

Flight

No. 1/84 • ISSUE 39 • MARCH 1984

NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE

DUCKS UNLIMITED'S
QUARTERLY
WATERFOWL JOURNAL



*De Waterburn
Michelle Harkness*

Winchester (NZ) Ltd

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



NZ Shoveler

Distribution: Throughout N.Z.
Population: 150,000 +



WINCHESTER[®]

MORE THAN A NAME. A LEGEND.

Distributed in New Zealand By: Winchester New Zealand

DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z) INC.,

PO BOX 74, HAMILTON, NEW ZEALAND

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICIALS FOR 1983-84

PRESIDENT

P.B.C. Pirani 'Branta' Kahikatea Flat Road, Dairy Flat, RD 2, Albany, AUCKLAND.

VICE-PRESIDENT

F.N. Hayes, 17 Wise Street, WAINUIOMATA.

SECRETARY

F.N. Hayes, 17 Wise Street, WAINUIOMATA.

TREASURER

G. Girvan, 77 Waipapa Road, Hataitai, WELLINGTON.

BOARD MEMBERS

M. Timms, 9 Millward St., WANGANUI.

J. Gill, 1 Grosvenor Terrace, Wadestown, WELLINGTON.

A. Elliott, RD 4, PAHIATUA.

J. Campbell, 'Rameslie', RD 1, MASTERTON.

D. McNeil, RD 1, Te Poi, MATAMATA.

I.H. Pirani, PO Box 275, NGONGOTAHA.

Miss D. Pritt, Smith's Road, OHAKUNE.

M. Newcomb, PO Box 1834, AUCKLAND.

J. Glover, Hill Road, PAUATAHANUI.

OTHER OFFICIALS

Membership Secretary

M. Timms, 9 Millward St., WANGANUI.

'Flight' Editor

F.N. Hayes, 17 Wise St., WAINUIOMATA.

Wildlife Service Representative on the Board

J. Cheyne, Mt Bruce Native Bird Reserve, MASTERTON.

LIFE MEMBERS

W. Barrett, Australia

N.C. Cameron, Featherston

P.M. McLeod, Christchurch

I.H. Pirani, Rotorua

Mrs D.G. Pirani, Rotorua

Mrs C.L. Pirani, Auckland

J.H.B. Ward, Huntly

M.J. Bourke, Kimbolton

Ms R. Ward, Auckland

HONORARY MEMBERS

H.A. Sinclair, Dunedin

K.G.W. Wilkinson, Cambridge

TRADE MEMBERS

Rod & Rifle Magazine, Petone

W.H. Day, Winton

Isaac Wildlife Trust, Christchurch

Reloaders Supplies Ltd, Auckland

Tilley Plastics Ltd, Lower Hutt

Wgtn Sporting Arms Co. Ltd, Petone

A.R. Wilson Ltd, Hamilton

Wellington Zoological Gardens

Winchester NZ Ltd

Westpac Banking Corp, Te Aro, Wellington

Reikorangi Pottery, Waikanae

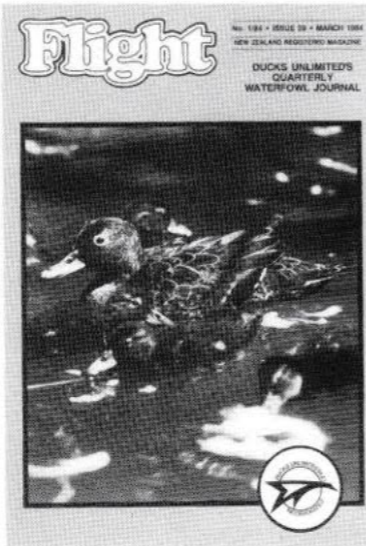
Nga Manu Trust, Waikanae

IN THIS ISSUE

EDITORIAL	3
DU NEWS.....	3
PROJECT REPORTS	8
DU SALES DEPT.....	11

COVER PICTURE

Another successful season.



Photography: Neil Hayes, Gary Girvan.

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

EDITORIAL

KIWIS CAN!

Although we are well into 1984 it is appropriate to reflect on a decision taken some ten years earlier when a small group of Kiwis, alarmed at the deterioration in duck numbers and concerned at what appeared to be thoughtless, widespread swamp drainage, ignored the sceptics and marshalled efforts to effect a turnaround in the duck population and established an awareness programme to counter (or, at least, educate to highlight the dangers of) wetland drainage. These "planners" (and I count it a privilege to have been among them) realised that the habitat and its waterfowl was directly tied to the quality of life; they were not discouraged by the "can't do" attitude openly displayed toward them at the time and were determined they *could* do something to aid the dwindling/static waterfowl numbers. Obstacles — among them the major one of funding the idea — did little to hinder the "can do" attitude that has been the life force behind the organisation ever since.

Author, Professor Milton Weller has stated: "If, in the judgment of most of mankind, marshes are to be replaced by concrete, so it will be — but the world would not be the better for it."

Wetlands: to manage, or not to manage? For DU members there has never been any doubt as to the answer.

In this country we face the often ridiculous situation whereby one government department can strive to protect wetlands while another offers benefits to people who destroy them!

Wetlands (generally regarded as worthless, particularly by some of our farming community) are among the most productive lands on earth; vital to fish, shellfish, birds and countless other plants and animals. Swamps also provide natural flood and erosion control. However, because few of these areas offer obvious economic rewards to their owners, most are in danger of being drained some day for more "profitable" land uses such as agricultural/industrial or residential development. A large proportion of wetlands is in

private hands and there is a real need to assist landowners with the cost of keeping and managing their swamps.

Some time in the not too distant future, it would be nice to think that wetland owners may receive tax concessions for maintaining, not draining, their swamps. Unfortunately this is probably too radical a suggestion for government to contemplate, let alone consider seriously.

This year DU is "putting its money where its mouth is" and, for the first time, is "investing" funds in the management of 60 acres of wetland at rural Pokeno owned by an enlightened farmer.

