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**“FLIGHT”**

DECEMBER 1977

NEWS:

NEW DIRECTOR FOR DU (NZ)

Mr Ian Pirani, President DU (NZ) announced in November the appointment of a further director to the board of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc. He is Mr Sig Bronger of Tauranga, an ardent conservationist and experienced waterfowl breeder. In making the announcement, Mr Pirani commented he was confident Mr Bronger's expertise and wide experience would be beneficial to DU and he welcomed the opportunity of working with him at board and a practical level in the future.

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- \* A NEW SPECIES OF WATERFOWL!

## A NEW SPECIES OF WATERFOWL ?

DU member, Mrs June Bronger of Tauranga, writes:

'Take one Casanova Black Scaup drake and one flirtly female Grey Teal and what do you get? 'SCEALS'. Last season, our grey teal duck apparently mated with the Black Scaup drake and the offspring are two female birds, very pretty, with teal-shaped heads, scaup-shaped bodies, scaup-like tails, female scaup colouring, teal-like flecked feathers plus the ability to dive like scaups. According to a book I have, this is an inter-generic cross. Both female 'Sceals' have laid this season - the first one laid 5 eggs, 4 were fertile but failed to hatch under a bantam. The second laid 3 eggs which are now under a bantam and due to hatch in two weeks. The first one has now laid again and we will let her sit on them and see what happens!'



## DU WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Andrews M.J.	(S)	Dugdale M.	(F)	Lyver M.H.	(S)
Armstrong I.A.	(F)	Griffin S.E.	(F)	Mortensen Clive	(J)
Bayley J.S.	(F)	Haberjam G.H.	(S)	Munns Dr P.	(F)
Blue Mrs J.S.	(S)	Haywood R.	(S)	Rolston B.L.	(F)
Bryant P.	(S)	Jensen G.R.	(S)	Squelch P.	(F)
Cherrie C.	(F)	Lagor J.C.	(S)	Stevenson R.	(F)
Coldstream P.	(J)	Lee, Christopher	(J)	Walsh N.	(F)
Copland K.G.	(S)	Low N.	(F)	Weaver Miss S.	(S)

## ATTENTION MEMBERS! - BUY DU LAPEL BADGES FOR CHRISTMAS!

DU Lapel badges are ideal Christmas, and anytime, gifts. All proceeds benefit DU projects. The badge is gold, with blue and white and is a replica of the DU decal. PRICE IS ONLY \$ 2-95. (size: 5/8 inch round) Complete the order form below . . . . .

### DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) LAPEL BADGES

To: Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc, P.O. Box 74, Hamilton N.Z.

PLEASE SUPPLY ME WITH . . . . . LAPEL BADGE(S)

CHEQUE ENCLOSED FOR \$ . . . . .

POST TO: (name) . . . . .

(address) . . . . .

. . . . .

. . . . .



## FOR DO-IT-YOURSELFERS - NESTING BOX MATERIAL & SPECIFICATIONS

As mentioned in previous issues, DU has galvanised drums available, free of charge, for members interested in using same for nesting box material. Contact Ian Pirani at DU Headquarters regarding collection. The drums convert easily to nest box construction.

DU has perfected a box design most favoured by Grey Teal (refer report on Operation Gretel). Members who reside near where Grey Teal are known to frequent are welcome to write to headquarters for a plan and other specifications so they may begin their own box construction and contribute to Grey Teal production in their area in a positive and practical way.



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# YOUR DU MEMBERSHIP . . . THE *OTHER* RENEWABLE RESOURCE

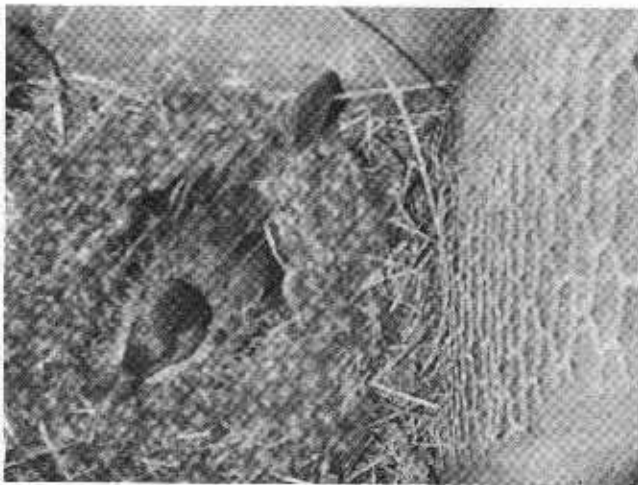
ANY BOOK ABOUT DUCKS AND GEESE WILL TELL YOU WATERFOWL ARE A RENEWABLE RESOURCE GIVEN GOOD HABITAT PROTECTION DURING REPRODUCTIVE TIMES ETC ETC. FOOD, WATER AND SPECIAL COVER ARE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN THIS 'GOOD HABITAT' BUT, FIRST, SOMEONE MUST ASSURE THERE WILL BE HABITAT TO BEGIN WITH. THAT'S WHAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN DUCKS UNLIMITED IS ALL ABOUT.



