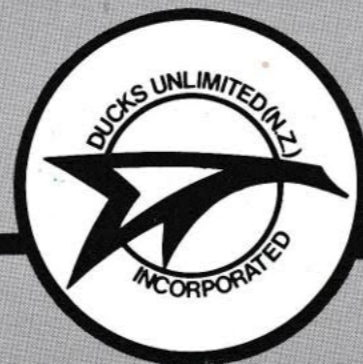
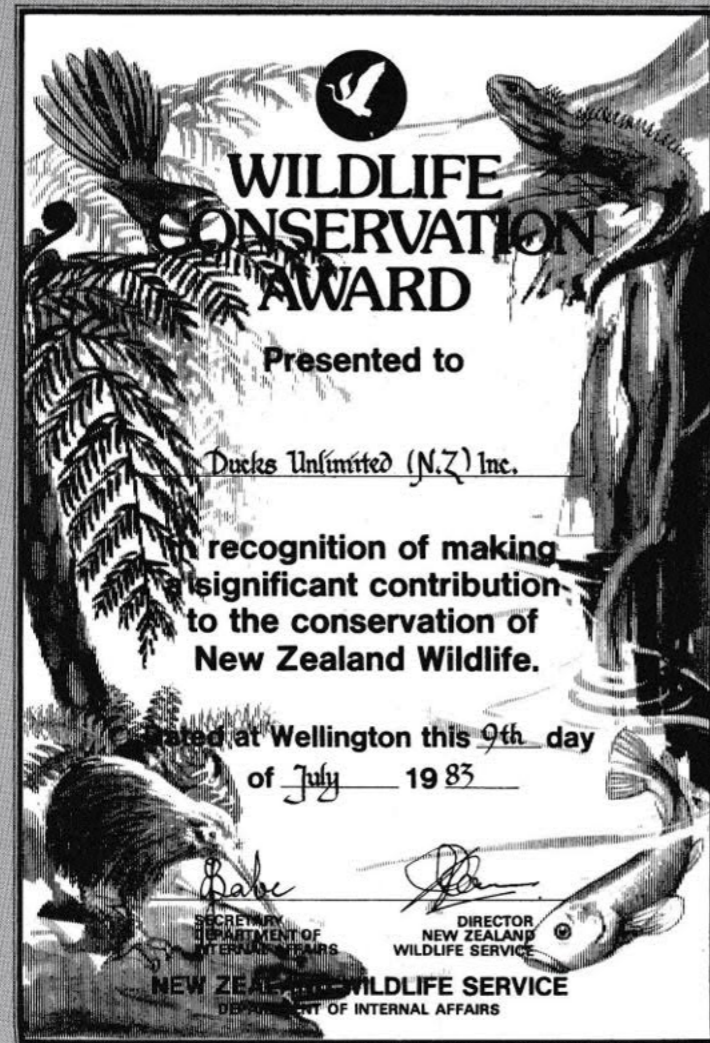


Flight

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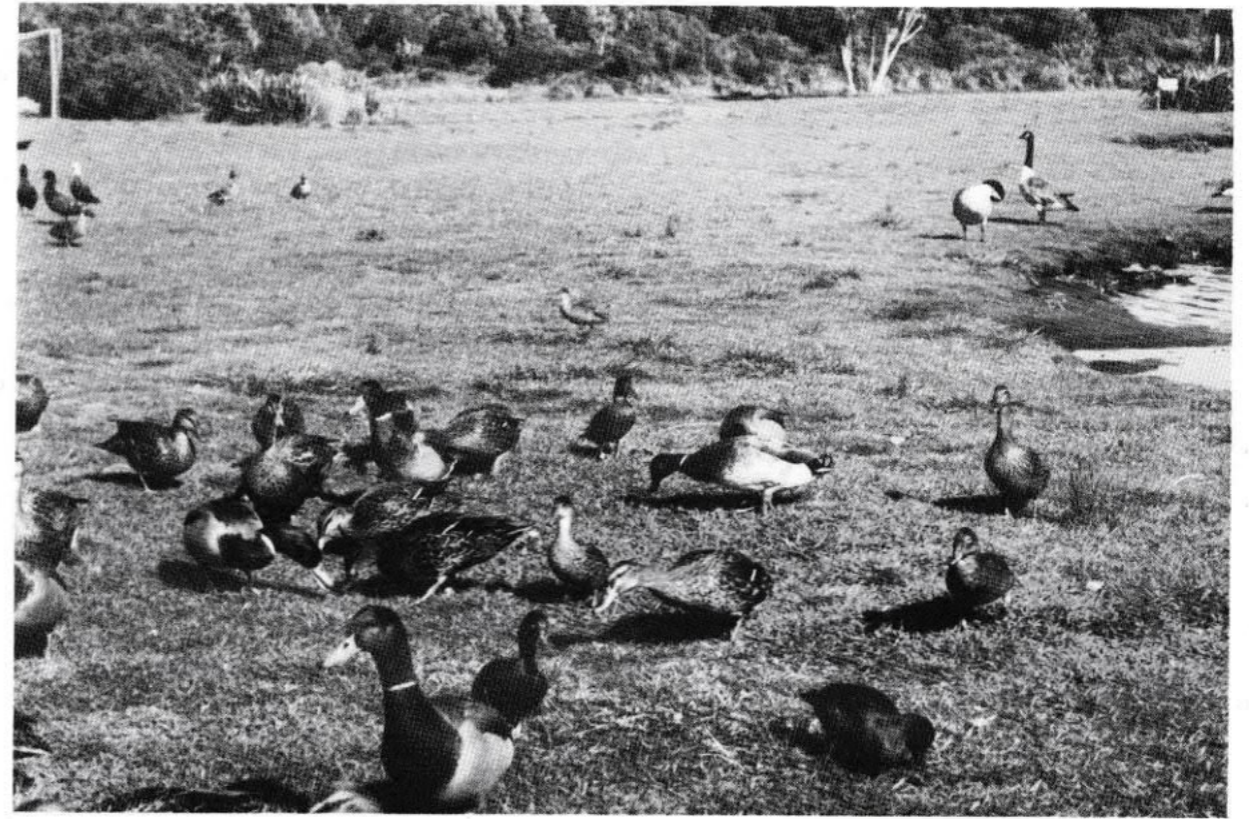
NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE

DUCKS UNLIMITED'S
QUARTERLY
WATERFOWL JOURNAL



Winchester (NZ) Ltd

is proud to support Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc. in their efforts to propagate and preserve New Zealand's rare waterfowl.



Waterfowl at Waikanae

There are 7 species of waterfowl in this picture. Can you name them and state how many of each species are present in N.Z.?



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MORE THAN A NAME. A LEGEND.

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EDITORIAL

D.U. RECEIVES WILDLIFE AWARD

There was a proud moment for DU during the 1983 Annual Meeting when Tom Caithness of the Wildlife Service presented DU President Paul Pirani with the coveted Wildlife Service Conservation Award — shown on the front cover.

In the citation accompanying the award the Director of the Wildlife Service said "... it has been decided to award your organisation with the Service's Wildlife Conservation Award in recognition of its major and constructive contribution to the enhancement of rare waterfowl in New Zealand and its distinguished efforts to co-ordinate the interests and activities of wildfowl breeders generally".

DU Directors are delighted that DU has received this award and thanks the Wildlife Service for recognising the efforts of Ducks Unlimited. Considerable thanks are also due to all DU members who made this award possible by their dedicated enthusiasm. One significant feature about this conservation award is that it is a conservation award to an organisation which is largely funded by waterfowl hunters. It can therefore be said that the award is also recognition of the hunters role in conservation. It is indeed a fact that of those members who are really active in our conservation efforts around 80% of them are serious waterfowl hunters.

As a fairly serious duck hunter I am often asked how I can rear rare waterfowl and still be a duck hunter?, and as I found in front of the 'Country Calendar' camera this is not an easy question to answer. But I believe that it is their intrinsic and inbuilt interest in waterfowl that makes our duck hunting members want to do a lot more than just pull the trigger. They wish to know as much as possible about waterfowl and to do as much as possible to ensure a sound future for the waterfowl species present in New Zealand. Of course, this is not to say that our many non-hunting members are not doing their share and we believe that our organisation sets a fine example of how hunters and pure conservationists can work together for the benefit of the birds. In fact at the annual meeting there was a classic example of how well this is working when it was noted that at dinner Ken Lowry of Winchester (probably the largest importer of firearms in N.Z.) was seated next to Sir William Gilbert, President of the World Wildlife Fund of N.Z. (the WWF being the world's largest conservation group). This was also a good indication of the excellent progress being made with one of our main aims, which is to establish closer liaison between all wildlife groups.

