



DUCKS UNLIMITED (N. Z.) INCORPORATED
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FLIGHT 3/80 ISSUE 25

SEPTEMBER 1980

"FLIGHT"



Ken D. Sullivan

DU News



Photograph courtesy Auckland Star

As the result of an election held among DU Directors prior to the annual conference in July, Mr Paul Pirani (pictured above) was elected President for a three year term. Mr Dudley Bell was elected Vice President. Thanks were expressed by members at the conference to outgoing President Ian Pirani for an outstanding six years leadership.



DU Director, Miss Diane Pritt, was captured by the camera during recent Conservation Week. Diane spoke with over 1,600 children about waterfowl and the role of Ducks Unlimited (NZ).

"FLIGHT"**The Cover**

The potential for producing details with scratchboard was taken advantage of by Lee Salber in this rendering of four goslings. He applied ink to the subject area of uncoated scratchboard, then drew a sharp blade across the dried ink, exposing the chalk-like surface beneath.

* NO 3/80 ISSUE 25 SEPTEMBER 1980 *

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* WATER WEEDS: Dudley Bell gives some *

* points on aquatic plants *

MEMBERSHIP RATE CONTINUES ITS RISE

DU membership figures continue to rise in an encouraging manner. A welcome is extended to:

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Andrew Aiken | (S) | Mrs C.R. Grace | (F) | Dr Paul Quin | (F) |
| Ken Alford | (S) | Mrs B.J. Hine | (F) | Miss J. Stainsbury | (S) |
| W.N. Avery | (F) | K.F. Lusby | (F) | Stuart Steel | (F) |
| D.L. Cameron | (F) | Paul Moran | (F) | Ross Wakelin | (S) |
| Mrs H.I. Cameron | (F) | W.A. Peters | (F) | P.C. Wenman | (F) |
| John Davis | (F) | Peter Prangly | (F) | Mrs M. Withers | (S) |
| Mrs J. Davis | (F) | | | | |

Special thanks, too, to Messrs G. Bale, B.F. Munro and J.H. Ward, existing members, for recent donations to Ducks Unlimited.

MEMBERS... ORDER YOUR LAPEL BADGE NOW - PROCEEDS BENEFIT DU PROJECTS

PRICE \$ 5 EACH
(size 5/8" diameter)



To: Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc - LAPEL BADGE ORDER FORM
P.O. Box 74 Hamilton

PLEASE SUPPLY ME WITH LAPEL BADGE(S)

CHEQUE ENCLOSED FOR \$

PLEASE POST TO: (name)
(address)

DU INTERNATIONAL PINS AVAILABLE - LIMITED SUPPLY!

PRICE \$ 5 EACH
(approx. same size as
DU lapel badge)



To: Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc - DU INTERNATIONAL PIN
P.O. Box 74 Hamilton ORDER FORM

PLEASE SUPPLY ME WITH DU INTERNATIONAL PIN(S)

CHEQUE ENCLOSED FOR \$

PLEASE POST TO: (name)
(address)

Note: Ducks Unlimited Inc, U.S.A. generously donated a supply of DU International duck head pins for our annual conference auction. A limited stock remains for members interested in acquiring this handsome memento - depicting a polished mallard profile, offset by a clean black border - may be used as a lapel pin, hat pin or tie tack. They also make perfect gifts. REMEMBER: ONLY A LIMITED SUPPLY REMAINS!

OPERATION PATEKE : PROGRESS REPORT

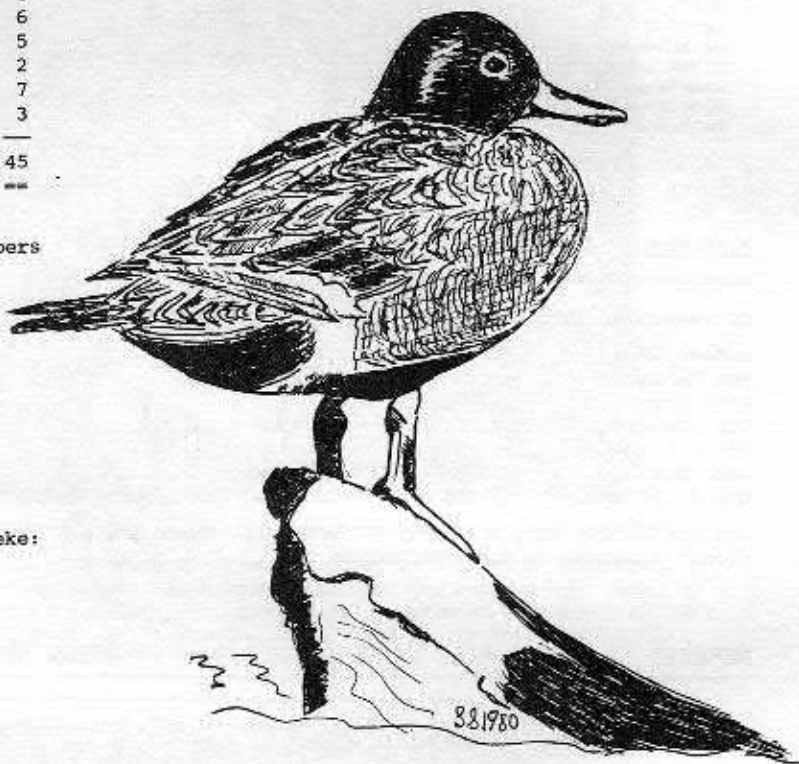
The cut-off point for Brown Teal breeding has now been set at 30 April each year, and figures for the 1979/80 season were recently finalised. They are as follows:

| <u>DU Breeder/Member</u> | <u>No. Reared</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| S. Bronger | 13 |
| J. Gill | 6 |
| J. Glover | 3 |
| F.N. Hayes | 6 |
| J. Nelson-Parker | 5 |
| L. Piper | 2 |
| B. Rowe | 7 |
| T. Voss | 3 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 45 |
| | == |

DU congratulates these members for their dedication and involvement; which has enabled the group to achieve by far the best total to date. Mt Bruce also had an excellent 1979/80 season, rearing a total of 47 Brown Teal.

Breeding figures since the inception of Operation Pateke:

| | |
|---------|-------|
| 1976/77 | 19 |
| 1977/78 | 18 |
| 1978/79 | 29 |
| 1979/80 | 45 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 111 |
| | == |



Before the 1980/81 breeding season gets under way, it is hoped to have at least 30 pair of Brown Teal held by DU members. The "flockmating" of birds has gone well and six new pairs have recently been distributed to "Pateke" participants. Mt Bruce will also be holding at least 10 pair for the 1980/81 breeding season. Next season should see further improvement in the population of the species.

BROWN TEAL LIBERATIONS

Plans are under way for a release of Ducks Unlimited Brown Teal to take place on Matakana Island in November (refer FLIGHT issue No 24). DU already has 12 birds available for release and hopes to build numbers to well over 20 by November release date.

MORE BROWN-TEAL NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS: PAGE 9

OPERATION "WHIO"

"Whio" is the new title adopted for our Blue Duck propagation project, which was outlined in the last issue of FLIGHT. "Whio" is of course the Maori name for the Blue Duck. DU has now submitted to the N.Z. Wildlife Service a list of members who are enthusiastic and have the necessary facilities to participate in the project. A further report will appear shortly.

REPORT ON 1980 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - AUCKLAND

The Ducks Unlimited Annual Conference for 1980, which was preceded by a meeting of the Board of Directors, saw members attending from around the country some of whom had participated in the Brown Teal Seminar the previous day. Fiftythree DU members were present. Minutes of the formal part of the conference are on the following pages. The auction held at the conclusion of the day was an appropriate climax to a successful and stimulating annual get-together and boosted funds for the coming year's work by some \$ 2,000. Details are: auction proceeds totalled \$ 2,695, expenditure for the function was \$ 635, leaving net proceeds of \$ 2,060. Auctioneer Bill Wilkinson is fast becoming an "institution" at DU affairs - certainly his wit, sense of humour and auctioneering skills were appreciated by DU members. Many handsome auction items passed under his hammer. Special thanks to the following donors:

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------|---|
| Mr & Mrs G. Butts | Hunters Knife | Mr D. McNeil | Turkeys, dressed |
| Mr & Mrs S. Bronger | Pair Scaup, Pottery, Food Flasks | Mr W. McPike | Waterfowl leatherwork |
| CAC Industries Ltd | 1 case 500 Eley | Mr K. Mackie | Selection LP's, waterfowl tapestry |
| Auckland | Shotgun Ammunition | Mr A. Miller | Swandri jacket |
| Mr J. Campbell | Photograph Canada Geese | Mr & Mrs J. Nelson | Waterfowl publications, teatowels, marmalade kit |
| Mr G. Donnelley | Waterfowl art: Audubon | Parker | NZ Wildlife Service |
| U.S.A. | The Canvasback | | Mounted photographs - NZ Brown Teal |
| Ducks Unlimited Inc | Signed, numbered water- fowl art, collectors' plates, fundraising buttons, Bluewinged Teal Beam bottle, duck head pins, collector's waterfowl publication. | Mr & Mrs I. Pirani | Pair Carolina Wood Ducks |
| U.S.A. | | Mr & Mrs P. Pirani | DU Brass belt buckle, book, framed waterfowl tapestries needlework cushions |
| DU Alaskan member (anonymous) | 1 pair Bufflehead decoys | Miss D. Pritt | Mounted waterfowl photographs Sportsman's toilet kit "Life on Earth" - Attenborough |
| Email Industries | Cans lubricating gun oil | Paul's Bookshop | Rifle Scopes |
| Mr A.T. Flexman | Turkeys, dressed | Reloader Supplies | "Sprout House" |
| Mr J.O. Gill | Collection waterfowl art by Buller, teatowels | "Sprout House" | Bags "Ohakune" vegetables |
| Mr G. Girvan | Hunters torch | Tisdalls, Auckland | Swiss Army Knife, Clay Pigeon Thrower |
| Mrs M. Harris | Handknitted hunters socks | Valentines Hamilton | Camouflage jacket |
| Mr & Mrs N. Hayes | Waterfowl publications | Wellington Sporting | Antique powder flask |
| Isco Sports Depot | Clasp knife, Wads | Arms Company | Shotgun Digest |
| Mr H.I. Jones | Coloured photograph - Canada Geese | Anonymous Donors | books, outdoor supplies etc. |

Also offered for auction/sale were DU kitset nest boxes, DU badges and "T" shirts.

Ducks Unlimited sincerely thanks all donors of auction items - these generous contributions enabled the achievement of a fine result.

SPECIAL NOTE

Auction and other purchases from Ducks Unlimited

Some members have inquired whether or not they can submit receipts for conference purchases i.e. auction and other purchases, as part of their annual return to the Inland Revenue Department and whether such sums qualify for tax exemption. Unfortunately, the favourable tax exemption for Ducks Unlimited does not extend to any other items (i.e. the sum claimed must be either for a donation or a subscription). Although purchases at DU conferences benefit waterfowl, the member or purchaser has received something tangible for his/her pleasure/use - therefore cannot claim a tax deduction. Please do not submit any receipts to the Department other than those for membership subscriptions or donations with your annual return as these are certain to be rejected.

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INCORPORATED

Held at Gateway Lodge, Auckland on
Saturday, 12 July 1980 at 2.00 pm

WELCOME

The President welcomed members and guests to the conference, specifically the guest speaker, Dr Murray Williams of the N.Z. Wildlife Service, and Mr Ross Goodin, President of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society.

PRESENT

The President, Mr I.H. Pirani; Vice President, Mr P.B.C. Pirani, and 53 members of Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Incorporated. Apologies, read from a list provided by the Secretary, were accepted on the motion of Mr D.G. Bell/Miss D. Pritt.

MINUTES PREVIOUS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On the motion of Miss D. Pritt/Mr P.B.C. Pirani, the Minutes of the Fifth Annual Conference held on Saturday 7 July 1979 at Wellington, having been circulated to all members in "Flight" Issue September 1979, were taken as read and confirmed.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

The President delivered his annual report which had been previously circulated to members and answered questions at its conclusion relating to timber stocks held by the organisation, advertising and promotional matters, and outlined future planning in regard to these specific subjects.

On the motion of Messrs D.G. Bell/B. Rowe, the Annual Accounts to 31 March 1980 which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, were adopted.

AUDITORS

It was resolved that the auditors, Messrs Hutchison Hull & Co., Hamilton be reappointed for the coming year (Messrs D. McNeil/J. Nelson Parker).

ELECTION - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The President confirmed the appointment of Messrs J.O. Gill and D. McNeil to the Board during the year and asked for this to be ratified by the meeting. The resolution was passed without dissent (Messrs J. Nelson Parker/L. Bell)

Miss D. Pritt was available for re-election as members' representative on the Board, as was Mr G. Girvan. As a result of a poll, the President declared them re-elected to the Board.

The President stated that under the Rules of the organisation, there were no further Board vacancies, the maximum number allowable being twelve.

RULES

The President stated that a copy of the Rules of Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Incorporated was available at the meeting for perusal by any financial member present.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - CONTDANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The President advised that a signed copy of the Annual Accounts was available at the meeting for perusal by any financial member present.

REPORT ON OPERATION PATEKE

Mr F.N. Hayes delivered a summary of the Brown Teal situation and outlined future plans for release of birds on Matakana Island. He commented on the early success achieved by the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge with Brown Teal breeding.