AT DU WE CONSIDER YOUR MEMBERSHIP A RENEWABLE RESOURCE TOO. WHEN YOU RENEW, YOU GUARANTEE THE COMPLETION OF WATERFOWL PROJECTS ALREADY UNDER WAY FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND PROVIDE FOR NEW PROJECTS. SO - JUST AS FOOD, WATER AND COVER ARE WHAT GOVERNS HABITAT QUALITY . . . . . REGULAR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE WHAT GOVERN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

HAVE YOU RENEWED FOR 1977/78?



DU is delighted to report the following outstanding results for this year's breeding programme -

Nest box inspections, carried out every three weeks and concluding early December, by the project supervisor Kelvin Mackie and his small team of volunteer experts have revealed the final excellent result:

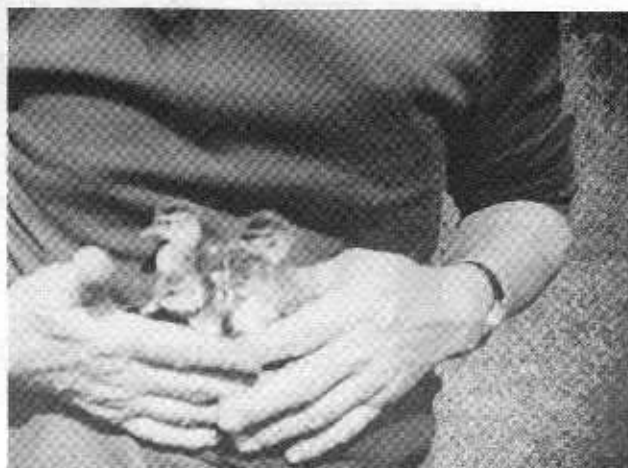
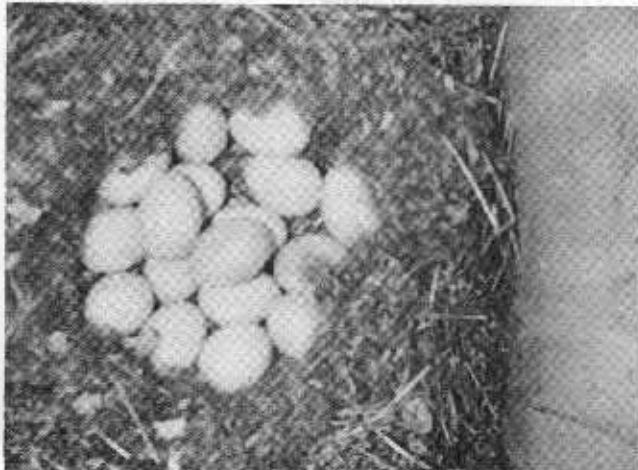
Total Grey Teal eggs	525	
Hatched	391	(still a number sitting)
Hatch rate	89.84%	
Average clutch	11.13	
Biggest clutch	17	(16 hatched out of this clutch)
Smallest clutch	8	
Total boxes used	51	(total 87)

THIS GIVES A 58.6% USAGE AND IS A 700 PER CENT INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR!

*(a note of thanks here to Mr Tony Flexman, Pokeno for the use of his farm property and his friendly co-operation and interest in the project)*

Grey teal were not the only occupants at the Gretel site - a mallard produced 16 eggs in one of the boxes (in two clutches)

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? After careful consideration of the above results and forward projections, directors have made a decision in principle to extend Operation Gretel to other areas of New Zealand and a search is being conducted of areas where the Grey Teal are known to frequent with a view to future nest box placement.



OPERATION PATEKE (BROWN TEAL)

*Holder's of Brown Teal are forwarding details of this breeding season to project supervisor, Ian Pirani at present and we hope to give a detailed report in the March issue.*

A WORLD FIRST?