Another of our main aims is to try to educate all duck hunters towards having a greater appreciation of the important aspects of wildlife management, with emphasis on the conservation aspects — habitat protec-

tion and creation, identification of species, propagation of waterfowl, involvement in DU projects, and so on. And with around 70,000 duck hunters in the country it's a pretty big job.

Also on a national scale we hope to create a better appreciation of the respective activities and interests of all people associated with waterfowl, whether they be bird watchers, ornithologists, pure conservationists, or people who just like ducks. Fortunately New Zealand does not yet suffer (hopefully it never will) from the vociferous and antagonistic anti-hunting faction that some countries are currently experiencing; particularly the U.K. and the U.S.A. But when we look closely at the incredible work being done by Ducks Unlimited in the U.S.A. with its 450,000 members and by the British Association for Shooting & Conservation in the U.K. with its 60,000 members (both organisations being mainly hunter financed) it is not difficult to envisage how much worse off the wildlife would be without the input from these groups.

Here in New Zealand Ducks Unlimited still has much work to do on some aspects of recognition, as many Forest & Bird members still look on DU as a hunting club of some sort. Nothing could be further from the truth and hopefully the 'Country Calendar' programme about DU will show exactly what DU is all about. Certainly the Wildlife Conservation Award already does much to clarify DU activities and without doubt will long be remembered as the first official recognition of DU as a major conservation group.



Tom Caithness presenting the award to Paul Pirani.

DU NEWS

Country Calendar

If everything has gone to plan by the time you read this TV 1's 'Country Calendar' programme will have provided New Zealand with a good account of Ducks Unlimited projects and activities.

Filed over four days in early August, the film unit recorded our Pateke project, our Gretel project and our Branta project. Earlier, the film unit had recorded the highlights of the annual auction at THC Tokaanu.

Ducks Unlimited is indebted to Jim Campbell, Bill Clinton-Baker, Neil Hayes, and Peter McKenzie for making the programme possible. Thanks are also due to that fine 'actor' and auctioneer Bill Wilkinson, who really excelled himself in front of the camera. Our thanks also to Country Calendar Producer Howard Taylor and his assistant Adrienne Longuet for their outstanding contribution to the conservation of New Zealand wildlife.

Further comments on the programme will be given in the December 'Flight'.

Membership

New Honorary Member. President Paul Pirani was delighted to announce to those present at the annual meeting that DU had decided to bestow Honorary Membership on its good friend and outstanding auctioneer Bill Wilkinson.

Bill has auctioneered all DU's annual auctions and his efforts have been largely responsible for the \$30,000 plus that has been raised at DU auctions to date. We thank Bill for his great work and congratulate him on his Honorary Membership. (Horrie Sinclair won't feel quite so lonely on the inside cover of 'Flight'.)

New Life Member. DU is also pleased to announce that Michael Bourke has become a life member. For some time now Michael, who farms at Rangiwahia, has been a more than enthusiastic DU member and we thank him for his significant support.

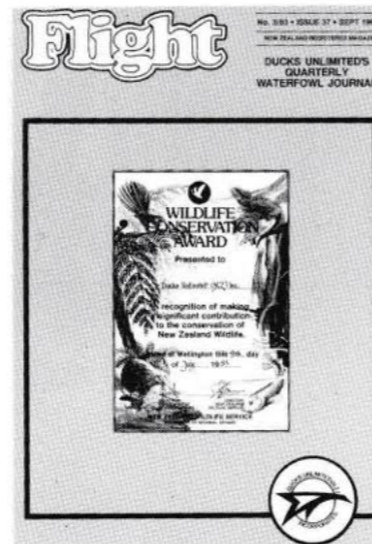
Jack Worth and his Hamilton Chapter continue to do great work with membership recruitment, as does Horrie Sinclair in Dunedin, and thanks to their efforts well over 200 new members have joined this year.

We are pleased to mention the fact that the Waikato Valley Authority, the Stratford Acclimatisation Society, and the Westpac Banking Corporation, have recently joined; along with some prominent people — Peter Taylor, Field Officer of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society, Graham Henry,

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COVER PICTURE Recognition!!



Photography: Garry Girvan, Neil Hayes, Tennick Denniston, Diane Pritt

Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Incorporated is a private, non-profit membership organisation dedicated to the preservation, restoration and maintenance of wetlands habitat in New Zealand and to the propagation of the country's rare waterfowl as a valuable natural resource. The organisation was founded in May 1974 by a group of far-sighted conservationists and incorporated by them in June 1975 at Wellington, New Zealand. The national headquarters mailing address is PO Box 74, Hamilton and the registered physical address is 84 Houchens Road, Hamilton. "Flight" is the official quarterly publication of Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Incorporated reaching 1100 devoted members and friends concerned with waterfowl conservation. D.U. membership begins at \$3.00 p.a. for Junior to \$12.50 for Full membership with provision for Trade and Life members. Membership of Ducks Unlimited carries with it subscription to this publication. To assure prompt delivery, members who move are urged to forward their new address along with current membership details to national headquarters. Letters and contributed manuscripts and photographs should be addressed to the "Flight" Editor. Views expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily constitute those of Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Incorporated.

"FLIGHT" IS PRINTED BY LITHOGRAPHIC SERVICES LTD, PETONE

Associate Editor of Rod & Rifle magazine, Rob Soulsby of the Otago Acclimatisation Society, and Murray Neilson, Senior Wildlife Officer in Dunedin.

Shoveler Export

Country Calendar also filmed DU's export of six N.Z. Shoveler to the Wildfowl Trust in the U.K. This was the third export of live birds by DU to the Wildfowl Trust and for the second time shoveler were kindly donated by N.Z.'s No. 1 shoveler breeder Bill Clinton-Baker of Masterton. The birds were carried by Air New Zealand and all arrived safely.

World Wildlife Fund - NZ

Enclosed with this issue is a pamphlet from the World Wildlife Fund - N.Z. concerning the proposal to build a National Wildlife Centre at the Mt Bruce Native Bird Reserve, Masterton. Support for this project is highly recommended and we trust that many DU members will send a donation to the WWF. Credit card facilities are available to help you.

Churchill Fellow to visit New Zealand

Rodney Hall, a recipient of a Churchill Fellowship in the U.K., will arrive in New Zealand this month with a portable duck egg incubator. The Churchill Fellowship has been awarded to Rod to help him come here and attempt to locate a clutch or two of Blue duck eggs and take them back to the Wildfowl Trust in the U.K.

Naturally, for Rod to be successful he will have to rely almost entirely on the co-operation of the Wildlife Service, but DU will be assisting where possible.

The portable incubator was developed by Rod, who is an engineer with British Airways, and it can carry 30 eggs. Apparently it functions best when full so Rod will no doubt wish to fill the incubator for his return trip to the U.K. He has set aside two months to complete the project and no doubt a good many DU members will meet him. We certainly wish Rod every success with the project.

Wildlife Service to be represented at DU Directors meetings

Ducks Unlimited Directors are pleased to announce that the Director of the Wildlife Service has appointed John Cheyne, Officer in charge at the Mt Bruce Native Bird Reserve, to represent the Wildlife Service at DU's quarterly Board of Directors meetings.

Besides establishing a first class means of liaison between the Service and DU, John's very considerable experience in wildlife management should prove to be a valuable asset to DU Directors in their deliberations. We thank the Wildlife Service Director for making this appointment possible and thank John for accepting the position.

Raffle Result

At the annual meeting a good many raffle tickets were sold by Glenys Hansen on behalf of the Ekatahuna Pot Pourri Craft Centre to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund's Mt Bruce National Wildlife Centre. This raffle was drawn recently and the winner of an impressive homespun jersey was, Sharon McKee, c/o Post Office, Taumaranui, with ticket No. 230. Altogether \$1,000 was raised by the Pot Pourri Centre and a cheque for this amount has been presented to Sir William Gilbert.