In addition, to make the most of its donated resources, DU is in 1984

- funding research into Brown Teal on Great Barrier Island, to be undertaken by a university graduate as part of a three year study programme;
- funding a fencing programme in Northland, in co-operation with the Wildlife Service and the Northern Federation of Acclimatisation Societies — to assist in eventual release of captive-reared Brown Teal;
- becoming involved in the active management and possible acquisition of an area of wetland, considered by many to be the finest example in New Zealand.

Your contribution to DU is a vital link in the chain of dollars that is reaching waterfowl and its environment. Through DU's "can do" philosophy, I know we can make a positive difference to the conservation of the country's important waterfowl resource.

Your achievements for the organisation last year (accomplished during a time of deep recession) proved once more that the spirit of the people who make up Ducks Unlimited cannot be subdued by economic uncertainty. Armed with the knowledge that you *can* make a difference — for all waterfowl — I challenge each one of you to renew your commitment to the ducks in 1984.

Paul Pirani

DU NEWS

1984 Annual Meeting

DU Director Diane Pritt, Smiths Road, Ohakune, has been appointed to co-ordinate the booking of units at THC Tokaanu for the 1984 annual meeting — to be held at THC Tokaanu on Saturday 14th July, commencing at 1.30pm. DU Honorary member Horrie Sinclair will be the guest speaker. If you require accommodation at THC Tokaanu for the meeting please drop Diane a note as soon as possible. We will again be having a social gathering on the Sunday morning at 9.30am; this proved very popular last year. The full programme for the meeting will appear in the June 'Flight'. There are some very exciting things happening at the moment, all of which will commit DU to considerable cost, so we need your support more than ever at the AGM. As usual the highlight of the weekend will be the annual auction. If you have any items you would like to donate for the auction (almost any item is acceptable) please let us know.

10 Year Badges.

The 1984 annual meeting will be the 10th and to commemorate this all ten year members will be awarded a specially produced ten year DU lapel badge. Those ten year members who will be attending the 1984 annual meeting will be presented with their ten year badge at the meeting. Determining ten year members is by no means an easy task and if we overlook anyone please let us know. In future years it will be an even more difficult problem.

DU's International Clay Bird Championships

We have pleasure in advising that the first DU International Clay Bird Shooting Championships organised by the Hamilton Chapter, will be held at the Taumarunui Gun Club Grounds on Friday/Saturday 13/14th July, 1984, in conjunction with the Ducks Unlimited Annual Conference scheduled for Saturday 14th July at the Tokaanu Tourist Hotel, Tokaanu. This contest will be open

to every financial member of DU (N.Z.), North America, Canada and Mexico.
Programme for Friday commencing at 9am sharp.

- Event No. 1:** DU N.Z. Skest Championship. 25-Targets for A and B Grades.
 - Event No. 2:** DU N.Z. Sparrow Championship. 20-Targets for A and B Grades. 16m.
 - Event No. 3:** DU N.Z. Double Rise Championship. 10-Pair Targets for A and B Grades. 16m.
 - Event No. 4:** DU N.Z. Single Barrel Championship. 25-Targets for A and B Grades. 16m.
 - Event No. 5:** DU N.Z. Single Rise Championship. 25-Targets for A and B Grades. 16m.
- Note:** Shooting to finish at 5pm.

Programme for Saturday commencing at 8.30am sharp.

- Event No. 1:** Completion of Championships.
- Event No. 2:** Chapter Team Shoot. 5-Man Teams. 75-Targets off 16m.
- Event No. 3:** 10 Man DU N.Z. Team Shoot. 50-Targets each off 16m to establish rankings 1-10 and for possible use in a postal shoot with Mexico, Canada or U.S.A.
- Event No. 4:** Participation in Annual Conference, Dinner and Prize-giving to be held at the Tokaanu Tourist Hotel during the afternoon and evening.

CONDITIONS
 Entry will be \$6.00 per championship plus targets at 17 cents each. \$2.00 optional sweeps paid in full. \$2.00 optional High Gun

on the last four events, paid out in full to A & B Grades, Ladies, Juniors and Veterans. Chapter Team entries will be \$20.00 per team, paid on the mark Sunday morning by the respective Chapters. The winning Team to receive a certificate and a sash for each member. In each Championship event a High/Overall and a champion A & B Grades will be established. The 10-man New Zealand Team will be chosen from all competitors using the scores from events 4 & 5 as the basis for selection. The team shall be named shortly after the conclusion of event No. 5 and shall receive a suitable badge to mark the occasion plus a certificate.

If further info is needed please contact Jack Worth, Ryburn Road, RD 4, Ruakura, Hamilton.

1984-85 Subscriptions

It has been decided that if DU is to continue to make real progress, particularly with habitat creation, a subscription rise is needed to provide funds. The 1984-85 subscriptions, due 1st April, will therefore increase slightly to the following figures:

Full	— \$15/year
Supporter	— \$10/year
Junior	— \$ 5/year

Trade and Life membership will remain at \$20/year and \$500 respectively. Life membership will continue to be available at \$50/year, as well as in a lump sum.

DU Directors had considered eliminating the Supporter grade of membership, but it was generally felt that this category continues

to provide an important avenue of support. We are confident that all members will support these increases, and we again thank all members for helping the ducks in such a positive manner.

December 'Flight'

The beautiful birds on the cover of the last 'Flight' were much appreciated and the cover was a credit to our printer, Brendan Coe of Lithographic Services. Brendan reproduced the excellent photographs to an extremely high standard. The Blue duck photo is, of course, a real classic and we are negotiating with Donald Bate the photographer for further use of the picture, as we feel that such a picture deserves wider exposure to waterfowl lovers. Unfortunately funds do not allow for further coloured covers at this time, but hopes are high that we may be able to indulge ourselves once per year.

Remington Arms Company Advert

The Remington Arms Company advert, created by the N.Z. Agents — Dunlop Sports N.Z. Ltd — was very well received and our overseas readers have applauded this form of advertising. This advert shows, in a really positive way, that our waterfowl rely on the support of everyone, whether they be pure conservationists, duck hunters, or people who just like ducks. Unfortunately the recent amalgamation of Dunlop Sports and Slazenger has resulted in the advert being cancelled. But hopes are high that we may be able to use it again later on. Some people in the business world tend to frown on this sort of advertising, but we know that very considerable prestige is gained by companies who use this form of advertising; and we all know that with high prestige comes good business.

