love feeding on the young shoots of the lacebarks. Their weight frequently breaks the young branches but fortunately the trees are very easy to grow and they do recover.

Part of the challenge has been to do as much of the work as possible ourselves and our project will always be an enjoyable 'work in progress'.

Our home sits on a natural peninsula with the lakes on three sides, so with a good pair of binoculars we are able to observe the wildlife activity day and night.

The minor wildlife dramas that occur on and around the lakes are a constant source of intrigue. We never tire of it!

DU grant for whio and pateke research

Charlotte Minson of the Ecology Department of Massey University has applied for and received a grant of \$1,000 from the board of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc, for her research into faecal bacteria analyses on whio and pateke.

"The need arises in cases where releasing any animal or bird where a drastic change of diet is likely to occur must put great stress them. That is on top of the requirement to work much harder for a feed", commented one DU board member.

Charlotte says, "I want to express my appreciation to the Ducks Unlimited board for helping fund my research on pateke and whio. Due to a backlog at the lab that conducts the analyses they won't be able to get to my samples for a few months. I'm very excited about what the results will be and will send you a report when the data has been analysed, as well as an article for Flight. Thank you again for your support" - Charlotte Minson, Ecology Department INR, Massey University, Palmerston North.

(abridged. Ed.)



Forest and Bird and South Wairarapa Rotary aid Wairio

Jim Law reports his delight that the Rotary Club of South Wairarapa has granted a further \$1,500 (\$5,000 initial grant in 2007) for tree planting at the Wairio Block in 2008.

Jim has also received \$200 from Forest and Bird in the Wairio area which will also be used for Wairio Wetland.

Obituaries

Dr Michael Lesslie Hucks of Taupo, QSM

Dr Mike Hucks, a long-time member of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc, patron of the Wildfowlers Association of New Zealand, passed away in early January. Those who attended the DU Conference in Taupo last July will recall his vitality and energy in spite of his illness and his careering around the hills and valleys of our tour of Wairakei Pastoral Ltd on a farmbike in the company of his friend Colin Paton.

Bob Neckelson sent Flight the following:

"Mike was involved with the shooting sports for all of his life and had a moderate view of conservation.

He was involved, at executive level, with both the Taupo Branch of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association and the Taupo Pistol Club and he was a tireless advocate at the highest level for the shooting sports. That advocacy was rewarded with a QSM in 2006 for public services.

He was involved through the Wildfowlers Association, in the creation of wetland habitat and at the time of his death he was part of a team that will oversee the construction of a large wetland in the Broadlands area, the Ohaaki Wetland Project. Most outdoor people see themselves as part of the land and Mike was no exception. His ashes were loaded into his cannon, and accompanied by a solid thump and a voluminous cloud of smoke he became part of the land he loved. I saluted his departure with a substantial slug of Drambuie."



Colin Paton with Mick Hucks in July at Taupo conference

David Kingdon Yerex

David Yerex, a member of Ducks Unlimited, who died at the end of February was a rural sector journalist whose informed gravity of manner contributed among other achievements to making Country Calendar the most successful and longest running television series in New Zealand.



He was the last editor of the Journal of Agriculture, edited deer industry newsletters and magazines and set up his own public relations firm, Agricultural Promotions Associates. He was a founder of the New Zealand Guild of Agricultural Journalists. He wrote during his career 23 books, among them histories of Featherston and Carterton which became his home town. For many years he was director of information for the NZ Dairy Board.

He was the eldest son of Charles Yerex and Mary Kingdon. His father was a fisheries officer at Turangi and led Zealand's early deer eradication programme. David was raised in Turangi, Lower Hutt and then at Makarora near the head of Lake Wanaka.

It was during his years in the Wairarapa that David added a new string to his journalist's bow when he branched into the tourist industry, blending his twin driving passions of journalism and farming and devising the Farm Holiday scheme. The scheme allows farmers willing to play host to tourists and townies to have another income stream.

Earlier this year Dave Yerex underwent surgery at Wellington Hospital; he was then transferred to Masterton Hospital, where he died. He is survived by his wife Pauline and their son and daughter.

Tapp Wetlands Covenant Visitors

Murray and Lois Tapp have had the following wildfowl visiting Parua Bay:

Magpie, wild peafowl, wild turkey, hawk.

Californian quail, brown quail, pheasant, native pigeon, fantail, grey warbler, tui, rosella, various finches, yellowhammer, NZ pipit, swallow, skylark, shining cuckoo, fern bird, spotless crane, kaka and owl.

Kingfisher, spurwing plover, caspian tern, white-faced heron, black shag, little shag, pied shag, pied stilt, black-backed gull, pukeko, bittern, black swan, Canada geese, paradise duck, grey duck, mallard, spoonbill, pateke, grey teal, scaup or black teal, dabchick and Australian grebe.

Other wildlife: frogs, koura, various kokopu, mullet and eels. Possums and rabbits! (See pages 9 and 13)

Wairio plant surprises after the drought

Tony Silbury of DoC inspected Wairio at Lake Wairarapa, at the end of March and found some rare plants of ephemeral wetland sites.