Research Overseas

Birmingham University in the U.K. has recently been conducting radio telemetry research on diving ducks using a miniature transmitter-cum-electrocardiograph attached to the bird. In previous experiments the duck had been strapped to a 'ducking chair' and forcibly held under water. These experiments indicated that in order to conserve oxygen the duck slowed down its heartbeat and diverted blood away from peripheral tissues, forcing the tissue cells to rely on anaerobic respiration. But the latest research showed that what happened naturally with a diving duck was quite the opposite. In a voluntary dive the duck increased its heartbeat **before** and **after** the dive and maintained **aerobic** respiration.

DU (U.S.A.) Sets New Record

In the DU annual report for 1982-83 some impressive statistics are revealed in respect

of membership growth, money raised, and money spent in the field.

In spite of the economic situation in the U.S.A. more money than ever before was raised for DU's wetlands conservation projects. Income in fact increased to \$34.7 million, membership rose by 12.2% to 455,838 and the total number of DU organised groups rose by 18.3% to 2,456.

Such outstanding support has, over the years, resulted in DU securing over 3 million acres of wetlands across Canada. Last year alone DU Canada reserved over 300,000 acres for future development as prime waterfowl breeding habitat. (This makes the efforts in this country seem very pathetic in comparison. Ed.)

Fund Raising in the U.S.A.

What do Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, Shah of Persia and Ruling Princess of India have in common with Ducks Unlimited (U.S.A.)?

Why, they've all had shotguns handcrafted for them by the world renowned gunmaker Westley Richards & Company, Ltd.

In DU's case, four shotguns are being built by Westley Richards with a grant from the Adolph Coors Company, Golden, Colorado. The Coors "One-Of-A-Kind" shotguns will be used to raise upwards of \$1.5 million for the 46-year-old waterfowl conservation organisation through a nationwide promotion in 1983.

The grant by Coors is part of its long-standing dedication to waterfowl conservation through its support of Ducks Unlimited. The last Coors promotion on behalf of DU, which entailed a "One-of-One" Browning shotgun, raised \$350,000 for waterfowl conservation.

By the way, potential winners of the DU guns need not be royalty — just concerned enough about waterfowl conservation to participate in the program.

BIRD WATCHING SAFARIS

21 day all New Zealand tour
January 1984 Auckland-Stewart
Island-Christchurch (In company
with U.S. birders). Price depending
on numbers. Maximum \$1723
Minimum \$1220.

Also world safaris to:
Himalayan and Nepal Safari
\$3495, Malaya and Borneo \$2975

Further enquiries from N.Z. tour
leader Stuart Chambers, R.D.
Waitakaruru Phone 46R
Waitakaruru



This was once outstanding waterfowl habitat.

A Message

There's more to New Zealand's wealth than it's expertise, manpower and machinery.

For millions of years, isolated from the rest of the world by vast oceans, New Zealand has evolved a unique richness and diversity of animal and plant life - enviable treasures that money can't replace.

Our country's forests, rivers, mountains and coastline are living museums of many peculiar animals and ancient plant forms found nowhere else on earth. The uniqueness of this natural heritage adds a quality to our lives that is all too rare in today's world.

All New Zealanders should regard themselves as guardians of this natural paradise. All must accept some responsibility for ensuring that our rich wildlife and its environment remain a part of our heritage - now and always.

*New Zealand Wildlife Service
Department of Internal Affairs*

THC TOKAANU 9th DUCKS UNLIMITED ANNUAL MEETING 9th July 1983

The 1983 Annual Meeting at THC Tokaanu must rank as the best to date an an outstanding success in every way. 94 attended the meeting on Saturday afternoon, 120 sat down for dinner on Saturday evening and 70 turned up for tea and biscuits on Sunday morning. Many members again brought their families and it's great to see the annual get-together becoming a family affair.

There were many highlights over the weekend, but the major one was undoubtedly Bill Wilkinson's performance as auctioneer. In front of the 'Country Calendar' camera Bill was superb and his efforts resulted in well over \$7,000 being raised at the main auction — nearly double last years figure. The silent auction also raised a good sum, as did the DU Sales section.

The Hamilton Chapter had again performed miracles and presented DU with a cheque for nearly \$2,200. Tremendous! This brought the total raised for the weekend to over \$12,000. So a lot of new records were established.

THC Manager Keith Barnett again worked wonders with the annual dinner, which everyone raved about. Keith's efforts, and those of his staff, were certainly the main reason for everyone walking around with a smile on their face. Accommodation at THC Tokaanu is now very 'up-market' and is highly recommended.

The first ever Sunday morning gathering was also a great success and provided the opportunity for further socialising, a chance to buy more DU goodies, and a chance to inspect the fine display of Winchester sporting guns that Ken Lowry had been kind enough to arrange.

DU Directors would like to thank the following organisations, companies, and members for donating such fantastic items for the auction:

Ducks Unlimited (U.S.A.)
Winchester (N.Z.) Ltd., Auckland
Reloaders Supplies Ltd., Auckland
King & Henry Ltd., Masterton
N.Z. Field & Stream Ltd., Auckland
Dunlop Sports Ltd., Auckland
Hang Up Gallery, Auckland
World Wildlife Fund of N.Z.
Neville Newcomb Ltd., Auckland
Drews Ltd., Wanganui
Rod & Rifle Magazine, Petone
Wellington Sporting Arms Co. Ltd.,
Petone
THC Tokaanu
David Hagenbaumer, Artist, U.S.A.
Kelvin Mackie
Tom Caithness

Alan Wilks
Neil Hayes
Ted & Glenys Hansen
John Gill
Doreen & Jim Glover
Fred Bailey
Mark Newcomb
Shirley & Sos Savage
Pat & Jim Campbell
Jane & Allan Elliott
Dawn & Ian Pirani
Brendan Coe
Chef at THC Tokaanu
Diane Pritt
Keith Barnett
Glen Butts
Ken Lowry
Paul & Chery Pirani
Sig & June Bronger
Bud Jones

We may possibly have missed a few donors and sincerely apologise for any omissions.



Bill Wilkinson auctioning a limited edition print from DU (U.S.A.).

MINUTES OF THE NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INCORPORATED HELD AT T.H.C. TOKAANU ON SATURDAY 9 JULY 1983 AT 2 PM

WELCOME

The President welcomed members and friends to the meeting and specifically mentioned the guest speakers — Sir William Gilbert, President of the World Wildlife Fund-New Zealand; Mr Ken Lowry, Chief Executive of Winchester New Zealand Limited and Mr Ian Buchanan, Senior Field Officer, Wellington Acclimatisation Society. He welcomed two former DU directors, Messrs Kelvin Mackie and Glen Butts, and from the N.Z. Wildlife Service Messrs Tom Caithness and John Cheyne. Special thanks were also made to Mr Keith Barnett, proprietor of the T.H.C. Tokaanu for arrangements for the conference and auction to follow.

PRESENT

The President (Mr P.B.C. Pirani), Vice-President (Mr F.N. Hayes) and members of Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Incorporated. Apologies were received from Sir Charles Fleming, Dr Ian Shearer and Messrs R.T. Adams, D.G. Bell, B. Coe, Mr & Mrs A. Cowan, M. Dench, P.M. McLeod, B. McLay, R. Martin, R. Munro, Dr Paul Quinn, B. Rowe, H.A. Sinclair and Dr Murray Williams. Apologies were sustained on the motion of Messrs A. Elliott/M. Dench.

MINUTES

PREVIOUS ANNUAL CONFERENCE
On the motion of Messrs F.S.S. Bailey and



Some of the goodies.

C. Worth, the Minutes of the Eighth Annual Conference held on Saturday, 10 July 1982 at Tokaanu, having been circulated to all members in the "Flight" issue September 1982, were taken as read and confirmed. There were no matters arising.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

The President's opening remarks touched briefly on the economic recession and the hope that firm signs of recovery may soon manifest themselves. However he felt that out of recession can come innovation; that it was better to look forward and adopt a positive attitude. DU members certainly had risen to the occasion magnificently, in his opinion, achieving record levels with fund-raising to benefit waterfowl. He commented that he had hoped to raise more funds in the year under review and that in the coming year everyone would be working to achieve targets which had been set. He urged the audience to gear-up for the future, as the present recession was unlikely to be the last. He traced the success of the past financial year to the grass-roots membership.