Ian McFadden's Grey Teal Paper

The publication in the December 'Flight' of Ian McFadden's paper on the usage of nest boxes by Grey Teal was a 'First' for 'Flight', in that it was the first time that DU's journal had been selected for the initial publication of a scientific paper.

Even though the facts and figures in Ian's paper were compiled after only a two season study (DU Directors would have preferred a five year study) the details contained in the paper are extremely useful and are the result of the first study of its type in New Zealand. The results should also silence for ever the few remaining critics of our very important and extremely successful project.

We thank Ian and the Wildlife Service for carrying out this valuable study and for selecting 'Flight' for publication of the results of the study.

Ken Lowry of Winchester Departs

Having established Winchester New Zealand on a very successful and sound footing DU's good friend Ken Lowry has now returned to Winchester headquarters in Australia. Ken will now be responsible for the marketing and promotion of Winchester products in South East Asia. Knowing Ken as we do we are sure that he will do this very successfully.

We thank Ken for his very considerable support and wish him every success in his new venture. Gordon Parker has taken over the top job at Winchester New Zealand. We congratulate Gordon and also wish him every success in the marketing of Winchester products.

Membership

OBE for DU member. For his services to the community and, we suspect, for his activities in the field of conservation, long time DU member Maui Pomare of Plimmerton was awarded the OBE in the New Year Honours. Maui has been a Trustee of the World Wildlife Fund of N.Z. since its inception, and for several years has been the WWF representative on the Wellington Acclimatisation Society Council. We congratulate Maui on this well deserved award.

Hamilton Chapter. Jack Worth and his Chapter committee continue to do great work with membership recruitment and the Chapter now has 254 financial members.

Dunedin. Honorary member Horrie Sinclair continues to also produce impressive results with membership recruitment and has personally obtained nearly 60 members for DU.

This is an outstanding effort and a fine example; just imagine if each member did the same!!

Recent new members. We must thank the Ornithological Society of N.Z. (C/- Post Office, Pauatahanui) for a recent boost in the DU membership. As a result of an excellent review of DU's Brown Teal management booklet, published in the September 1983 edition of 'Notornis', a number of OSNZ members joined DU — including the 'Notornis' editor, Barrie Heather. We also received close to an embarrassingly large number of orders for the booklet and as a result we will need to reprint the avicultural section in the not too distant future.

U.K.Churchill Fellow

Because the prospect of obtaining a good number of Blue duck eggs did not look good, Rod Hall decided not to return to New Zealand. But if everything works out he will come back in late October to give it another go.

The Mt Bruce Native Bird Reserve had very generously offered Rod a clutch of four fertile Blue duck eggs, but at least two clutches were really needed to justify another 15,000km trip. Now that Rod has done all the spade work we are confident that his Churchill Fellowship project will succeed. (See WHIO project notes also.)

National Wildlife Centre Building at Mt Bruce

There has been a recent proposal to rename the Mt Bruce Native Bird Reserve as The National Wildlife Centre, which sounds like a good idea to us. The World Wildlife Fund's proposed National Conservation Centre will apparently now be called The National Wildlife Centre building. The proposed building will house display facilities, a theatre, rest rooms and a cafeteria. The WWF has now raised over \$70,000 towards the project.

DU Waterfowl Breeders

We are indebted to the following members

Cont. on page 10

TO ASSIST THE ORGANISERS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING AND CLAY TARGET CHAMPS COULD YOU PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO PO BOX 74 HAMILTON.

I/We will be attending the annual meeting/clay target championships (delete to suit).

Name..... (If you do not wish to mutilate your 'Flight'

Address..... drop us a note instead of using this form.)

WANTED ALIVE

is a campaign being promoted by the New Zealand Wildlife Service to make every New Zealander aware of the extremely precarious state of some of our unique native animals. For years the staff of the Wildlife Service has laboured to save a number of species teetering on the edge of extinction. Now YOU can show your concern and help in a personal way.

This superb full-colour painting by Janet Marshall, printed to the highest international standards by New Zealand craftsmen, has been produced in support of "Wanted Alive". By ordering a copy now you will be making a positive commitment towards our efforts to save the Chatham Island black robin, kakapo, takahe, black stilt, blue duck (to name only a few), from extinction.

WE WILDLIFERS ARE DEDICATED—ARE YOU?

Send \$4 today for your copy of this beautiful poster and help save our feathered friends from a fate they don't deserve.

"WANTED ALIVE", New Zealand Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs, Private Bag, Wellington.





RELOADERS SUPPLIES LTD

No. 1 IN N.Z. FOR ALL YOUR SPORTING SUPPLIES

WRITE TO PO BOX 13-010 ONEHUNGA OR TEL. (09) 665-407 FOR FREE PRICE LIST



to every financial member of DU (N.Z.), North America, Canada and Mexico.
Programme for Friday commencing at 9am sharp.

- Event No. 1:** DU N.Z. Skeet Championship. 25-Targets for A and B Grades.
 - Event No. 2:** DU N.Z. Sparrow Championship. 20-Targets for A and B Grades. 16m.
 - Event No. 3:** DU N.Z. Double Rise Championship. 10-Pair Targets for A and B Grades. 16m.
 - Event No. 4:** DU N.Z. Single Barrel Championship. 25-Targets for A and B Grades. 16m.
 - Event No. 5:** DU N.Z. Single Rise Championship. 25-Targets for A and B Grades. 16m.
- Note:** Shooting to finish at 5pm.

Programme for Saturday commencing at 8.30am sharp.

- Event No. 1:** Completion of Championships.
- Event No. 2:** Chapter Team Shoot. 5-Man Teams. 75-Targets off 16m.
- Event No. 3:** 10 Man DU N.Z. Team Shoot. 50-Targets each off 16m to establish rankings 1-10 and for possible use in a postal shoot with Mexico, Canada or U.S.A.
- Event No. 4:** Participation in Annual Conference, Dinner and Prize-giving to be held at the Tokaanu Tourist Hotel during the afternoon and evening.