Mr Hayes outlined highlights of the Brown Teal Seminar held the previous day which had taken an in-depth look at management of the species, and it was hoped to publish notes of the proceedings. Dr Murray Williams of the Wildlife Service had contributed greatly to the success of the seminar; thanks were also conveyed to the Mobil Oil Group for their financial support.

Mr Hayes answered questions from the floor concerning release and banding of Brown Teal and summarised his remarks with the comment that with the good numbers of the species now being held in captivity, plus the knowledge gained from the seminar, he was confident that a large number of Brown Teal would be released in the coming year.

GUEST SPEAKER: DR MURRAY WILLIAMS, N.Z. WILDLIFE SERVICE

Dr Williams gave an interesting address on Swan biology and outlined aspects of his attendance at an international swan symposium in Japan. With the use of graphs in a slide presentation, Dr Williams illustrated his remarks on the demography, trends and activity of the Black Swan in New Zealand, commenting on the two distinct types - solitary nesters and colonial breeders. He summarised distribution, abundance and movement of the species throughout the country depending on the distinctive group type in each region, quoting population figures in regional groups. Colonial and solitary nesting differences were defined in detail and how the two distinct groups in the swan population exploited the two different situations in which they found themselves.

Dr Williams stressed that major questions were still to be settled concerning the species. A reasonable amount was known about movements but very little about breeding biology. Fundamental gaps existed in knowledge gathered to date and there were enormous variations in swan populations from area to area. He concluded his remarks by stating there was much to be learned about the effects of hunting on swan and much to learn about its biology.

Questions from the floor were answered concerning nesting, competition with duck populations, historic feeding, mortality, the tragic situation for the species at Lake Ellesmere where a dramatic reversal and demise of the lake was occurring and was unable to be restored. Dr Williams stressed the need for local farmers to provide a pasture belt for swan/geese in the area to prevent further journeys inland by them on to the crops as the only certain method to prevent crop destruction.

REPORT ON OPERATION GRETEL

Mr D.G. Bell reported on the project and commented that a very important stage in development had been reached and prospects for the future were encouraging. Figures from each area were summarised, details of a new prototype box being trialed, and information regarding timber stocks etc were given. Special thanks were made to participating members, acclimatisation societies and to the Ministry of Recreation and Sport for financial assistance in the past and forthcoming year.

continued - page 10

PHOTOGRAPHS: BROWN TEAL SEMINAR - ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Brown Teal Seminar participants
at work



Dr Murray Williams addressing
DU members on Swan biology



Auctioneer Bill Wilkinson calling
for bids, assisted by Paul Pirani
and Dudley Bell

BROWN TEAL - MORE NEWS!

BROWN TEAL SEMINAR

A very successful Brown Teal Management Seminar was held at Gateway Lodge, Auckland on 11 July 1980, the day prior to the annual conference. Twentyfive persons attended including seven from the New Zealand Wildlife Service and representatives from the Auckland and Wellington Zoos. The seminar was a thorough one and all topics listed on the agenda (refer "Flight" Issue No 24) were covered in detail. Dr Murray Williams got things off to a good start with a comprehensive report on the current distribution of Brown Teal in the wild. Without doubt Dr Williams was the "star" of the meeting and Ducks Unlimited is most appreciate of his efforts.

A comprehensive set of slides showing various Brown Teal aviaries had been assembled and these were of great value to participants. The input by participants was impressive and worthwhile. Numerous recommendations and guidelines have resulted from the meeting and the most valuable of these have been circulated to Brown Teal breeders. Ducks Unlimited hopes to publish notes of the proceedings at a future date.

Finally, a special word of thanks to Mobil Oil New Zealand for financial assistance towards the costs of the seminar.

BROWN TEAL AT SLIMBRIDGE

The most recent news from the Wildfowl Trust is that they have hatched a total of nine Brown Teal and reared all successfully - five females and four males. The Trust now aims to provide two pairs of Brown Teal for its centre at Martin Mere in Lancashire and two pairs for its centre at Peakirk in Northamptonshire.....so things look well set for the establishment of New Zealand Brown Teal in the United Kingdom.

BROWN TEAL PUBLICITY

DU members fortunate enough to be home by 4.45 pm on weekdays will have no doubt been watching the excellent "Wild Track" natural history series on television. This series made by the Dunedin based Broadcasting Corporation of N.Z. Wildlife Film Unit has shown many aspects of New Zealand wildlife and while the programme is aimed primarily at junior viewers the series has undoubtedly been well appreciated by the adult viewer as well. Of particular interest to DU is an important episode featuring the complete background on Operation Pateke. The film unit recorded DU's avicultural efforts with the Brown Teal (see photograph below); the release of the group's birds at Puke Puke Lagoon, and wild Brown Teal on Great Barrier Island for screening on 12 September.