He says: "I found lobelia (formerly pratia) perpusilla, which I hadn't seen at the lake for eight or nine years, gratiola sexdentata, which I haven't seen for three or four years, and amphibromus fluitans as well as entipeda aotearoana. The first two I found in the bed of a dried-up pond at the southern edge of Stage 1, while the amphibromus was on the northern end of stage 1, on the Parea Road side.

It might be that amphibromus isn't present as much because there is no grazing, as it looks like most of the colony is on a spot that wasn't

deepened by earthworks, but at least some plants look like they are on areas where the digger was working. I'll keep an eye on this part of the site, as there was a bit of mercer grass about and there's a chance that other weeds will invade now that the grazing is removed. It has also been a great year for amphibromus in the Boggy Pond ephemeral wetland, the best in 10 years or so."

Wetland Visits for Banrock Road Show

Monday 12 May

Maungatautiri, starting from Cambridge at 9am.

Tuesday 13 May

Lake Rotokare, near Eltham, 9am

Wednesday 14 May

Moutoa near Foxton, meeting at southern end of the Whirokino Bridge at 9am.

Thursday 15 May

Te Wherowhero, just south of Gisborne. Details to be advised

Friday 16 May

Cape Kidnappers Pateke release, details to be advised

DU people are welcome to join us at any of the venues, full details will be posted on the web at:

web. www.wetlandcare.org.nz

Change of Address - are you moving? Please send us your new details.

Name.....

Old address.....

New address.....

Postcode.....

Phone.....

Email.....

For membership and general inquiries, Ducks Unlimited, PO Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland 1149, or email: info@ducks.org.nz



YES, I wish to join Ducks Unlimited as a member

Please send me further information, I may join later.

Title..... First Name..... Surname.....

Address..... POSTCODE.....

Phone..... Fax.....

E-mail.....



DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.

For Wetlands and Waterfowl.

All subscriptions include GST. Membership is available in eight categories:

Junior (under 16) \$10 Contributor \$50 Family \$60 Business \$100 Life (one payment) \$3000

Note: Bronze, silver and gold sponsorships, which can be changed annually, include the membership fee of \$50, For the balance, sponsors will receive a receipt as proof of a tax deductible donation.

Bronze Sponsor \$80 Silver Sponsor \$150 Gold Sponsor \$300

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

Post to: Ducks Unlimited, P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland 1149.

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





Blue Diamond

The Blue Diamond is by far our most popular cartridge.

High performance and moderate recoil due to the exclusive Baschieri & Pellagri Gordon recoil reduction system. The

Blue Diamond is a very smooth consistent cartridge that has excellent kills, a must for any competitive shooter.

The cartridge features the all important Diamond Shot™ plastic or fibre wads available.

White Gold XLR

The White Gold XLR uses the strong White Gold brand and performance but like the XLR Fibre it has excellent pattern desites for the long range shooter while providing low recoil. A top performance training or competition load, that is soft on the shoulder and on your pocket. Available with a plastic wad only.

White Gold Original

The ultimate sporting clay cartridge as used by the most influential world champions, George Digweed, Ben Hushwaite and Ladies Champion Kate Brown. The White Gold cartridge is the most famous and successful cartridge ever in the world of sporting shooting, offering excellent performance and patterns without being too harsh on your shoulder. White Gold Original contains Gamebore's exclusive Diamond Shot™.

THE WORLD CHAMPION'S CHOICE

George Digweed

WINNER OF 15 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

"...if you want to succeed, you have to shoot the best"

Black Gold High Velocity is new to the competition range, It offers characteristics of the top end competition loads with a velocity of 1500fps, it has superb kills and great patterns, utilises the Gordon recoil reduction system and Gamebore's exclusive Diamond Shot™.

Description	Load	Velocity	Shot Size
White Gold XLR	24gm	1400fps	7½, 9
White Gold XLR	28gm	1400fps	7½, 8, 9
Blue Diamond	24gm	1400fps	7½
Blue Diamond	28gm	1400fps	7½, 8, 9
Blue Diamond (Fibre Wad)	28gm	1400fps	8
White Gold Original	24gm	1400fps	7½, 9
White Gold Original	28gm	1400fps	7½, 8, 9
Black Gold	28gm	1500fps	7½
20g Competition	24gm	1350fps	7½, 8



The Affordable Choice of Quality.



Demonstration Guns Available
Geoff Wells 027 290 2703

SKB 4000 RRP \$4,995

SKB 4000 features big bore technology, 5 competition length choke tubes and an airline safe aluminium reinforced case.

Available in Trap and Sporter Models (30" and 32"). Featuring adjustable comb, dropout trigger system, chrome lined bores, ventilated side and top ribs. Utilising the finest select walnut stock & forend, high grade checkering and engraving puts the SKB 4000 ahead of any gun in its class.

TO ARRANGE A DEMONSTRATION TEST FIRE VISIT ANY AUTHORISED SKB DEALER: McCoy & Thomas Hunting & Fishing Whangarei, Serious Shooters Auckland, Bronco's Sports Tauranga, Hamills NZ Hastings, Dave Hern Fishing & Shooting Waipukurau, Manawatu Hunting & Fishing Palmerston North, Hamills NZ Christchurch, Ballinger's Hunting & Fishing Christchurch, Shooter's Supplies Christchurch, Shooter's World Gore.