CONDITIONS
 Entry will be \$6.00 per championship plus targets at 17 cents each. \$2.00 optional sweeps paid in full. \$2.00 optional High Gun

on the last four events, paid out in full to A & B Grades, Ladies, Juniors and Veterans. Chapter Team entries will be \$20.00 per team, paid on the mark Sunday morning by the respective Chapters. The winning Team to receive a certificate and a sash for each member. In each Championship event a High/Overall and a champion A & B Grades will be established. The 10-man New Zealand Team will be chosen from all competitors using the scores from events 4 & 5 as the basis for selection. The team shall be named shortly after the conclusion of event No. 5 and shall receive a suitable badge to mark the occasion plus a certificate.

If further info is needed please contact Jack Worth, Ryburn Road, RD 4, Ruakura, Hamilton.

1984-85 Subscriptions

It has been decided that if DU is to continue to make real progress, particularly with habitat creation, a subscription rise is needed to provide funds. The 1984-85 subscriptions, due 1st April, will therefore increase slightly to the following figures:

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Full | — \$15/year |
| Supporter | — \$10/year |
| Junior | — \$ 5/year |
- Trade and Life membership will remain at \$20/year and \$500 respectively. Life membership will continue to be available at \$50/year, as well as in a lump sum.
 DU Directors had considered eliminating the Supporter grade of membership, but it was generally felt that this category continues

TO ASSIST THE ORGANISERS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING AND CLAY TARGET CHAMPS COULD YOU PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO
 PO BOX 74 HAMILTON.

I/We will be attending the annual meeting/clay target championships (delete to suit).

Name..... (If you do not wish to mutilate your 'Flight' drop us a note instead of using this form.)
 Address.....

WANTED ALIVE

is a campaign being promoted by the New Zealand Wildlife Service to make every New Zealander aware of the extremely precarious state of some of our unique native animals. For years the staff of the Wildlife Service has laboured to save a number of species teetering on the edge of extinction. Now YOU can show your concern and help in a personal way.

This superb full-colour painting by Janet Marshall, printed to the highest international standards by New Zealand craftsmen, has been produced in support of "Wanted Alive". By ordering a copy now you will be making a positive commitment towards our efforts to save the Chatham Island black robin, kakapo, takahe, black stilt, blue duck (to name only a few), from extinction.

WE WILDLIFERS ARE DEDICATED—ARE YOU?

Send \$4 today for your copy of this beautiful poster and help save our feathered friends from a fate they don't deserve.

"WANTED ALIVE", New Zealand Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs, Private Bag, Wellington.



to provide an important avenue of support.

We are confident that all members will support these increases, and we again thank all members for helping the ducks in such a positive manner.

December 'Flight'

The beautiful birds on the cover of the last 'Flight' were much appreciated and the cover was a credit to our printer, Brendan Coe of Lithographic Services. Brendan reproduced the excellent photographs to an extremely high standard. The Blue duck photo is, of course, a real classic and we are negotiating with Donald Bate the photographer for further use of the picture, as we feel that such a picture deserves wider exposure to waterfowl lovers. Unfortunately funds do not allow for further coloured covers at this time, but hopes are high that we may be able to indulge ourselves once per year.

Remington Arms Company Advert

The Remington Arms Company advert, created by the N.Z. Agents — Dunlop Sports N.Z. Ltd — was very well received and our overseas readers have applauded this form of advertising. This advert shows, in a really positive way, that our waterfowl rely on the support of everyone, whether they be pure conservationists, duck hunters, or people who just like ducks. Unfortunately the recent amalgamation of Dunlop Sports and Slazenger has resulted in the advert being cancelled. But hopes are high that we may be able to use it again later on. Some people in the business world tend to frown on this sort of advertising, but we know that very considerable prestige is gained by companies who use this form of advertising; and we all know that with high prestige comes good business.

Ian McFadden's Grey Teal Paper

The publication in the December 'Flight' of Ian McFadden's paper on the usage of nest boxes by Grey Teal was a 'First' for 'Flight', in that it was the first time that DU's journal had been selected for the initial publication of a scientific paper.

Even though the facts and figures in Ian's paper were compiled after only a two season study (DU Directors would have preferred a five year study) the details contained in the paper are extremely useful and are the result of the first study of its type in New Zealand. The results should also silence for ever the few remaining critics of our very important and extremely successful project.

We thank Ian and the Wildlife Service for carrying out this valuable study and for selecting 'Flight' for publication of the results of the study.

Ken Lowry of Winchester Departs

Having established Winchester New Zealand on a very successful and sound footing DU's good friend Ken Lowry has now returned to Winchester headquarters in Australia. Ken will now be responsible for the marketing and promotion of Winchester products in South East Asia. Knowing Ken as we do we are sure that he will do this very successfully.

We thank Ken for his very considerable support and wish him every success in his new venture. Gordon Parker has taken over the top job at Winchester New Zealand. We congratulate Gordon and also wish him every success in the marketing of Winchester products.

Membership

OBE for DU member. For his services to the community and, we suspect, for his activities in the field of conservation, long time DU member Maui Pomare of Plimmerton was awarded the OBE in the New Year Honours. Maui has been a Trustee of the World Wildlife Fund of N.Z. since its inception, and for several years has been the WWF representative on the Wellington Acclimatisation Society Council. We congratulate Maui on this well deserved award.

Hamilton Chapter. Jack Worth and his Chapter committee continue to do great work with membership recruitment and the Chapter now has 254 financial members.

Dunedin. Honorary member Horrie Sinclair continues to also produce impressive results with membership recruitment and has personally obtained nearly 60 members for DU.

This is an outstanding effort and a fine example; just imagine if each member did the same!!