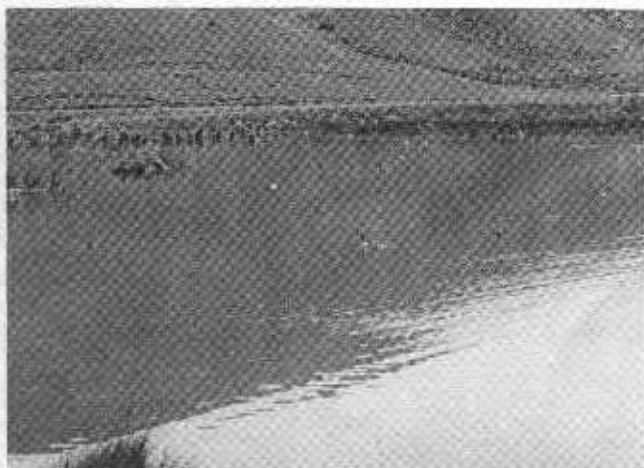
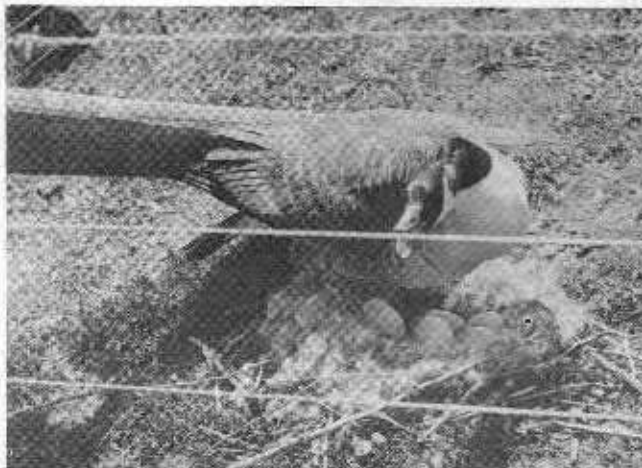
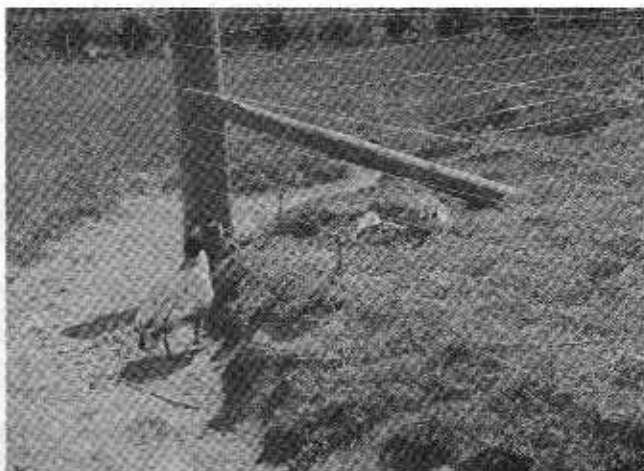
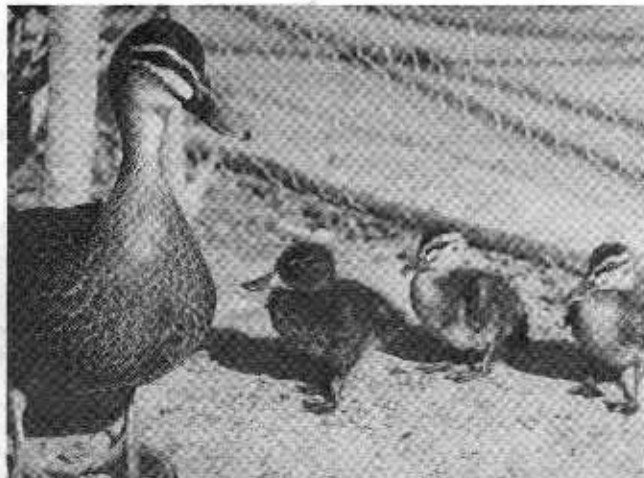
It is probable that a world 'first' occurred in the DU Operation Pateke project when a New Zealand Grey Duck, in the collection of DU Wellington director Neil Hayes, successfully hatched a New Zealand Brown Teal duckling (see photograph: Brown Teal duckling is centre). As far as DU is aware, this is the first time a Grey Duck has been used as a foster mother.

