



DUCKS UNLIMITED (N. Z.) INCORPORATED
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FLIGHT 2/78 ISSUE 16

“FLIGHT”

JUNE 1978

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MARK SATURDAY, 1 JULY 1978 IN YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR EVENT OF THE YEAR!

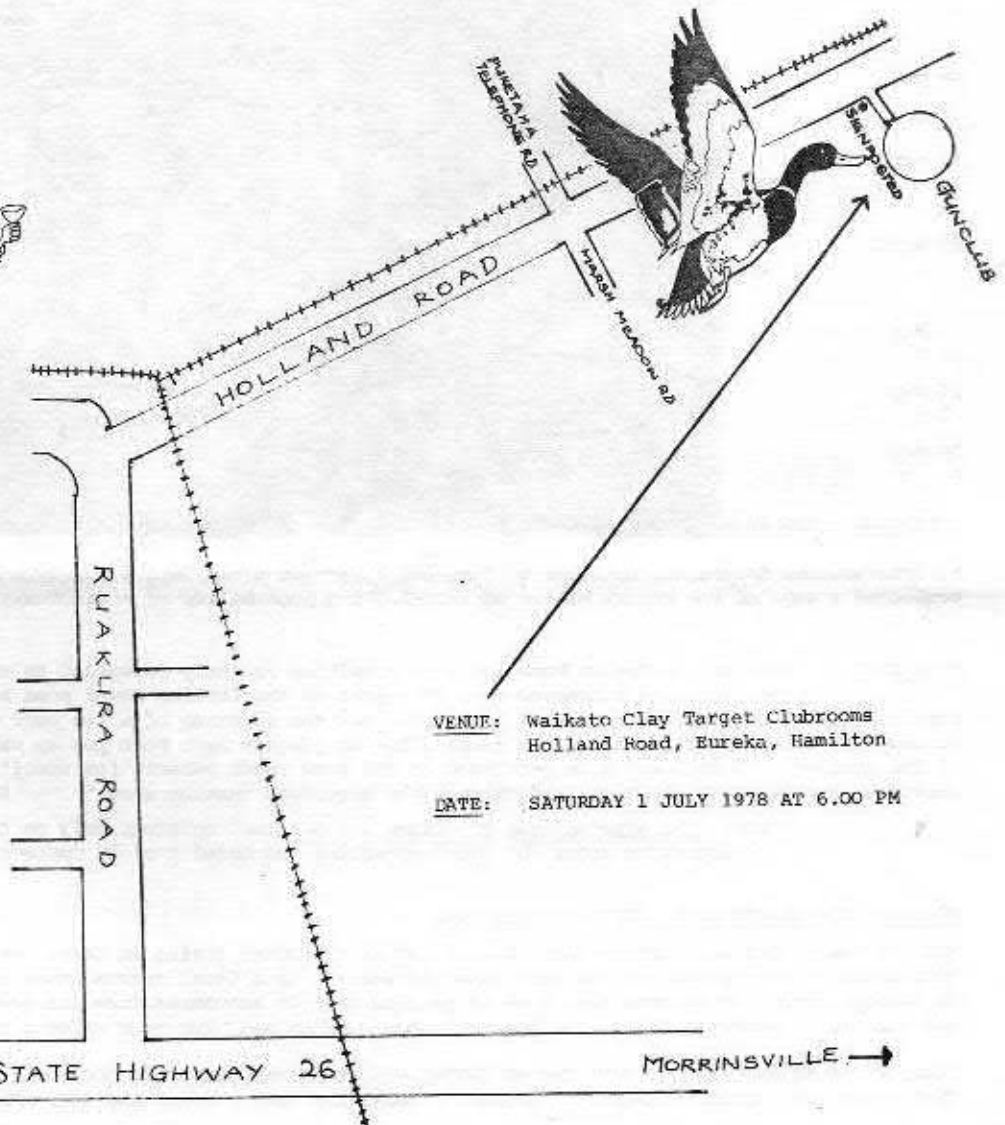
DON'T MISS THE D.U. ANNUAL CONFERENCE/AUCTION!

This year's conference promises to be as exciting and stimulating as in the past - with a guest speaker from the Wildlife Service, slide presentation, highlights of the year's programme, auction items from the unusual to the practical - enjoy an informative and pleasant evening for the benefit of New Zealand waterfowl! Many truly magnificent auction items have been donated this year - among them waterfowl art, ammunition, sporting equipment, handsome waterfowl publications. Here's a chance you won't want to miss! All proceeds benefit Ducks Unlimited's waterfowl projects in 1978/79.