Recent new members. We must thank the Ornithological Society of N.Z. (C/- Post Office, Pauatahanui) for a recent boost in the DU membership. As a result of an excellent review of DU's Brown Teal management booklet, published in the September 1983 edition of 'Notornis', a number of OSNZ members joined DU — including the 'Notornis' editor, Barrie Heather. We also received close to an embarrassingly large number of orders for the booklet and as a result we will need to reprint the avicultural section in the not too distant future.

U.K. Churchill Fellow

Because the prospect of obtaining a good number of Blue duck eggs did not look good, Rod Hall decided not to return to New Zealand. But if everything works out he will come back in late October to give it another go.

The Mt Bruce Native Bird Reserve had very generously offered Rod a clutch of four fertile Blue duck eggs, but at least two clutches were really needed to justify another 15,000km trip. Now that Rod has done all the spade work we are confident that his Churchill Fellowship project will succeed. (See WHIO project notes also.)

National Wildlife Centre Building at Mt Bruce

There has been a recent proposal to rename the Mt Bruce Native Bird Reserve as The National Wildlife Centre, which sounds like a good idea to us. The World Wildlife Fund's proposed National Conservation Centre will apparently now be called The National Wildlife Centre building. The proposed building will house display facilities, a theatre, rest rooms and a cafeteria. The WWF has now raised over \$70,000 towards the project.