"Wild Track" film crew inside Neil Hayes' aviary at Wainuiomata

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - CONTDREPORT ON OPERATION GRETEL - contd

Mr Ian McFadden, Wildlife Service officer undertaking research at Pokeno, south of Auckland for Ducks Unlimited also addressed the meeting and answered questions concerning his observations on site including trends, dumping of eggs, "factory type" nesting situations, banding, monitoring of boxes etc.

The President answered questions concerning ultimate plans for the project, particularly the role the acclimatisation society movement could play. The project had been proved successful and Ducks Unlimited was now in a position where it could provide boxes free for initial construction work, after which they could be purchased at a special price and erected in various areas. The project was an exciting, stimulating one because it gave people, particularly those in the society movement, the opportunity to contribute something practical. The President was asked for Ducks Unlimited's attitude toward the Grey Teal being promoted as a game bird should the population of the species vastly increase. He replied that the group was completely neutral on the question of shooting but he felt the overall experience gained would be most beneficial to other projects and specifically the Brown Teal programme.

The President concluded with thanks to the individual property owners and members involved in the Grey Teal project and to the N.Z. Wildlife Service for their valuable participation.

REPORT ON OPERATION BRANTA

Mr F.N. Hayes reported on progress for the year under review. Good breeding was again reported. A comprehensive management plan for geese in the Wairarapa had been drawn up by the Wellington Acclimatisation Society with some assistance from Ducks Unlimited and had been submitted to Wairarapa Federated Farmers for consideration. Costs had been kept to a minimum because of help from the Wellington Acclimatisation Society but may not continue to be held, as geese would have to be obtained from a different source in future, geese from Lake Ellesmere not being available. North Island breeder members had indicated they may have surplus stocks available for transfer to other interested members. Summarised, Operation Branta had experienced a most successful year.

GENERAL

A member asked for clarification regarding the acclimatisation society named in a recent issue of "Flight" which appeared critical of Ducks Unlimited's efforts with the Grey Teal project. The President outlined the situation and, at another member's request, named the society which, despite numerous attempts by Ducks Unlimited at working closer together, had persisted in its attitude. The President stressed that co-operation was absolutely essential for success.

Two reasons for the concern by the society were commented upon by the President of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society, Mr R. Goodin, who was present. He outlined the society's point of view and stressed the problem in the past had been partly one of lack of communication, and the position in which the society found itself with location of the nest boxes in certain areas - he also raised the subject of Canada geese and criticism from local Federated Farmers groups to natural increases in the goose population, many of which had occurred in privately held collections over which the society had no control. Mr Goodin stated he hoped the situation between Ducks Unlimited and the society would improve in future. He stressed he wished to keep open the lines of communication and welcomed a further opportunity to establish good rapport with Ducks Unlimited on this particular and other project matters. President Ian Pirani expressed his pleasure at clarification of the matter and said he, too, hoped relations between this particular society and the group would improve.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - CONTDGENERAL - contd

Various questions of a general nature were asked and answered by the President.

The President stated that his second three year term as President had concluded at the end of the financial year, and announced the result of an election held among directors earlier that day. Officeholders for the next three years were President: Mr P.B.C. Pirani; Vice President: Mr D.G. Bell; Secretary: Mr F.N. Hayes. Mr I.H. Pirani thanked the Board and members for their past support of him and wished the new officeholders well; he was looking forward to some challenging and exciting years ahead for the organisation. A special vote of thanks was made to the outgoing President by the Secretary for his six years of devoted, demanding service and members showed their appreciation by acclamation.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 5.00 pm.



REPORT ON OPERATION GRETEL

Boxes at Pokeno and Barton's Lagoon have been well occupied by Grey Teal since July and a record season seems likely. Mr Neil McFadden, Wildlife Service officer observing activity at Pokeno, south of Auckland, reports in early September that 626 eggs have been laid to date. Thirty clutches have incubated through to hatching, totalling 334 eggs of which 284 hatched. Sixtyseven boxes have been used to date and of those 7 boxes are being used for a second time. At this rate, Neil McFadden observes that figures are well in advance of last year. Dudley Bell reports from Hamilton that Lands & Survey have given DU permission to erect boxes on a number of Central Waikato Lakes.