Registration Fee: We are pleased to advise that we have lowered the conference fee to \$ 4 per head which is well below last year. It is hoped this modest fee will encourage members to bring along wives, girlfriends, friends and sportsmen. This could be your opportunity to introduce a friend to Ducks Unlimited. The cost for each guest is also \$ 4 each. There will also be an opportunity for those members who have not renewed and wish to do so, to pay their 1978/79 subscription and to enrol new members. Sales of T shirts and lapel badges will also be conducted.

Refreshments: The clubroom bar will be open during the formal proceedings. This year, instead of a formal dinner, light snacks will be served during the refreshment break at around 8.30 pm i.e. an excellent selection of cold meats, poultry, cheeses and other delectable snacks!

Auction: Mr K.G.W. (Bill) Wilkinson is our auctioneer again this year and he will demonstrate his expertise with the pleasurable extraction of funds from conference participants to benefit the ducks. This is our major fundraising effort of the year - let's make it memorable!



VENUE: Waikato Clay Target Clubrooms
Holland Road, Eureka, Hamilton

DATE: SATURDAY 1 JULY 1978 AT 6.00 PM

MEMBERS! ORDER YOUR DU LAPEL BADGE NOW!

ALL SALE PROCEEDS
BENEFIT DU PROJECTS.
PRICE: ONLY \$ 2-95!



DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) - LAPEL BADGE ORDER FORM

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

PLEASE SUPPLY ME WITH LAPEL BADGE(S)

CHEQUE ENCLOSED FOR \$

POST TO: (name)

(address)

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KEEMAN REPORT - FROM GORE Keeman, Neil Mair, sends us the following report:

"Waterfowl census of Gore Oxidation Ponds:

5 March 1978	39	Mallard
12 March	97	Mallard
	53	Shoveller
	3	Paradise Duck
19 March	92	Mallard
9 April	172	Mallard
	85	Shoveller
	1	Black Swan
16 April	241	Mallard
	94	Shoveller
	2	Black Swan
22 April	235	Mallard
	275	Shoveller
	19	Black Swan
23 April	455	Mallard
	140	Shoveller
	5	Black Swan
30 April	16	Mallard
	122	Shoveller
	5	Black Swan
7 May	Nil	Ducks
	4	Black Swan
14 May	Nil	Ducks
	3	Black Swan
20 May	15	Shoveller



OXIDATION PONDS AS A SANCTUARY? - I recently completed a survey for the Gore Borough Council on the bird-life using the Gore Oxidation Ponds. The Council has asked the Southland Acclimatisation Society to consider turning the oxidation ponds into a wildlife sanctuary. The Society has requested a copy of the report before considering the possibility of a sanctuary.

BLUE DUCK - The Catlins Forest Park advisory committee recently forwarded to the Minister of Forests, Mr Venn Young, a recommendation that part of the Catlins River area be investigated by the Wildlife Service for future protective status. This follows the sighting of a two pair of Blue Duck. A low profile is being kept on the existence of the ducks although plaques have been put up warning hunters of the presence of the species. Duckshooting is permitted in the park under permits for specific areas and on occasions shooters have waded up the river and through the Blue Duck nesting area." - Neil Mair

(note: the observations of Keemen are personal opinions only on conditions in their respective areas for the information and benefit of DU members and friends)

MESSAGE FROM DUDLEY BELL, KEEMAN SUPERVISOR:

Neil is one of our most enthusiastic Keemen and is a student living at Gore. He recently mounted a display, just prior to the opening of the duck shooting season, in a local sports store using publicity material from DU Headquarters. He reports that some 24 persons took DU brochures from his presentation - 'possibly some new members?' comments Neil. We hope so! Many thanks Neil for your efforts on behalf of the ducks.

SOME OF OUR KEEMEN SEEM TO HAVE THROWN THEMSELVES COMPLETELY INTO THE DUCKSHOOTING SEASON AND APPEAR TO HAVE "VANISHED" WITHOUT TRACE!! KEEMEN! WHERE ARE YOU? WHERE ARE YOUR REPORTS PLEASE!