DU Waterfowl Breeders

We are indebted to the following members

Cont. on page 10

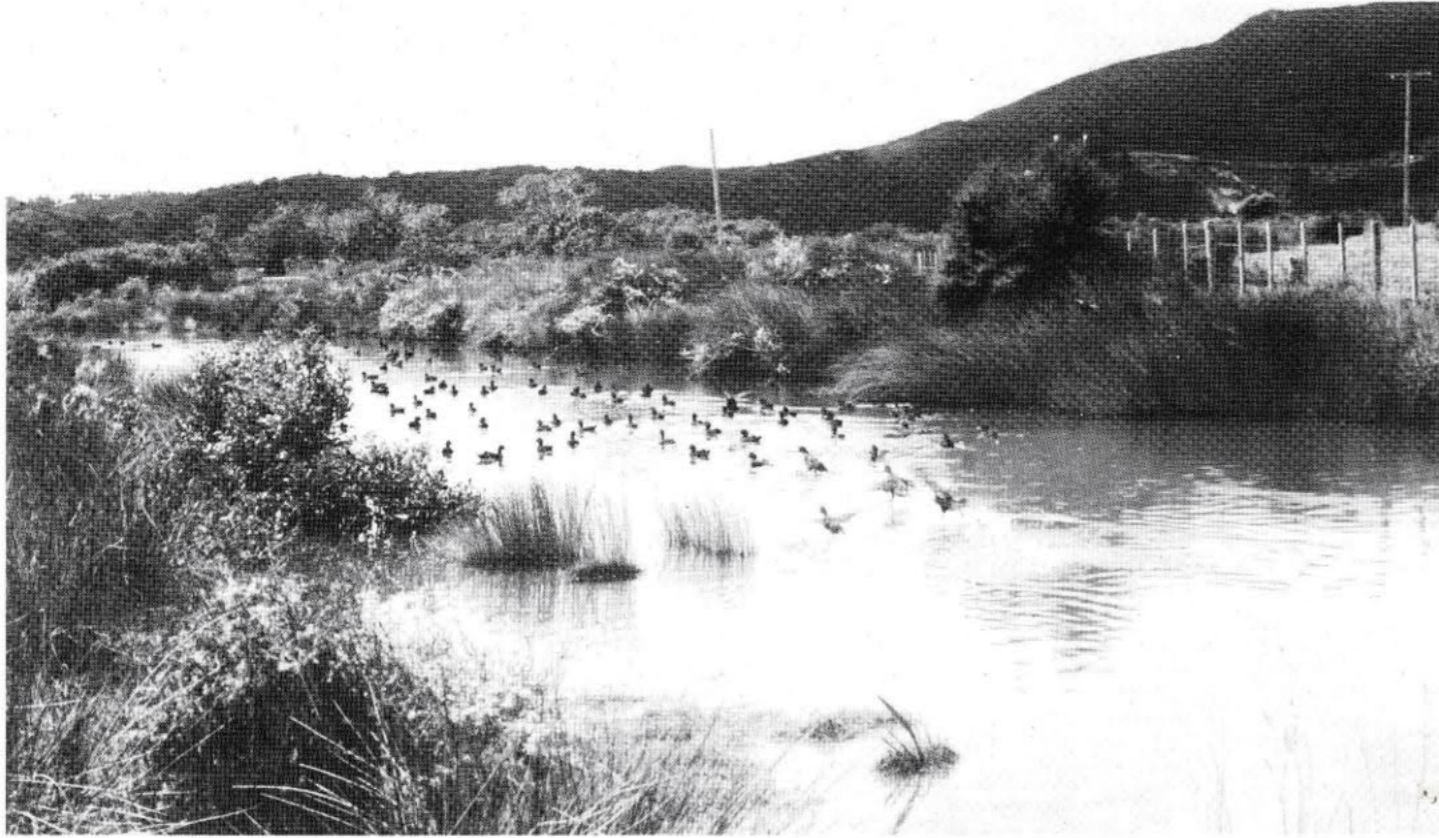
RELOADERS SUPPLIES LTD

No. 1 IN N.Z. FOR ALL YOUR SPORTING SUPPLIES

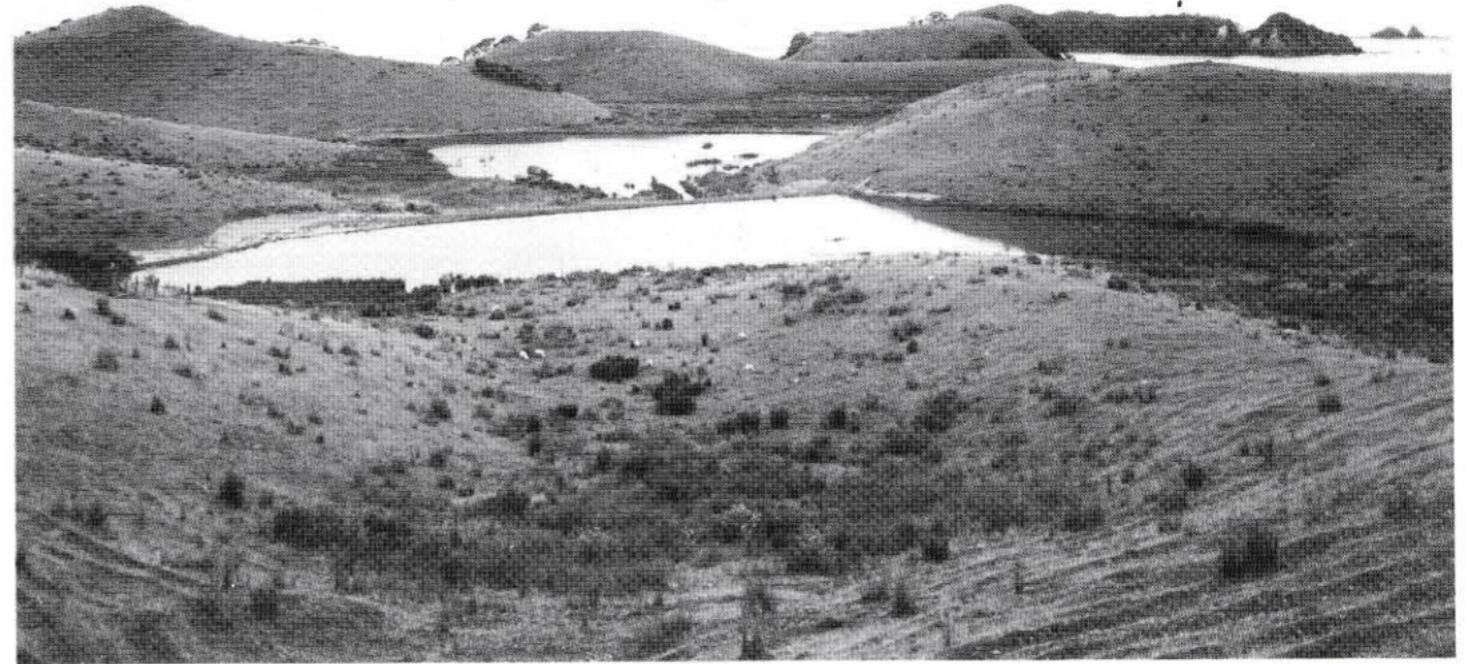
WRITE TO PO BOX 13-010 ONEHUNGA OR TEL. (09) 665-407 FOR FREE PRICE LIST

BROWN

TEAL



120 Brown Teal at Parekura Bay.



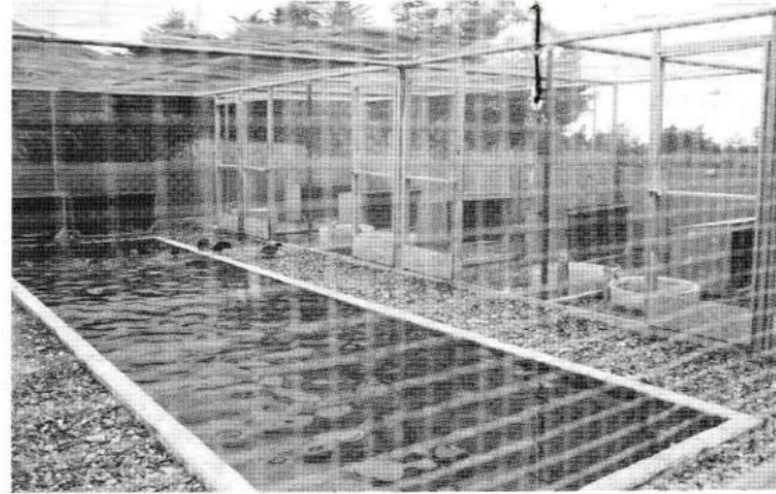
New ponds at Mimiwhangata where four broods of Brown Teal were reared.



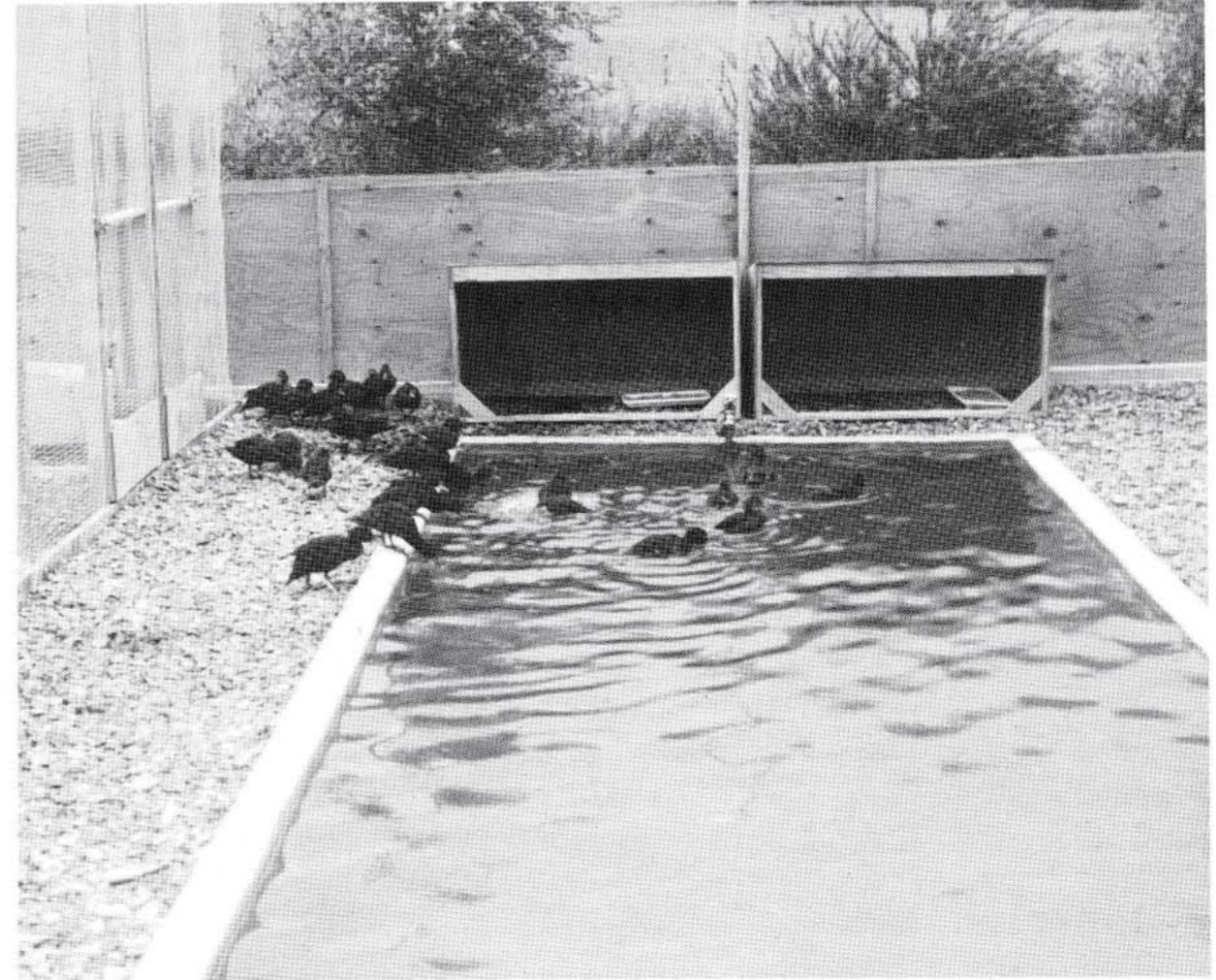
Matapouri estuary site.