Mr Horrie Sinclair has submitted a very detailed report concerning Grey Teal activity at his property in Dunedin. Members will recall that Horrie erected 50 DU nest boxes on his magnificent property between Lakes Waihola and Waipori. In his report, Horrie provides details of the disastrous June floods - to quote him "At the flood peak on Friday 6 June there was something like eight feet of water above normal and all nest boxes were totally submerged". Fortunately the water receded fairly rapidly and he was soon able to commence restoration work on boxes - several of them having been completely uprooted. At the end of July all boxes had been restored to their former glory. Horrie reports 15,000-20,000 Grey Teal now in the area and taking a very keen interest in the boxes, with pairs sitting on box lids etc. Horrie Sinclair's report is an interesting one and the following is a further extract:

"During Saturday 9 August and Sunday 10, Mr W.J. Irving of Mosgiel and myself rowed quietly around through the niggerheads, channels and lagoons for several hours and it was conservatively estimated that there was in total somewhere between 60,000 and 70,000 ducks in the area....something like 15,000 Grey Teal, 15,000 Shoveler and some 30,000 to 40,000 Mallards plus Grey and Paradise. Mr Irving is aged 78 and has been duckshooting annually since 1915 and states that he has never seen so many ducks in one area before in his lifetime. He looks and acts like a man of 40 and rows his own boat at duckshooting time!"

DU NEST BOXES TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

Ducks Unlimited has decided to make 10 DU nest boxes available to any member who has access to an area where Grey Teal are located. The boxes would be supplied in kitset form and DU will also arrange the purchase of poles as close as possible to the area concerned. Please contact DU headquarters if you are interested in participating.

SALE OF DUCKS UNLIMITED NEST BOXES

Nest boxes are now available for sale in kitset form for \$ 8.00 per box delivered, or \$ 10 per box built up and including delivery costs. Please complete the form below if you wish to order supplies.

To: Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc - DU GREY TEAL NEST BOX ORDER FORM
P.O. Box 74 Hamilton

PLEASE SUPPLY ME WITH DU nest boxes in KITSET form
@ \$ 8.00 each delivered
. DU nest boxes in BUILT UP form
@ \$ 10.00 each delivered

CHEQUE ENCLOSED FOR \$

PLEASE POST TO (name)
(address)
.

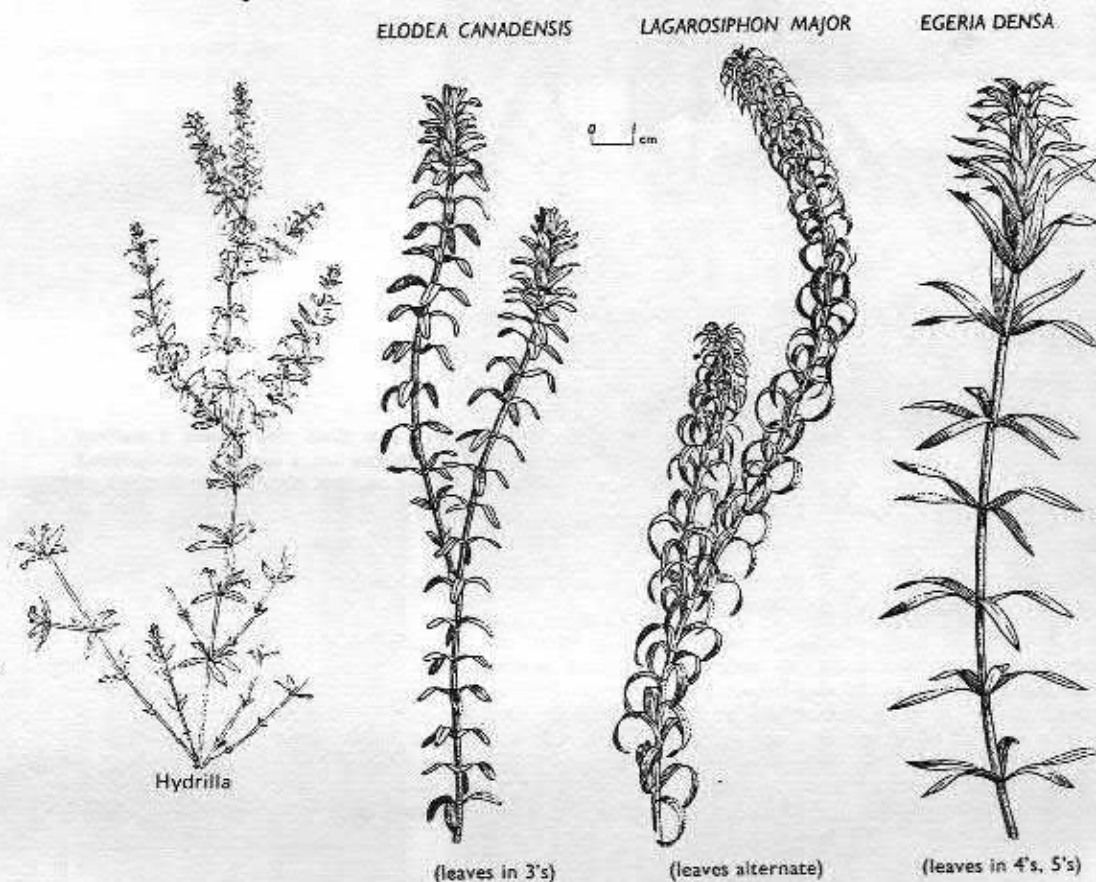
WATER WEEDS some thoughts from Vice President, Dudley Bell, in relation to our streams and rivers.