The President commented on the disappointments experienced — not being able to place funds into the field as planned; and the tragic placement of Brown Teal in an area under-researched for suitability. However he said DU was grappling with its problems, as opposed to the media-orientated efforts of other conservation awareness organisations bent only, it seemed, on identifying the problem's existence. In the pursuit of its objectives DU had given funds if that was most needed; more often, it had given time and involvement he said.

The President announced that the Directors had made a decision at their meeting earlier in the day to grant the sum of \$2,000 to be utilised at Pokeno, South Auckland on Mr A.T. Flexman's farm property for the purpose of preserving and maintaining an area of 60 acres of wetland (which was under threat of drainage), further funds to be available as and when required in future years.

He also announced a grant of \$2,000 per

annum to Mr Grant Dumbell, a university graduate who is to research Brown Teal, and commented that further funds would be allocated to an area in Northland where Brown Teal are located.

The President praised the enthusiasm of DU's volunteers and their adoption of a "can-do" philosophy and gave a special vote of thanks to his fellow directors and officers for their support during the year.

After the President commented on the Balance Sheet and financial accounts he moved the adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1983. This was seconded by Mr A. Elliott.

AUDITORS

It was resolved that the Auditors, Messrs Hutchison Hull & Co be re-appointed for the 1983/84 year (Messrs J. Glover/J. Campbell).

ELECTION — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The President advised that Mr Sig Bronger, who was appointed to the Board in 1977, had retired. He outlined Mr Bronger's valuable contribution to the organisation particularly with the Grey Teal nestbox programme and specially mentioned the involvement of Mr and Mrs Bronger would be missed at Board level as Mrs Bronger was retiring from active participation also.

The President announced that Mr Mark Newcomb, who had represented DU members for several years as an elected representative, had been appointed to the Board as a permanent director.

The President announced that under the Rules of the organisation, 4 persons could be elected to the Board representing members. Messrs A. Elliott, J. Campbell and J. Glover, being eligible, offered themselves for re-election. The President called for nominations, Mr Mark Timms was nominated by Miss D. Pritt and Mr I.H. Pirani. No further nominations were received. The president called for a poll and as a result declared Messrs A. Elliot, J. Campbell

and J. Gover re-elected to the Board, and he declared Mr M. Timms an elected representative. He detailed Mr Timms' past contribution to the organisation and announced that the new director had also accepted the position of Membership Secretary.

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.

REPORT ON OPERATION PATEKE

Mr F.N. Hayes briefly outlined the objectives of the project and summarised progress prior to the year under review, commenting on modifications to the original targets. Prior to the 1982/83 season, pairs had increased to 40, held by 22 members.

The 1982/83 season had achieved an all time record of 112 birds reared said Mr Hayes. This brought the total reared since 1976 to over 400 — a remarkable achievement. The 290 Brown Teal reared in the past three seasons by DU members was a direct result of DU's natural pairing programme (flockmating). He commented briefly on the natural selection policy practised by DU members and stated also that the organisation's recommendations for specialised Brown Teal aviaries had created great interest.

Mr Hayes commented that the most successful Brown Teal breeder for the year was Mr John Gill, last year's winner — the Award was then presented to Mr Gill by the President. Further worthy efforts were achieved by Messrs Ron Munro, of Invercargill rearing 18 in the first year of participation, and Mr Hayes modestly admitted to rearing 16 Brown Teal. Wellington Zoo and Hilldale Zoo had also had successful Brown Teal programmes and Messrs Roy and Murray Dench reared 10 birds each.

Mr Hayes confirmed the successful season had resulted in a record total of 75 birds being released into the wild — 34 at Puke Puke Lagoon and 41 at Nga Manu Trust, Waikanae. He outlined further plans to release 15 birds in August 1983. The pleasing effect of releasing at Puke Puke Lagoon was soon overshadowed by tragedy at this site; 8 Brown Teal bodies were discovered the following day, killed by a ferret.

This tragedy highlighted the vulnerability of birds being released straight from a box and a decision was taken to discontinue release at Puke Puke Lagoon. Shooting had been a lesser problem and 2 birds were lost in this way. Mr Hayes advised that Mr Peter McKenzie of Nga Manu Trust had rescued the situation by offering to experiment, holding 15 Brown Teal in an aviary and releasing them in groups of 5 or so, at a time, onto the lagoon which is located on his property 30 km south of Puke Puke — this area had two good waterfowl ponds, one of which had a large aviary adjacent. Mr McKenzie continued to feed the Brown Teal after release. The pre-release pen idea had been considered by Ducks Unlimited early in the programme and the organisation was grateful for the opportunity to undertake this experiment earlier than planned. The technique worked smoothly with birds gradually adapting to the outside world and surviving confirmed Mr Hayes.

The Nga Manu Trust also practised extensive predator control programmes at the site — this, together with the pre-release pen experiment ensured the Brown Teal a reasonable survival chance.

Mr Hayes advised that the N.Z. Wildlife Service had had an excellent season rearing 68 Brown Teal, releasing 62 into the wild, and small numbers at various other sites. He outlined briefly details of a forthcoming meeting with the Wildlife Service to establish closer liaison over release areas for Brown Teal, and to discuss the re-establishment of the species. A draft programme had been drawn up by Mr Richard Anderson of the Wildlife Service. Mr Hayes stressed the Brown Teal project was a long term one and it was not possible to achieve miracles overnight.

Overseas activity saw the Wildfowl Trust in the United Kingdom continuing its work with Brown Teal; last year rearing 31 of the species, bringing its total to 61 since DU first sent birds to them in 1979. Mr Hayes briefly detailed the Wildfowl Trust's programme including sending two pairs to West Germany's leading private aviculturists, as well as to some of the United Kingdom's top private breeders. To widen the gene pool of Brown Teal in Europe, DU would be sending two further female Brown Teal to Slimbridge in August 1983; this would ensure survival of the species on a worldwide basis, at least for some years to come advised Mr Hayes.

Ducks Unlimited's paper on the Status and Aviculture of Brown Teal was published in the Wildfowl Trust's scientific publication "Wildfowl 33" and had given the New Zealand organisation worldwide publicity. Mr Hayes took the opportunity to express his thanks to co-author, Dr Murray Williams.

Mr Hayes outlined the successful public relations activities for the year under review, carried out on television and radio and in newspapers and wildlife journals. He announced that Ducks Unlimited would be the subject of its own documentary programme in a "Country Calendar" episode. The "Country Calendar" television team proposed covering Brown Teal aviculture, the release of same, the subject of Canada Geese in the Wairarapa, also the Grey Teal nestbox programme. Film crew were also filming at the auction proceedings later in the day. All this was valuable publicity for the organisation said Mr Hayes.

During the past year DU had made many submissions to the Wildlife Service regarding the need to institute a research project for Brown Teal in the wild. He elaborated further on the President's announcement that a grant had been made for research to be undertaken by an Auckland University graduate and also gave details of a Northland proposal which involved finance towards fencing an area where Brown Teal are known to frequent.

In conclusion Mr Hayes observed the year had been one of considerable activity and successes, in spite of a number of setbacks. He thanked Messrs John Gill, Peter McKenzie, Jim Campbell and Bill Clinton-Baker for their outstanding contribution to the project, as well as all project members who had helped achieve the encouraging result. A short question and answer period followed.

Mr Tom Caithness of the Wildlife Service

commented at some length on the success of the Brown Teal project and on the motivation and dedication of the directors and breeding team. He took the opportunity to announce Ducks Unlimited had been awarded the Wildlife Conservation Award by the Wildlife Service and he presented this to the President. The award marked the contribution of an outstanding effort toward wildlife conservation. The President thanked Mr Caithness on behalf of members, to which he attributed much of the group's success. Mr Caithness also commented on the appointment of a Wildlife Officer to sit in on DU director meetings and liaise generally with the organisation on behalf of the Wildlife Service. This had been suggested by Ducks Unlimited some time ago and the Wildlife Service was pleased to advise Mr John Cheyne had been appointed the nominee. Mr Cheyne was a DU member and his main responsibility centred on management of the government reserve at Mt Bruce. The president welcomed this direct link between the Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited and commented on Mr Cheyne's experience and contribution to the wildlife conservation scene in New Zealand.