Neil had managed to place six Brown Teal eggs under the Grey Duck but, unfortunately, only one hatched, the other eggs being infertile. At the same time, the Grey Duck hatched five of her own. The last report we had informed us that the 'orphan' is progressing well and looks like reaching maturity. Soon after being deprived of her first clutch, Neil's Brown Teal female started to lay again and hatched five from five eggs. All five are doing well.

OPERATION BRANTA (CANADA GEESE)

Wellington member and local acclimatisation society officer, Ian Buchanan, has been watching progress with the Wairarapa birds - he took the photographs alongside and reports that, at Mr Jim Campbell's property, there is one breeding DU pair, and 3 pair sitting. One hatch yielded 5 out of 7, and there are 2 pair on 5 eggs. A DU pair is sitting on 5 eggs, the remainder are juveniles.

A further shipment of geese is at the planning stage and should take place early in 1978.



## DU ANNOUNCES PRELIMINARY DETAILS - OPERATION HQ

*As reported in previous issues, a search is still under way for a desirable property - however, matters have not been standing still and it is appropriate to announce preliminary details.*

CONCEPT      Establishment of a national headquarters and waterfowl display area.

- OBJECTIVES
- \* physical development and/or restoration of the chosen site for prime waterfowl production
  - \* the identification of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc with wetlands conservation, habitat trials etc on a national basis
  - \* to enable the organisation to become financially self-supporting
  - \* the establishment of research work at the centre which will allow expansion of the facility and its waterfowl collection.

### PROPOSED PROGRAMME

- STAGE I      *Earthworks and dyke construction, creation of ponds, fencing programme, creation of appropriate walkways and vehicleways.  
(on completion of site work, an 'instant' collection of waterfowl comprising some 25-30 species and totalling several hundred birds, is available for the centre. Members, some of whom are prominent waterfowl breeders and ornithologists have committed, in several cases, their entire collections to Operation HQ.)*
- STAGE II      *Establishment of a zoological garden atmosphere with provision for picnic facilities and car parking, the total concept involving ease of viewing and inspection with minimum disturbance to the waterfowl.  
(Forward financial predictions indicate that potential earnings from the charging of a modest admittance fee will assist the organisation to become financially self sufficient after a period.)  
Note: not all areas would be open to the public - small research and assessment ponds would have access strictly controlled as a waterfowl protection measure.*
- STAGE III      *Establishment of national headquarters and research unit.  
Planning envisages provision for a dwelling at some time in the future for educational purposes i.e. lectures, the housing of literature and publications, exhibits of waterfowl art, taxidermy specimens, the organisation's records. The dwelling proposed would also be utilised for meetings of the board, project supervisors, keeweenaw gatherings and member education.  
A longer term project, and an appropriate extension, is the provision of a small laboratory to supervise and control research work, habitat trials etc.*