1978 ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT - IAN H. PIRANI

A question I am often asked is 'Why DU?' New Zealand has vast flocks of Mallard ducks and, in fact, over much of our country, farmers complain periodically of crop and grass damage by various species of waterfowl. To survive, the Black Swan (as with the Canada Goose and Paradise Shelduck) has had to become a pasture grazing bird. Why Ducks Unlimited then, if waterfowl are apparently causing so many problems? The answer becomes increasingly apparent if one looks at our current projects which are reviewed in this report. Waterfowl conservationists and shooters in New Zealand are seriously concerned at waterfowl population levels which have remained static for years, and at the deterioration in habitat due to unfavourable climatic conditions and to drainage and development of former wetland swamp regions for cropping and other rural projects.

On reflection, Ducks Unlimited (NZ) has had another modestly successful year....

Results with Operation Pateke were steady (if a little disappointing in that only 18 Brown Teal were reared this year - less than expected) but the total reared has increased to 50 since the project began three breeding seasons ago. This year, DU released some birds to the Wildlife Service for liberation in a selected area, as reported last year. These birds will supplement the earlier Wildlife Service liberations from which at least one pair have reared young in the wild. The project programme has been revised and, in future, the majority of birds will be concentrated among fewer successful Brown Teal breeders. Without going into technicalities, we believe that this 'flockmating' will produce better results and we await the outcome of the coming breeding season with optimism.

Again, in co-operation with the Wellington Acclimatisation Society, further shipments of Canada Geese were made to the North Island and birds released in selected areas. Members will be pleased to learn that birds from an earlier liberation bred successfully this year. Operation Branta will continue to grow so long as DU continues to have the support of the farming community, Acclimatisation Societies and the Wildlife Service, as well as our enthusiastic volunteers from the South Island.

Progress with Operation Headquarters has been slow, but encouraging. Negotiations are still under way with one major prospect. Engineering studies and aerial photography have been undertaken, but approval must also be sought from local authorities - these and other frustrating but essential matters unfortunately take some time to process and cannot be hurried. We hope to have something more positive to report toward the end of the year.

A new and successful project this year was Operation Blue Duck, in which DU sponsored the New Zealand visit of an American scientist to study the New Zealand Blue Duck. In close co-operation with the Wildlife Service and the Waimarino Acclimatisation Society, DU organised the visit of Miss Jan Eldridge of Minnesota to an excellent Blue Duck area north of Raetihi. During her three month study, Miss Eldridge observed at close quarters over twenty different Blue Ducks and was able to collect valuable data not previously known concerning this species' behaviour. A scientific paper on the study will be published later this year and DU feels its 'investment' in this research project is well worthwhile.

Our 'star' project this year was undoubtedly Operation Gretel. We have been encouraged by the excellent results gained this past year - an increase of 49% on previous nest box usage. We consider that this coming breeding season, Grey Teal will be 'queuing' to use the boxes! Further boxes of the type preferred by Grey Teal have been erected in the Waikato and South Auckland regions; also in the Wairarapa, and further placements are planned near Dunedin in the South Island, as well as the present locations mentioned above. The project is now beginning to make a significant contribution to the Grey Teal population in this country.

In spite of New Zealand's economic recession and the problems faced by individuals because of this, members have responded financially to ensure that the ducks do not suffer as well! The accounts, however, reflect the serious financial position our country is experiencing. On a brighter note, there were sufficient funds to meet project commitments this past year and for this we are grateful. Directors appreciate the positive support of all their New Zealand members. New membership continued its steady course - renewal subscriptions, which fell off inexplicably last year, have 'picked up' since March of the new financial year which will, of course, be reflected in next year's annual accounts. However, the trend is encouraging. DU plans to continue a fairly extensive, and expensive, advertising programme and a glance at the accounts will show a significant proportion of funds has been expended in this direction. Your directors believe that this expenditure is vital. Publications such as WANTED and FLIGHT also directly contribute to membership levels and must be regarded as essential 'advertising' to keep DU's name before the conservation-minded public.

The group has continued to receive encouragement from its associated organisations - Ducks Unlimited Inc U.S.A., Ducks Unlimited (Canada) and Ducks Unlimited de Mexico, and appreciates their concern from such long distance. Our friends take quite some interest in our activities and the Mexican organisation, for example, recently devoted a large section of its new magazine printed in Spanish, to the affairs of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) - using an article sent to them which combined the photographic/journalistic talents of Neil Hayes and Cheryl and Paul Pirani. We have several Mexican members and expect to gain further support from that region as a result of this welcome far-flung publicity. We also receive warm and generous support from members in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. New Zealand was represented informally at the 41st Convention of Ducks Unlimited Inc held in Winnipeg recently - by my wife, Dawn, and Mrs June Bronger, wife of one of our directors, who made a private visit. I regard our continued 'representation' at such gatherings as essential - communication, the knowledge gained and goodwill generated by such attendances has direct beneficial results for our waterfowl.