GUEST SPEAKER — MR KEN LOWRY
Mr Lowry opened his remarks with the comment that his company manufactured firearms and ammunition, that is, it made products to shoot wild ducks and other wildlife. He said his company valued highly meeting with its consumers; the end users, and also with potential users of the products. Winchester was very proud of its commitment to wildlife and conservation and the American parent company put more back into wildlife and conservation than most of its firearm and ammunition counterparts put together. The company ran a school for wildlife biologists on game farms, in the United States at considerable expense, but it was well committed to put funds back into the preservation of habitat and training of wildlife biologists. He admitted that, in many ways, Winchester was looking after its own interests by doing so but primarily the attitude which prevailed was the keenness to put something back into the environment. Mr Lowry said his company was also active in promotion and showing support for and education of young shooters. He said many major firearm and ammunition manufacturers throughout the world had the opportunity to spend money on wildlife conservation, but they did not.

Mr Lowry noted that the subject on which he was to speak was the role of the hunter in conservation. He pointed out that in some countries of the world, but not so much in New Zealand, shooters in particular were facing a problem that was turning hunting into a controversy. In the eyes of the public, the hunting and shooting fraternity were pictured as being responsible for the pressure, abuse and deterioration in wildlife and their habitat. Shooters were a group easily identifiable said Mr Lowry and associated with the killing of wildlife. Therefore they were an easy target for those who wished to challenge them about falling numbers of certain species. Such critics believed the killing of wildlife was totally wrong; that it should not be permitted; that people who practised this sport were evil. Mr Lowry said he called them "bleeding hearts" — a description

he admitted always began an argument. However he considered such people did not understand the dynamics of wildlife and wildlife populations. He countered their criticism with the comment that most experienced shooters were wildlife admirers and many were not destroying nature and the net result of most wildlife died violently and sometimes this was the best way to have to die, that is, by shooting. This method was quick, clean and humane.

Mr Lowry instanced situations in certain parts of Australia, in the outback, where bird species flock in their millions to die by waterholes and lakes which have dried up. He said, however, that if a person went to this area and shot say 10 of these birds and this was picked up by the media, it would once more show shooters in a bad light — it did not matter that millions would die of starvation at the same site. He said that one of the truisms of wildlife was the fact that most of them starve to death, die by predation or disease, and this was one of the reasons why the science of wildlife management was proving so successful. Someone had "put the finger" on the reason why and it was really habitat more than any other factor which brought about destruction in numbers.

Many people thought shooters and anyone who owned a firearm shot to kill. Shooters were the victims of fashion at the present time and it was increasingly fashionable to put bans on types of hunting and on all types of gun ownership. Mr Lowry considered these "arm chair protectionists" had never seen wildlife in their true environment, never seen big game animals in the wild. He used several illustrations to make his point to the audience. He said there were similar comments criticising destruction of habitat and pollution of streams from other quarters, and strange attitudes prevailed. He gave the example of an industrialist who was required to appear in Court for polluting a river system with factory effluent. In evidence the industrialist stated "it is not my factory which pollutes the system, it is all the dead fish"!

Mr Lowry went on to point out that in order to perpetuate itself in the face of wholesale premature losses, every species of wildlife produced "harvestable" surpluses yearly which could be tapped by hunters, without any danger to the species survival as a group. How the surplus died was not really a matter for nature, he considered. Mr Lowry felt man could not reverse this sacred balance where an individual of a species was regarded as nothing. Ducks legally taken in the shooting season by sportsmen were minute in comparison to those which died by pollution, pesticides and habitat destruction. The real cause — that is, development of existing habitat, drainage of swamps and pollution of rivers, seemed incapable of control. He cited further examples to illustrate this point.

Mr Lowry considered the answer to the problem lay in education — particularly of today's youth — to ensure no more habitat was lost. He said the youth of today were the wildlife managers of tomorrow. He felt everyone concerned with environmental matters had a role to play in talking with young people — such people didn't have to be shooters or conservationists — but aware of



Ken Lowry of Winchester speaking on 'The Hunter's Role in Conservation' — with 3 rare birds keeping a close eye on him!!

the danger to wildlife if the present trends are not reversed. He emphasised that shooters and shooting associations do make, and have made in the past, a significant contribution to the protection of wildlife. These people had to put up with many criticisms from the "bleeding hearts" and the armchair protectionists. The objective must be to get the critics and the young people to listen to the truth. Mr Lowry continued that the rights to sport and to firearm ownership were under seige and these freedoms must be retained and protected.

Mr Lowry gave some background to the American organisation of Ducks Unlimited, of which he had been a member for some time. He admired their philosophy greatly and their objective of "putting something back". Similarly, he felt Ducks Unlimited in New Zealand were doing a magnificent job to protect the environment for waterfowl and he considered it would be difficult to find a

similar group which could match the increase in membership, for example, shown by DU in the past 12 months. He said he liked the family spirit which prevailed in the New Zealand organisation and he was proud to be a member.

Mr Lowry concluded his comments with the statement that shooters were a fairly serious lot when they got into the field; that they honoured their sport and put a lot back into it — he considered they were the greatest wildlife managers of all.

The President thanked Mr Lowry for his sometimes provocative address and the audience showed their appreciation by acclamation. The President thanked Winchester for their generous donation of gifts for the auction to be held later in the evening and for their wholehearted support of the organisation through advertising and DU appreciated their encouragement.

In answer to a question Mr Lowry gave

details of Winchester's participation in the education of young people in shooting skills; a programme of education in the use of firearms and firearms safety.

GUEST SPEAKER — MR IAN BUCHANAN

The President introduced Mr Buchanan, Senior Field Officer, Wellington Acclimatisation Society whose subject was the drainage of Lake Wairarapa. The text of Mr Buchanan's address is reproduced in full below.

"Lake Wairarapa — why is it so important suddenly, over the last two years; everyone wants to know about Lake Wairarapa. Up until now it has been perhaps New Zealand's most 'forgotten' major wetland. Forgotten, that is, except by a small band of hardy duck shooters who didn't want anyone to know about it anyway.

"And now, everybody wants to know about it! The reason is that Lake Wairarapa, as a major wetland habitat under direct and immediate pressure from development interests, has become the focal point for the wider debate on the future of New Zealand's remaining wetland resources.

"It has become strikingly apparent to all those people having an interest in wetlands and the wildlife they produce, that there must be a cut-off point beyond which no further modification can occur. Left to run its present course, development of wetlands for agricultural and other purposes will stop, but only when there are no further large wetlands left.

"It is now argued that the cut-off point beyond which development should not proceed is now, while we still have at least a remnant of once extensive wetland habitats. Lake Wairarapa has served to focus interest on wetlands nationally, and to bring to the attention of decision-makers the very real need to examine the major areas remaining, and to set aside all those that provide significant actual or potential value as wildlife habitat.

"Looking specifically now at Lake Wairarapa, I would like to give you a brief background to the conflict, and examine what is happening at present, particularly the research that is being undertaken. I won't go into any great detail on the historical perspective, or on specific wildlife values, because there simply is not sufficient time to do so. In brief, the Wairarapa Catchment Board's Lower Valley Development Scheme, designed in the late 1950s, envisaged the drainage of some 5,500 hectares of wetlands, and prevention of seasonal inundation of a much greater area. This drainage would have effectively removed all but a very small area of the original wetlands, and basically left only the deep water of Lake Wairarapa. Since that time, wildlife interests have managed to secure some 700 hectares of wetland as wildlife reserves, and a further 200 hectares remain in private ownership. In other words, only around 15 per cent of the original areas remain.

"The present proposal, and the one that has finally stirred real action from the Acclimatisation Society and conservation groups, is to 'reclaim' 1,900 hectares of the eastern edge of Lake Wairarapa and a further 700 hectares of adjacent marshland. This term 'reclaim' amuses me as, by defini-

tion, it assumes ownership and use at some previous time. To my knowledge, Lake Wairarapa has never been a dairy farm. This 'reclamation' would remove some 90 per cent of the critical eastern shallows of Lake Wairarapa, and effectively isolate the remnant wildlife reserves, both from themselves and from what remained of Lake Wairarapa.