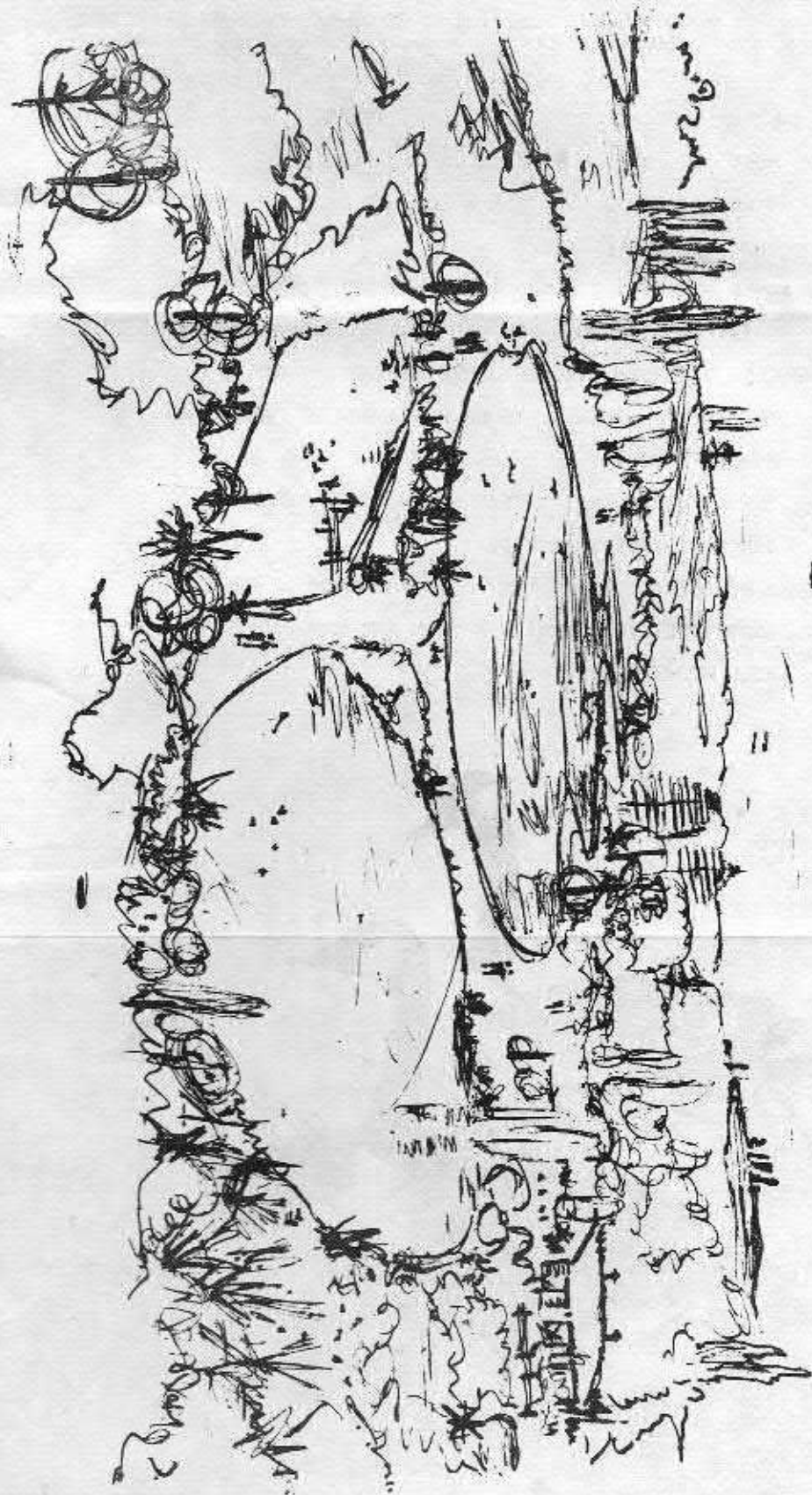
CONCLUSION

The concept envisaged will develop (restore) the physical nature of the region to one of prime waterfowl production, as well as creating an environment where species can be viewed by the public, students and waterfowl experts with ease and in natural typical surroundings - with minimum disturbance to the wildlife.

Operation HQ will have the further major advantage of allowing DU to become self-supporting because of income generated from the establishment of a zoological garden atmosphere, under controlled conditions. Operation HQ is also necessary to the economic future - the group requires a permanent assured income to ensure stability and continuity for its waterfowl management techniques, programmes and research work.

AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF DU'S OPERATION HEADQUARTERS

DU (NZ) wishes to thank Denis Hewson of Denis Hewson & Associates, Architects, Auckland for his interest and enthusiasm in the project and for the artist's impression reproduced below.



EVERYONE'S EARTH . . . EVERYONE'S ENVIRONMENT . . . EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

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Serious thoughts, upon which to reflect deeply and long.  
Instead of preparing some appropriate comments for Christmas, I thought I would reproduce here a thought-provoking extract from a Report of the Committee of North American Wildlife Policy, which was sent to me by a Waikato member.

Ian H. Pirani - President

'MANKIND EMERGED FROM THE NATURAL ORDER,  
WE MUST CONTINUE TO LIVE AS PART OF IT.  
WE HAVE BUT ONE EARTH, OUR HOME, OUR KEEP,  
OUR BORROWED ESTATE,  
WE MUST ACCEPT THE CHARGE, AT WHATEVER COST, TO  
MAINTAIN ITS ABUNDANCE AND GUARD ITS QUALITY,  
WE SEEK UNDERSTANDING OF OTHER LIVING THINGS AS  
THE WAY TO AN ENLIGHTENED HUSBANDRY OF MAN  
HIMSELF.  
WE SEE A FUTURE THAT THREATENS THE IDLE, THE  
IGNORANT, THE IMPROVIDENT,  
BUT, WE SEE ALSO IN TIMES AHEAD THE PROMISE OF  
GOOD LIFE, IF MEN WITH WISDOM AND HUMILITY  
WILL WORK FOR IT.'