A rare sight. 25 Brown Teal in the air.



Holding aviary at Mt Bruce.



Wash and brush-up time at Mt Bruce.

PROJECT REPORTS

OPERATION PATEKE



Brown Teal at Helena Bay.

Breeding season progress. The 1983-84 Brown Teal breeding season is going well and at the end of January indications were that we will easily beat last season's record 112. Main contenders for this year's 'Breeder of the Year' award are Otorohanga Zoological Society (Barry Rowe) 21, John Gill 18, Ian Pirani 15, Neil Hayes 13, Ron Munro 11, Roy & Murray Dench 16. The season officially ends on April 30th and at the time of writing several birds are still laying.

Unfortunately one member has experienced a hybridisation problem with mallard/Brown Teal hybrids and this will reduce our final total somewhat. Such occurrences are, however, extremely rare, but whenever a number of species are present in a relatively small area hybridisation is always a possibility.

Auckland Acclimatisation Society involvement. In its recent annual report the society announced its intentions to institute a Brown Teal propagation programme amongst its members. We would certainly be pleased to see such involvement by the society and have written to the society offering pairs of flock mated Brown Teal to any society members with approved facilities. Our only requirement is that society members join Ducks Unlimited, to ensure that the propagation programme remains completely integrated. An integrated programme being absolutely essential for the welfare of the Brown Teal.

We will keep you informed on developments, but take this opportunity to again thank all our Pateke participants for their continued co-operation and involvement, and at the same time state that it will always be our policy to bend over backwards to help anyone who seriously wishes to become involved in the programme to save the Brown Teal.

Brown Teal Research. The DU supported research project will commence on Great Barrier Island in April. An in-depth study

of the habitat requirements and breeding biology of Brown Teal will be carried out by Grant Dumbell as a Doctor of Philosophy research project. Grant has a BSc Hons (First Class) from Victoria University and was highly recommended for the Brown Teal work by Dr Murray Williams of the Wildlife Service who will be one of Grant's supervisors. Grant will be a student of the University of Auckland and Senior Lecturer John Craig will be Grant's immediate supervisor.

Full details of this important project, which DU is supporting to the tune of a minimum \$2,000 per year, will hopefully be published in the next 'Flight'.

While Grant is at work on Great Barrier the Wildlife Service is hopeful that it can arrange for one of its scientific staff to commence a similar study in Northland. So it's going to be an exciting period in the Brown Teal re-establishment and survival programme.

1983-84 Liberations. Having released 32 Brown Teal at the Nga Manu Trust during the present release period, the remaining birds from this season will be held over for release in Northland and for flock mating requirements.

Holding a good number of birds until late July presented DU with a major problem, as currently we do not have an aviary available. But thanks to the Wildlife Service, and particularly John Cheyne, officer in charge at the National Wildlife Centre (Mt Bruce) the majority of our birds will be held at the Wildlife Centre in the impressive new aviary which has just recently been built.

The following photographs show details of the new holding aviary, which has ten small aviaries, each with their own pond, and a large central pond — the idea being that the residents of each small aviary are allowed in turn on to the large pond for a big splash around. The aviary is a superb effort and we

thank John and the Wildlife Service for their valuable work and assistance.

1984-85 Liberations. The birds held over from the 83-84 breeding season will be released at suitable sites in Northland, where around 400 still survive in the wild. The main reasons for holding the birds until late July are; the shooting season will be over, and some birds released will already be pair bonded after their fairly long confinement.

In late January this year your Secretary/Editor was fortunate enough to be in Northland and was able to spend several days looking for Brown Teal. And thanks entirely to Senior Wildlife Officer in Whangarei, Richard Anderson, around 200 Brown Teal were sighted. Richard is the Brown Teal expert in the far north and it is largely through Richard's activities that the future for Brown Teal in Northland is starting to look considerably more promising than it did. At Helena Bay, Mimiwhangata, and Parekura Bay extensive fencing and planting has been carried out at known Brown Teal haunts. The Northland Federation of Acclimatisation Societies has assisted this work with excellent financial support. The work is already showing results, with 120 Brown Teal being counted at one site.