The area under threat is used by at least 54 different bird species for some part of their annual activity. These range from in excess of 50,000 mallard ducks to two or three individuals of the rarer white heron, bittern and marsh crane etc. Of major interest is the presence, during summer months, of some 10 species of trans equatorial migrant waders. From surveys undertaken in recent years we have reasonable knowledge of species numbers and diversity on and around Lake Wairarapa. However, when faced with the scale of development proposed here, simple knowledge of what is there, and in what numbers is insufficient for predicting possible impacts.

Any wetland system is a complex of inter-related segments of which wildlife forms only a part. Research must therefore be undertaken to take note not just of species and numbers, but also of seasonal changes both in the environment and its inhabitants. Previous research has largely concentrated on aspects of biology and general ecology of various species. There is very little information available which enables the wildlife manager to determine why a particular location may be of more value to some bird species than others, or what micro habitats within wetlands provide what values for which species. Knowledge of this type has two important applications — one in attempting to predict impacts of disturbance to habitat components, the other in designing positive management manipulation to optimise desirable habitat types.

"Aware of this limitation in information, Wildlife Service developed a quantitative method to demonstrate the habitat requirements of birds in the Ahuriri River Catchment. This method has now been adapted to apply to a shallow lake ecosystem and is being implemented at Lake Wairarapa. The method is designed to gather and analyse a large amount of data on habitat use, using limited manpower and time. And then to present this information in such a manner that can be readily understood by people with no ecological background. This last point is critical if the information is to be effectively used in mitigation procedures.

"Briefly, the method has four requirements —

- One: obtaining an overview by aerial reconnaissance and photography.
- Two: classifying habitats and describing bird activity at each point in the environment.
- Three: showing — long and short term — changes to the physical environment, and
- Four: collecting information to demonstrate the relationships between the physical environment and bird habitat use.

This technique makes it possible to quantify the habitat use of wetland birds involved in different activities and thereby to identify and describe their habitat requirements.



Ian Buchanan.

"The research began in November 1982 and will continue until November of this year. At present no detailed results are available as it will take the full 12 months to build up accurate profiles of habitat requirements. Of interest to date, however, is the observed significant increase in all species numbers during the autumn months, followed by general decline during winter, with the exception of black swan, pied stilt and black fronted dotterel. Of particular interest to many DU members is the presence of in excess of 4,000 New Zealand shoveler during March and April.

"This research is being carried out by the Wildlife Service, with logistic support from Wellington Society where required. It was originally intended that the Society with generous assistance from both Ducks Unlimited and the Forest and Bird Society, would fund the programme. Wildlife Service have since been able to juggle their 'money tin' and fund the entire project. The knowledge gained will be of immeasurable benefit in both the establishment of formal protection and for future management of the lake and surrounds.

"This leads us to "where do we go from here?" The Wellington Acclimatisation Society's stated aim is to have the entire Lake Wairarapa complex designated as a "Wetland of International Significance" under criteria established by I.U.C.N. — and more specifically to have the eastern edge of the lake that is currently in Crown ownership designated as Wildlife Management Reserve.

If this can be achieved it will set the base for future direction in the protection of our major wetlands, and Lake Wairarapa will no longer be the "forgotten" lake."

At the conclusion of his address Mr Buchanan answered several questions. The President thanked Mr Buchanan for his stimulating comments and the audience showed its appreciation.

REPORT ON OPERATION GRETEL

Mr Jim Campbell presented the report on the year's activities on behalf of himself and Mr Allan Elliott. It had been another excellent

season especially in the Hamilton area, and at Barton's Lagoon in the Wairarapa. Mr Campbell reported that some areas in the Wairarapa were still not using boxes but that Grey Teal appeared to be expanding in the region nevertheless. He noted that acclimatisation societies had been responding well to the DU nest box programme, and that a new nestbox of modified construction had been developed, enabling mass production to be undertaken.

Mr Campbell called on Mr Craig Worth to present a report on the Waikato programme. Mr Worth outlined their chapter's activities in some detail quoting results and the plan for future work. He summarised by noting that six additional sites in the Waikato were undergoing trials, presently with nil success; there were 65 nestboxes made up ready for placement, and a further 50 to be constructed. Mr Worth commented that the Hamilton sub-society of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society were financing and had built several nestboxes and had requested guidance from Ducks Unlimited on erection and siting. Also, a new and excellent area which had potential had been located at Pinkerton's Swamp and great hopes were held for Grey Teal production in the area.

REPORT ON OPERATION WHIO

Mr David McNeil, Project Supervisor reported that he considered the Blue Duck project was very much in a state of jeopardy as the captive bird stock had been reduced to 13 birds during the year. The Wildlife Service had agreed in principle to the augmenting of DU stock by the taking of eggs from selected areas in the wild and this was the breakthrough Ducks Unlimited had been looking for.

Mr McNeil advised that the experiences of Mr and Mrs Ian Pirani at Rotorua and Mr Barry Rowe at Ototohanga Zoo had shown that hand reared birds were more likely to breed earlier than wild caught birds. It was considered that wild blue duck had the re-nesting capacity built into them and taking eggs early in incubation need not deprive wild birds of an opportunity to breed for that season.

Mr McNeil confirmed that the aims and objectives of the blue duck project were, in the opinion of the directors, top priority. The Board considered that the status of this unique species was not improving in the wild and the pressures on the back country were increasing — by the public, hunters, opossum hunters, rafters, jet boats and the hydro electric schemes, and Mr McNeil cited the example of the Whaeo hydro scheme which had a number of pairs of blue duck before it was damned.

He said the avicultural skills needed to hatch and rear blue duck were far better learned at this stage of the species decline than when they were deplorably low. The finding and observation of blue duck nests was a skillful job requiring much patience and dedication commented Mr McNeil but he was certain the Wildlife Service had many competent and dedicated people within its field staff to achieve this.

Mr McNeil closed his remarks with the comment that he was hopeful future reports would be of a more positive nature.

REPORT ON OPERATION BRANTA

Mr Neil Hayes briefly detailed Ducks Unlimited's aim to establish Canada geese in the North Island and reported steady progress had been achieved during the year despite difficulty experienced in obtaining sufficient numbers of birds for transfer. It had been a good breeding season in the North Island and some 70 geese were produced on one property, and since the commencement of the project in 1977 Ducks Unlimited had arranged the relocation of over 350 geese. In addition to DU's efforts, both the Auckland Acclimatisation Society and the Wildlife Service had transferred geese to the North Island and it was estimated the population totalled somewhere near 1,500. For the first time Canada geese had been included on the North Island hunting licence — in the Wairoa district.

As part of the control programme to the South Island some 6,400 adult Canada geese had been killed as well as goslings and over 1,800 eggs pricked. Mr Hayes details of what he considered to be a tragedy but commented that of necessity Ducks Unlimited had been obliged to maintain a low profile over the massacre but his report would not be an accurate one if he failed to mention the eradication programme.

Mr Hayes commented that if some constructive wildlife management techniques were not applied to Canada geese in New Zealand, the species would end up like so many other birds — on the endangered list and such a management policy was long overdue. He suggested that perhaps management techniques for the species could include the use of decoy crops; purchase of problem areas by wildlife agencies (widely used overseas); compensating farmers for crop damage; hunter education programmes; promotion of the goose as a game bird with particular emphasis on attracting tourists to hunt them, and so on.

There had been some criticism of the species in the Waikato, primarily from Federated Farmers. He considered some of these were ill-founded and suggested education of farmers in regard to the species was a key to a solution and recommended DU members in Federated Farmers endeavour to 'infiltrate' the ranks of Federated Farmers committees in order to achieve this objective. To some extent this had already occurred in the Wairarapa, with very satisfying results.

Mr Hayes concluded with thanks to Wellington Zoological Society, Mr Peter McLeod, and Mr Ian Buchanan of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society for their efforts with supply and distribution of geese. He also thanked the Wildlife Service for delivering geese to Christchurch and Mr Lawrence Piper for Assistance with holding and pinioning of geese for Ducks Unlimited.

Questions followed relating more particularly to the massacre of Canada geese in the South Island — the President concluded this informal discussion noting that it was an emotional issue which must be kept in perspective by all involved parties.