There are four introduced aquatic plants in New Zealand commonly called oxygen weeds. They are *Elodea Canadensis*, *Egeria Densa*, *Hydrilla Venticillata* and *Lagarosiphon Major*. All four are obligate submerged species whose long flexuous leafy stems are anchored in sandy or muddy sediments by numerous unbranched adventitious roots. They require a gently sloping lake or river bed where finely divided sediment has accumulated. A dense impenetrable stand can be formed from 0.6 - 6m depth.

Distribution - *Elodea* is widespread in both islands. *Lagarosiphon* is widespread in the North Island and is present in the Clutha Valley. *Hydrilla* is restricted at present to Lake Tutira. *Egeria* is abundant in the Hauraki and Waikato catchments. *Elodea* and *Lagarosiphon* are very competitive in nutrient poor waters. *Hydrilla* and *Egeria* compete best in fertile waters.

Identification of the species is possible on the basis of leaf arrangement,

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| (see also illustration) | * <i>Hydrilla</i> | - Leaf margins strongly serrate-dentate |
| | * <i>Elodea</i> | - Leaves in whorls of 3s |
| | * <i>Lagarosiphon</i> | - Leaves alternate but not in distinct whorls, strongly recurved |
| | * <i>Egeria</i> | - Leaves in whorls of 4s or 5s |



Spread - All four species are dioecious but only female flowers of *Lagarosiphon* and male flowers of *Egeria* have been recorded in New Zealand. Vegetative reproduction by regrowth from dislodged stem fragments is very rapid, if the section has a nodal bud. Regrowth can be under way within two days to anchor a fragment of stem. Long distance dispersal is primarily due to human agencies e.g. boat trailers, aquariums.

Effects - The impenetrable growths lower the aesthetic value of any waterway, interfere with recreational use, reduce water flow, cause stagnation and siltation. Waterfowl can benefit from the weed stands but there comes a time when a too heavy concentration of weed is not beneficial. Dislodged material can interfere with power stations, stranded and decompose on shorelines. Moreover they displace many endangered species of native freshwater plants. Advice on control should be sought from the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry has also produced an excellent pamphlet on Water Weeds i.e. water lettuce, eel grass and hornwort should members be interested in obtaining further information.

KEEMEN REPORTS



Dudley Bell who supervises the Keemen reports from the Waikato that the Lands & Survey Department have given Ducks Unlimited permission to erect boxes on a number of Central Waikato lakes. This will be commenced directly the hunting season is finished. No new boxes have been kitset cut up to date.

Neil Mair, our Keeman at Gore, has sent in a comprehensive report, together with photographs for the information of members.

"At the end of May, starlings were the only birds to use the Southland Acclimatisation Society's Grey Teal boxes at Redcliff Wetland Reserve last season, but one box was very much appreciated by an opossum! The general opinion of the shooting season has been favourable - with an abundance of ducks in prime condition. To avert some of the annual damage caused to crops by ducks and finches, the Southland Acclimatisation Society and Federated Farmers are investigating the possibility of setting up "feeding stations" for birds. This would consist of waste grain or peas being spread on stubble land or grass pasture to encourage the ducks to stay there." Neil enclosed a photograph of the Redcliff Wetland Reserve which we reprint opposite.

Neil also enclosed a report prepared by Mr Monty Wright, Field Officer for the Otago Acclimatisation Society on Operation Gretel, together with photographs. Mr Wright reports:

"Little Hoopers Inlet has 10 boxes and Pinegand Wildlife Refuge 8 boxes erected on 1 August and 27 August 1979 respectively. I inspected the boxes at Little Hoopers Inlet on 10 September - the only use was starlings starting to build nests. On 18 October, 5 November and 7 December further inspections revealed young starlings in 4 boxes (first two visits) and 5 boxes (last visit). An inspection of boxes at Pinegand Refuge on 20 October, 10 November and 6 January also revealed young starlings in 2, 4 and 1 boxes respectively. There was no use of boxes by Grey Teal this season - boxes were erected too late in the season as the birds had already paired up. The building and making of boxes was a fill-in job, used by field staff on wet days in the winter, and we hope for more use of them this season. It has not yet been decided whether this work will carry on this winter."