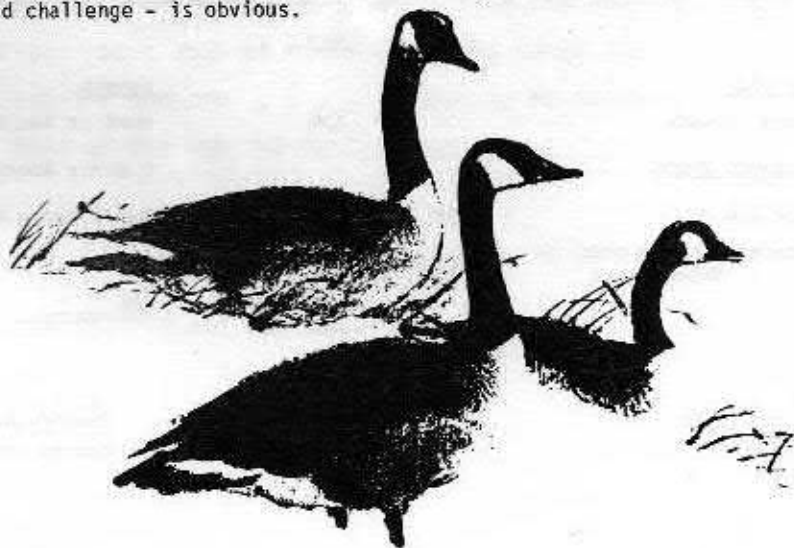
DU made another kind of 'contribution' to the New Zealand environmental cause this year - presenting submissions in response to a discussion paper published by the Minister for the Environment on 'Wild and Scenic Rivers Protection'. Ducks Unlimited presented what it considers were important factors pointing out the serious effects on two of New Zealand's waterfowl species, the Blue Duck and the Brown Teal, which will occur if the 'wholesale' erection of small hydro dams and mutilation of the country's wild rivers continues without more serious study.

The period under review saw some changes at board level - we farewelled Glen Butts (who ably represented members' interests) to a new life in Australia, no doubt investigating some way to start DU there! Trevor Voss also resigned after many years contribution - he was a founder member of the group - and we miss their dedicated and outstanding support. We extend our appreciation to two new directors for their contributions this year - Messrs Murray Dench (who is the members' representative) and Mr Sig Bronger. Kelvin Mackie, who has also represented members' interests for some years has indicated his wish to resign at this conference and we offer sincere thanks for his practical expertise and valuable contribution to board affairs. Ducks Unlimited is fortunate in that it has a steady 'source' of sincere and dedicated individuals at board level and trusts this will always be so. Your directors operate under considerable difficulty at times - they are a highly motivated group of people devoting many hours each week on a voluntary basis to the affairs of your organisation. On your behalf, they are making a real contribution to the ecological development of our waterfowl. I express my gratitude to them for the untiring, unselfish and outstanding expertise and support consistently given to me during the year.

On behalf of my fellow directors, and members as well, I express my gratitude and acknowledge the co-operation received from many quarters in New Zealand - the Department of Wildlife, the Acclimatisation Society movement, our farming friends and those in the world of commerce and industry. All have played some part in our progress this year and I have every confidence that with the support of you all we will meet our commitments for the forthcoming year.

Everyone's earth.....everyone's environment.....everyone's responsibility!

Why DU? The answer - and challenge - is obvious.



DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INC.INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1978

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Subscriptions:		
Life	358	125
Active	1540	1405
Supporter	485	426
Junior	22	12
Trade	<u>120</u>	<u>120</u>
<u>TOTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS</u>	2525	2088
<u>PLUS OTHER INCOME</u>		
Donations	340	122
Conference Income	2017	
Less Expenses	<u>882</u>	
Profit on T Shirt Sales	13	(164)
Profit on Lapel Badge Sales	32	-
Sundry	<u>39</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	4084	3050
<u>LESS EXPENDITURE</u>		
Audit and Accountancy Fees	40	30
Advertising	1026	224
Duplicating	-	60
Operation - 'Gretal'	235	447
- 'Pateke'	-	82
- 'Branta'	120	-
- 'Harlock'	15	-
- 'Blue Duck'	360	-
Postage	431	173
Printing	667	1040
Stationery	220	282
Sundry	121	195
Telephones and Tolls	-	70
Travelling Expenses - Board Meetings	<u>256</u>	<u>77</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	3491	2680
<u>EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</u>	\$ 593	\$ 370
	=====	=====