EDITORIAL REPORT

Mr Hayes commented on the new format of Flight magazine which appeared to have been successful and created great interest. He thanked the considerable number of people involved with its production, specifically

mentioning Brendan Coe, the printer. Mr Hayes made special mention of the two main advertisers, Winchester New Zealand Limited and the New Zealand Wildlife Service — their assistance, together with a grant from the Ministry of Recreation & Sport, had ensured a quality publication at very reasonable cost to members. The improved format had a further benefit — increased book sales and other sale items. Circulation had increased dramatically and the new format had encouraged prompt renewal of membership subscriptions. Mr Hayes outlined proposals for future production and welcomed suggestions from members on how the publication could be further improved.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The President called on Mr Craig Worth to report on the activities of the Hamilton fundraising chapter. In what had been a very busy year, the chapter had continued to round up as many members as possible reported Mr Worth. The chapter had participated in the Hertnon raffle system to raise funds, and he detailed the active role now played in the activities of the Thunderbird Gun Club and how this had improved membership levels for Ducks Unlimited. 121 members had been recruited in this way he said. He commented on the chapter newsletter of which they were very proud. Mr Worth said the basic function of the Hamilton chapter was to transfer funds to the national office for waterfowl conservation and he expressed a hope that at some time in the future similar fundraising chapters could be established in other areas of the country.

GUEST SPEAKER — SIR WILLIAM GILBERT

The President introduced Sir William to the meeting and invited him to address conference participants on most recent activities of the World Wildlife Fund was primarily concerned with conservation of endangered species. At present the Fund had two major projects related thereto in progress. The first of these was related to land on the island of Tiri Tiri Matangi in the Hauraki Gulf. An attractive little island, Sir William noted it originally had been a lighthouse reserve and some ten years ago had reverted to the control of the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Board which had approached the WWF for help in regenerating the native bush on the island so that it would be suitable habitat for a range of native birds found only on the outlying islands, not presently accessible to the public. WWF-NZ worked over the project with the park board and came up with a scheme to raise some \$45,000 to re-establish or to establish a proper plant nursery on the island so that the indigenous native plants could be grown safely and effectively there and throughout the island. The intention was to provide a kiosk, improve the jetty facilities, thus encouraging visitors to the centre. The Fund was about half way towards its target of \$45,000 and was confident of achieving it said Sir Williams.

Sir William went on to detail the main project for the World Wildlife Fund which related to Mt Bruce Reserve in the Wairarapa. He considered this was a unique facility in New Zealand. Those involved with the project in the Wildlife Service and in the community, especially in the Wairarapa,



Sir William Gilbert.

were completely behind the project he said. The intention was to raise sufficient funds to enable Mr Bruce to be developed as the National Wildlife Centre for New Zealand.

Sir William outlined the work undertaken at Mt Bruce with the Takahe, Blue Duck and many other rare species whose numbers were now increasing because of the unit's efforts. However he noted that it was quite obvious to the casual visitor that there was a need at Mr Bruce for a reasonable building to provide shelter from the inclement Wairarapa weather. Such a facility could be enjoyed by tourists, local and overseas, by school parties and by the local community, and the potential was very great indeed said Sir William.

Sir William said a considerable sum would be required for this purpose — some \$300,000 — but he was confident the target was achievable. The local community was backing the project and efforts would be made further afield in future. Sir William handed out brochures on the programme to those present.

Sir William paid tribute to the tremendous help the WWF-NZ was receiving from the Wildlife Service in relation to the Mt Bruce project, mentioning specifically Messrs Cheyne and Bryant and the Service Director, Mr Adams. He considered the Fund would be hard pressed to succeed, but with the help of such people, he was confident. One of the Fund trustees, Mr Neil Isaac of the South Island had actively supported the project through his own personal wildlife trust to the extent of some \$17,000 raised primarily at a special function for the purpose, and his efforts were indicative of the dedicated support given and pledged for the project.

The President thanked Sir William for his interesting comments and expressed warm thanks for the handsome, framed waterfowl art donated by the World Wildlife Fund — New Zealand to be auctioned later in the evening. The audience showed their appreciation by acclamation.

After inviting members to participate in morning coffee on Sunday, the President declared the annual conference closed at 5.20pm.



PROJECT REPORTS

The Dabchick Story

In the notes and pictures below Bill Clinton-Baker (Notes) and Tannick Denniston (Photos) show what D.U. members can do to help the survival of another rare bird — the N.Z. Dabchick. In New Zealand artificial islands, rafts, and the like, have to date not received the attention they deserve, as these structures are of immense value to many forms of birdlife. The N.Z. Dabchick population totals only around 1,500, but could certainly receive a significant boost with a little help from D.U. members with suitable facilities.

- 1982
 Nov 22nd A pair of Dabchicks arrive on pond — seen displaying a floating nest site, covered with weed, is made under the swallow platform.
 Nov 29th Dabchicks start building.
 Dec 8th Sitting on three eggs.
 Dec 13 Both birds share the brooding; change over at the nest seen.
 Jan 1st The eggs have hatched — the chicks are brooded all the time on backs of parents. They have vivid black & white striped heads and a bright red patch at base of beak.
 Jan 4th Both parents feed the young, usually in situ on their backs; they will dive for food with chicks still under feathers



Dabchick brooding.

fed by parents. The red patch at base of beak is fading

- Feb 5th Whole family getting quite tame. Black & white stripes almost gone & replaced by dull brown plumage.
 March 6th Two of young have flown off.
 March 14 Only parents remain.
 April 5 Parent birds have left. Seems that Dabchicks spend Winter on larger areas of water, such as the local oxydisation ponds.

OPERATION PATEKE

1982-83 Breeding Results. As mentioned in the annual meeting minutes, the last breeding season established an all time record for Brown Teal reared in a single season.

Successful D.U. breeders were:

Bill Clinton-Baker	5
Murray Dench	10
Roy Dench	10
Ron Denny	1
John Gill	28
Jim Glover	4
Neil Hayes	16
Ron Munro	18
Ian Pirani	4
Barry Rowe	4
Wilf Wright	2
Hilldale Zoo	7
Wellington Zoo	3
Total	112

This was an outstanding effort by all concerned.

- Jan 15th Chicks now spend some of the time in the water & are starting to dive themselves. If alarmed they climb back on board & disappear under parent's feathers.
 Jan 20th Young spend most of time in the water, being constantly

Liberations. The final figure for Brown Teal released into the wild from the 1982-83

breeding season was 91; 34 at Puke Puke Lagoon and 57 at the Nga Manu Trust (16 being released in front of the 'Country Calendar' cameras on 12.8.83.