KEEMEN IN ACTION

- (1) Redcliff Wetland Reserve
- (2) Field Officers Watson and Tweed erecting Grey Teal boxes at Finegand Refuge
- (3) Messrs Tweed and Watson driving the poles - again at Finegand
- (4) The Grey Teal Bay at Finegand Refuge

(photographs courtesy
Neil Mair and Monty
Wright)



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

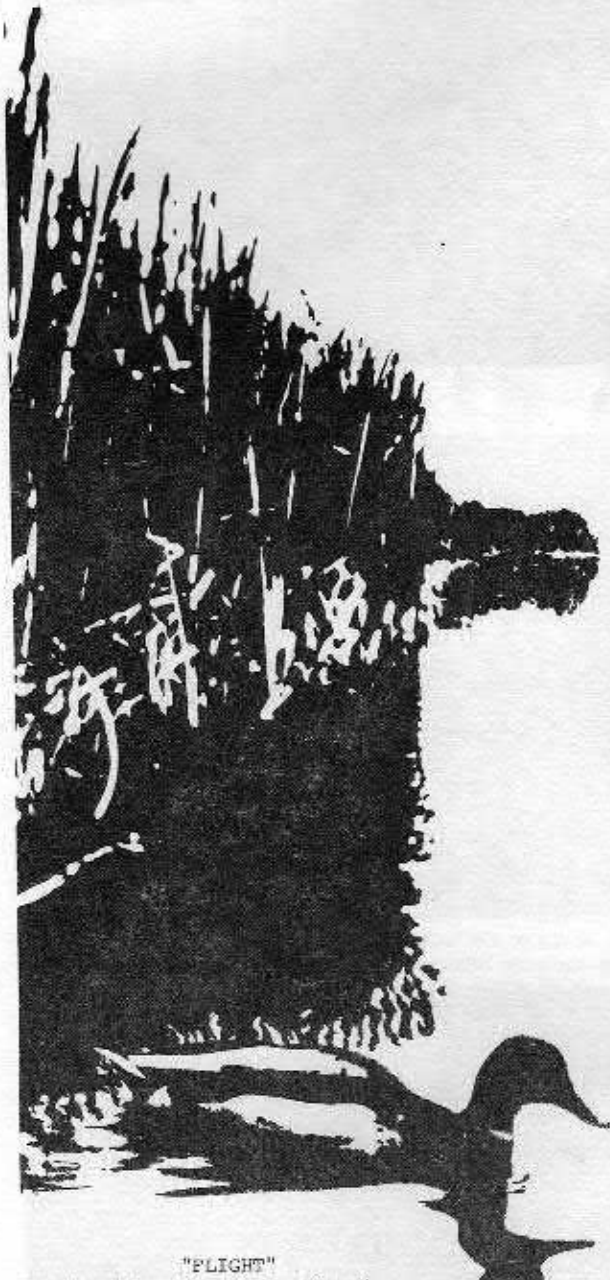
YOUR DU MEMBERSHIP . . . THE OTHER RENEWABLE RESOURCE

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 ENSURE THERE WILL BE HABITAT TO BEGIN WITH. THAT'S WHAT YOUR SUPPORT OF DUCKS UNLIMITED IS ALL ABOUT.

AT DU WE CONSIDER YOUR MEMBERSHIP A RENEWABLE RESOURCE TOO, WHEN YOU RENEW YOU GUARANTEE THE COMPLETION OF WATERFOWL NESTBOX PROJECTS ALREADY UNDER WAY FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND PROVIDE FOR NEW PROJECTS AS WELL AS BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE "RACE" TO SAVE OUR ENDANGERED WATERFOWL SPECIES. SO, JUST AS FOOD, WATER AND COVER ARE WHAT GOVERNS HABITAT QUALITY..... REGULAR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE WHAT GOVERN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT AND AN IMPROVEMENT IN WATERFOWL NUMBERS.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1980/81 ARE NOW DUE.
HAVE YOU RENEWED?



"FLIGHT"
Produced by Cheryl L. Pirani
Printer Panicprint, Auckland
Photography F. Neil Hayes,
N. Mair, M. Wright
Graphics Sylvia Hayes,
Ducks Unlimited Inc
U.S.A