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 1978

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>		<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			<u>ASSETS</u>		
Accounts Payable	77	129	Bank of New South Wales	628	196
<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>			T.Shirt Stocks	372	411
Balance 1.4.77	478	108	Lapel Badge Stocks	148	-
Plus Excess Income over Expenditure	<u>593</u>	<u>370</u>			
	1071	478			
	\$ 1148	\$ 607		\$ 1148	\$ 607
	=====	=====		=====	=====

A.H. Jones
.....1978
Hamilton.

Hutchison Hull & Co
.....
Chartered Accountants

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1978/79 ARE NOW DUE - HAVE YOU RENEWED ?

PROJECT REPORTSOPERATION GRETEL

As mentioned in FLIGHT No 15, our Grey Teal nesting box project is being expanded to the Wairarapa. Over two weekends in March, 25 boxes were erected at Barton's Lagoon, near Martinborough. Further boxes will be erected after the close of the duckshooting season. As can be seen from the photographs on page 11, conditions were ideal for the erection of the first boxes, Barton's Lagoon having seen no rain for three months. Holes 0.6m deep were first dug and posts, after the ends had been shaped to a point, were driven in - with the help of Don McCulloch, President of the North Island Council of Acclimatisation Societies (see Fig 1) - to a depth of 1m, levels having been taken to ensure that the bottom of the box would be very close to the desirable height of 0.7m above the water. A good number of members attended the working parties.

DU appreciates the kind assistance of Mr Lew Osborne, farmer of Martinborough who made his farm workshop available for box construction and, of course, the kind permission of Mr John Barton, owner of Barton's Lagoon. DU is confident the boxes at Barton's Lagoon will see rapid use.

Photograph captions for page 11 are:

Fig 1

Don McCulloch, flexing his muscles, ably assisted by member Arthur Thomas.

Fig 2

Arthur Thomas and member Jim Clover lining up DU No 1 at Barton's Lagoon.

Fig 3

Ian, Buchanan, Senior Field Officer, Wellington Acclimatisation Society, and DU Director, Bud Jones, using a dead willow to good advantage.

Fig 4

Sylvia Hayes, wife of DU Director, Neil Hayes (who took these photographs) hard at work assisted by member, Bob Penna and his son, Paul.

Fig 5

The finished boxes on a very dry looking Barton's Lagoon - March 1978

Fig 6

May 1978 - no shortage of water now!

Fig 7

Even old fence posts can be used!

OPERATION PATEKE

A little more history was made with the progress of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) when, in April, four young Brown Teal were transferred to the Wildlife Service for eventual liberation. The transfer and liberation of wild and some handreared Brown Teal has already taken place in the Manawatu and in Nelson, and from these liberations one clutch was sighted at Lake Puke Puke in the Manawatu early this year. Up to seven birds have recently been regularly sighted in the Manawatu - so there is some indication that the birds are adapting quite well. With the reorganisation of Operation Pateke well under way, DU is hopeful for the best breeding season this year, and a larger number of birds for liberation.

MOBIL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

DU has made submissions to Mobil Oil New Zealand Limited for an environmental grant to enable the group to run a seminar for the twenty holders of Brown Teal participating in Operation Pateke. If this application is successful, Operation Pateke will receive a tremendous 'boost' as there is no doubt that all holders of Brown Teal would benefit considerably from such a seminar dealing with the captive management of the species. And, such a course could in fact mean the difference between survival and extinction for the Brown Teal.