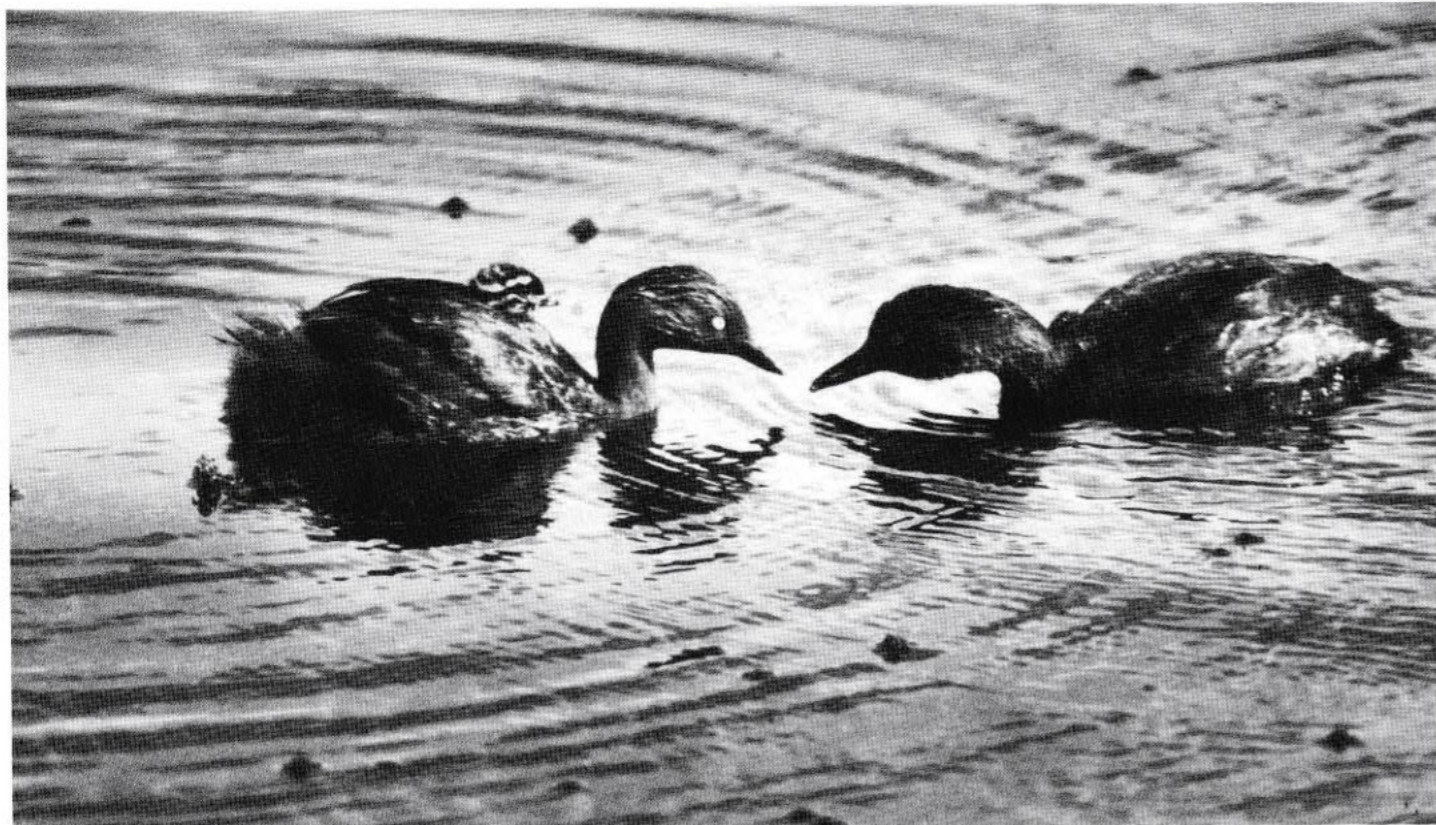
Brown Teal Seminar. A successful Brown Teal management seminar was held at the head office of the Wildlife Service on the 14th July. This was attended by 5 D.U. representatives, 3 representatives from acclimatisation societies (Northland, Auckland & Wellington) and 8 representatives from the Wildlife Service. A very full day was spent discussing the future of the Brown Teal and provided a much needed follow-up to D.U.'s management seminar held in 1981. Under the first class chairmanship of Brian Bell, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Service, the following recommendations emanated from the meeting

1. D.U. to continue the release programme at the Nga Manu Trust with 30-40 birds per season.
2. All other Brown teal reared by D.U. and the Wildlife Service during the 1983-84 breeding season be held over until August 1984 for release in Northland.
3. Holding facilities to be erected at the Wildlife Service facilities at Keri Keri.
4. Propagation facilities to be developed at Keri Keri.
5. Nest boxes for Brown Teal be erected at release sites in Northland.
6. A pre-release aviary be erected and used at the Northland release site.
7. A research programme be instituted as soon as possible.
8. That efforts continue to be made to acquire critical Brown Teal habitat in

9. That the whole Brown Teal programme be publicised as widely as possible.
 10. That funds be sought and obtained for the Brown Teal programme from as many sources as possible.
 11. That the Protected Fauna Section of the Wildlife Service appoint an officer to oversee the progress of the Brown Teal programme and act as liaison officer.
 12. That Brown Teal seminar's be held at yearly intervals.
- 1983-84 Breeding Season.** Several new participants have joined the 'Pateke' project for the new season and we should again reach a high production figure. But we still have some way to go before we reach our target of 50 breeding pairs in captivity.



The swallow platform used by the dabchicks.



Dabchick carrying young. The other two chicks are also under the feathers.

OPERATION GRETEL

Habitat work

For the first time in its history D.U. will spend funds on habitat development. \$2,000 has been allocated for expenditure at the property of D.U. member Tony Flexman at Pokeno, where D.U. has 120 Grey Teal nest boxes. Drainage by Tony's neighbour has seriously affected the water table in the nest box areas and stop bank work is needed to ensure a reasonably stable water level, particularly during the breeding period. Hopefully a bore will also be sunk and a water windmill built to ensure a good supply of water. Rumour has it that the Auckland Acclimatisation Society will also invest \$2,000 to assist in this essential

work. So its all good news.

With Tony's co-operation D.U. hopes that an Open Space Covenant can be established to totally protect the area on a permanent basis.

We certainly thank Tony for his support and keen involvement in this project.

1983-84 Breeding Season

First the bad news! — Barton's Lagoon, Martinborough. An inspection and maintenance visit to Barton's Lagoon in late August revealed a drain through the nest box area and all the boxes sitting on dry ground — as shown in the photo.

At the time of writing it is not known what the Catchment Board's plans are to restore the area, but one thing is for certain and that is that there will be no production from D.U.'s 30 nest boxes this season. One's first

thoughts are that this is a blatant attempt by the Catchment Board to get back at D.U. for its recently published criticism of the Wairarapa Board. But one thing is for certain and that is that D.U. will not accept this abuse of New Zealand's wetlands and we will be following up this latest saga very closely and we expect to make some interesting revelations in the December 'Flight'.

Now the good news! — In the Waikato. Jack Worth and his Hamilton Chapter team have erected a further 39 boxes at the Mountley Piggery site, to bring the total to 69 boxes. The other 30 boxes have also been re-arranged and renovated and the site is being developed as a D.U. showpiece. Within one week of the new boxes being erected one box had five eggs in it, and three weeks later 55 of the 69 boxes were being used. That is incredible!

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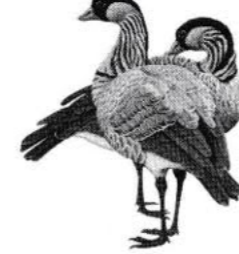
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D.U SALES DEPT



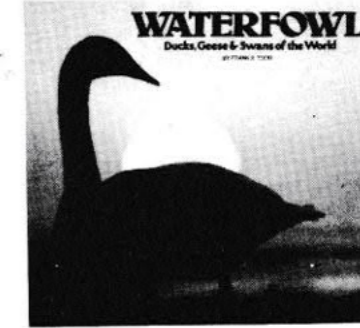
Waterfowl: Ducks, Geese & Swans of the World by Frank Todd. This is the ultimate in waterfowl books and a must for all DU members. 400 pages covering the status of the world's waterfowl, their aviculture and general management. Also contains excellent chapters on photography and on hunting and conservation attitudes. Price \$49.50.

The HAWAIIAN GOOSE



Janet Kear & A.J. Berger

The Hawaiian Goose by Janet Kear & A.J. Berger. This outstanding book is an absorbing account of the world's most successful waterfowl conservation project. 154 pages covering the entire Hawaiian Goose project, which has seen the population rise from 30 birds to over 2,500. Price \$22.50.



A Coloured Key to the Waterfowl of the World by Sir Peter Scott. 96 pages with coloured plates and notes detailing the status of the waterfowl of the world. Price \$8.50.

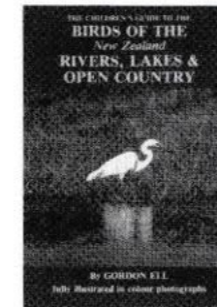
DUCKS, PONDS and PEOPLE



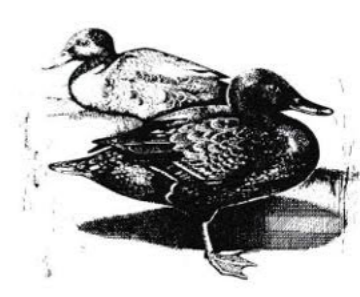
Ducks, Ponds & People by John Swift of B.A.S.C. 112 pages provide a guide to the management of small lakes and ponds for waterfowl. (DU's best selling book.) Price \$7.50.



Wildfowl Management on Inland Waters by the Game Conservancy. 100 pages covering the construction of habitat for waterfowl, planting, loafing and nesting rafts, nests, and propagation. Price \$9.50.



The Children's Guide to the Birds of the New Zealand Rivers, Lakes and Open Country. New from DU sales division is this delightful booklet written by DU member Gordon Ell. This 16 page booklet provides details about birds most likely to be seen on our rivers, lakes and open country and contains 27 superb photographs by well known photographer Geoff Moon. It is a must for the kids. Price \$5 incl p&p.



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