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

* Chetwin, Mrs D.	(S)
Chipchase, R.M.	(S)
Dugmore, Mrs N.P.	(S)
Frater, Mark	(J)
Johnson R.	(S)
McMillan B.N.	(S)
* Plunkett G.	(S)
Priest, Peter	(J)
* White, B.	(F)

(* sponsored by another DU member)

(* Sponsored by another DU member)

LIST OF TRADE MEMBERS 1978

Under Rule 4.07 of Ducks Unlimited's constitution, the organisation publishes annually a list of its trade members and acknowledges with grateful thanks the support of these individuals/groups:

Bank of New South Wales, Waitara
W.J. Broun
C.A.C. Industries Limited, Auckland
Consolidated Traders Limited, Wellington
De Mont Studios, Hamilton
W.J. Hamilton
Havelock North Sports Centre
Paradise Valley Springs, Rotorua
Tilley Plastics Limited, Lower Hutt
Wellington Sporting Arms Company
Wilf Wright, Reikorangi Pottery, Waikanae

OPERATION GRETEL - WORK IN PROGRESS AT BARTON'S LAGOON



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7



DU SUBMISSIONS ON 'WILD & SCENIC RIVERS PROTECTION' POLICY

We mentioned in the last issue of FLIGHT that Ducks Unlimited had made submissions to the Minister for the Environment's paper on Wild and Scenic Rivers. To keep members in the picture, we reprint below extracts from our submissions and we hope that in discussing such topics, members will lend their weight to our comments:

"Commission for the Environment
WELLINGTON

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the paper from the Minister for the Environment on 'Wild and Scenic Rivers Protection'.

General Comments

It is a sad fact that out of 37 birds in imminent danger of extinction in the world, 11 are New Zealand birds. It is therefore disappointing to find that throughout the Minister's discussion paper, only very scant mention is made of the need to protect the habitat of our wildlife. Our organisation is concerned with the waterfowl of New Zealand, particularly those species whose numbers are low, and those whose numbers have been drastically reduced in recent years. Two of these species rely very heavily for their continued survival on wild rivers which are still in their natural stage and have been unutilised, and unpolluted, by man. The species we are primarily concerned with are:

- the New Zealand Blue Duck (*Hymenolaimus malacorynchos*)
 - the New Zealand Brown Teal (*Anas aucklandica chlorotis*)
- (both species are endemic to New Zealand)

Blue Duck - In the case of the Blue Duck, no similar species is found elsewhere in the world, that is the bird is unique to New Zealand. Through hydro development work, removal of bush and the general interference of man, the Blue Duck, whose habitat is fast flowing mountain streams, is now confined to remote areas which have not yet been affected by 'progress'. There are many areas where the Blue Duck was once common but does not now exist (including several national parks) simply because of man's carelessly planned destruction of our countryside. One very good Blue Duck territory currently in line for destruction is the Manganui-a-te-au River, north of Raetihi, where it is proposed to build a small hydro-electric power station. Such a move would of course mean the end of the Blue Duck on this river - and probably throughout the area. Ducks Unlimited has recently financed the study of Blue Duck in the Raetihi area and believes it is essential for the Manganui-a-te-au to remain a 'wild' river. Long stretches of the river are inaccessible to the general public and the river affords excellent habitat for the Blue Duck.

Brown Teal - The New Zealand Brown Teal is an endemic species heading for extinction at a rapid rate. The last remaining stronghold of the Brown Teal is Great Barrier Island, where about 600 remain. Land development, pollution, and predators are responsible for the decline of the species and should further mutilation and pollution of streams take place on Great Barrier Island, it would certainly accelerate the extinction of this bird.

Specific Comments and Summary

1. New Zealand has an unenviable record for precipitating the early extinction of many forms of wildlife, and only through very careful research and planning can we hope to rectify and improve our status in the eyes of world conservationists.
2. To achieve the above, an Act to preserve our few remaining 'wild' rivers is essential. It is obvious that existing Acts and their administration have come close to complete failure in the preservation of 'wild' rivers.
3. We strongly recommend that a new Act be drafted. Such an Act must give real 'teeth' to the Commission for the Environment, and autonomy. It must ensure that before the hydro development, or other mutilation of rivers is contemplated, the Commission carry out detailed studies of what wildlife would be affected by such development. It has always amazed us that projects can progress to 'the point of no return' before an environmental report is obtained.
4. Any Act associated with 'wild' rivers must spell out very clearly this need for serious investigation work and also provide the Minister for the Environment with the power to veto any project which would adversely affect wildlife, particularly when that wildlife is already an endangered species.
5. Obviously, there are many similar areas to those we have commented upon, which require serious environmental investigation before we see the 'wholesale' erection of small hydro-electric power stations.
6. We strongly recommend that the Manganui-a-te-au River, together with all streams and estuaries on Great Barrier Island, be declared 'wild' rivers with interference by man strictly forbidden.
7. In our submissions, we have attempted to show a need for improved legislation - and improved administration of existing legislation. "