Another exciting development is taking place at the Mimiwhangata Farm Park, where on two recently created lagoons twenty Brown Teal were counted. But the really exciting news is that on these two ponds four broods of Brown Teal were reared this season. As can be seen in the photograph, these two ponds are well fenced and planted. The islands are being well used by the teal and observations showed quite clearly the immense value of islands. It is at Mimiwhangata that most of our Brown Teal will be released this year. Suitable nest boxes will be erected about the middle of this year and we are confident of some early usage. Other good features about the farm park are that no shooting is allowed, no dogs are allowed, predator numbers are low, and the access is limited and strictly controlled. The area also has other good wetlands nearby and is only a short distance from Helena Bay and a number of other vital Brown Teal areas.

Richard Anderson has also been carrying out extensive investigative and negotiative work close to the Matapouri Estuary — which is south of Mimiwhangata. The area concerned was once an important Brown Teal roost, but with grazing down to the waters edge the Brown Teal have moved out. Plans are now in hand to fence and plant the area and re-establish it as a roost site. DU Directors are hopeful that funds can be made available to assist the work at Matapouri and it is at this site where we expect good numbers of our birds to eventually be released. DU thanks Richard Anderson for the time he spent with Neil Hayes and congratulates him on his achievements in Northland.

OPERATION WHIO

Arising out of U.K. Churchill Fellow Rod Hall's visit to New Zealand, in search of Blue duck eggs to take to the Wildfowl Trust, came two adverse and ill-informed comments about the project in two N.Z. newspapers.

Both newspaper reports suggested that Blue ducks should be retained in New Zealand and we kiwi's would learn nothing about Blue ducks from the involvement of the Wildfowl Trust. (I have good reason to believe that this philosophy is not confined to journalists only!) So we wrote to the newspaper editors concerned and printed below is the basis of what we had to say. We see our philosophy as an enlightened, informed, and correct one (in all modesty) and parochialism has no place in the long term conservation of rare wildlife.

"We would appreciate the opportunity to comment on your recent article about the export of Blue duck eggs to Sir Peter Scott's Wildfowl Trust in the U.K., as your reporter clearly showed that he has a somewhat naive knowledge of the functions and achievements of the Wildfowl Trust.

"The fact is that the Trust has already saved several species of waterfowl from extinction. Their most remarkable effort being with the Hawaiian goose, which from a population of less than 30 has been increased to over 2,500. Apart from now doing well in its own country, thanks to several large shipments from the U.K., the Wildfowl Trust has distributed many Hawaiian geese to zoos and private breeders all over the world. These efforts have now resulted in the Hawaiian goose being removed from the endangered species list.

"This is the sort of activity that we would expect from the Wildfowl Trust when they eventually establish a collection of Blue ducks.

"In fact in 1979 Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) sent some of our rare and endangered Brown Teal to the Wildfowl Trust. Since then the Trust has reared well over 100 Brown Teal and has distributed many pairs to private breeders in many parts of the world. This being an essen-

tial safety measure; for there is no guarantee that efforts in New Zealand will save the Brown Teal, which numbers only about 1,000. After all, how many species of wildlife has New Zealand saved from extinction?

"In respect of the Blue duck our knowledge of this species is abysmal and efforts to breed these birds in captivity in New Zealand have to date been fraught with disaster. With Blue duck declining in the wild any proposal to study and breed this species in captivity, whether it be here or overseas, must be given enthusiastic support.

"A representative from the Wildfowl Trust will be back in New Zealand later this year to again search for Blue duck eggs and you can be assured that we will be doing everything possible to ensure that the project is successful."

Our letters were published in the newspapers concerned, and according to reports were well read.

Breeding season. John Cheyne and his staff at Mt Bruce were the only people to breed Blue ducks during the 83-84 breeding season and four birds have been reared. DU can, however, claim some credit for assisting in this success as the female bird responsible for the fertile eggs was given to Mt Bruce by DU a couple of years ago.

OPERATION GRETEL

Grey Teal population census. The good news from the Wildlife Service is that they are organising a nationwide count of Grey Teal. The count will take place on the 17th March and the sites chosen for the count will be largely those used for the 1974 count, when it was established that 20,000 Grey Teal were present in New Zealand. DU members with important Grey Teal areas in their region have been asked to assist with the count and they will be in close liaison with their local acclimatisation society staff who will be co-ordinating counts in their areas.

We have guesstimated that around 50,000 Grey Teal are now present in New Zealand, but the intrinsic purpose of the count is to determine whether the population has in-

creased since 1974. If it has we will naturally claim much credit for this, and if it hasn't we will still claim much credit, as the population would obviously be non-existent without our nest boxes!!! Hopefully we will have some figures for you in the June 'Flight'.

Pokeno. At the time of writing the habitat work at Tony Flexman's, which DU is financially assisting, has not yet commenced.

Dunedin. Horrie Sinclair's boxes at his famous wetlands have seen good usage, with ten successful nests being recorded and over 80 eggs hatching. Previously only two successful nests had been recorded. Horrie reports an excellent all-round breeding season, with high brood numbers surviving to the flying stage. Horrie also reported that six Australian Mountain Ducks had been sighted in late January by Monty Wright, Field Officer with the Otago Acclimatisation Society, in the Maniototo wetlands. This being one of the few sightings since the last duck season.

Matthews Lagoon. Good news from Matthews Lagoon in that two successful nests have been recorded. This being the first time any of the 25 boxes have been used. Another box was also used, but in this one dumping had occurred and the 17 eggs laid had been deserted.

OPERATION BRANTA

A small shipment of Canada geese is expected to arrive from the South Island in late February. We will not be able to supply the demand from this shipment, as additional interest from North Island farmers was created by the DU/Country Calendar programme. DU Director and Country Calendar 'star' Jim Campbell very generously allowed twelve geese to be removed from his property, and this has helped the project considerably. North Island breeding has again been very successful and hunters in Wairoa are being allowed further opportunities to hunt geese during the duck season.



ROD & RIFLE

MAGAZINE

New Zealand's Premier Sporting Publication

Upland gamebird hunting.
Wildfowling. Big game
hunting. Seafishing.
Trout angling.

GUARANTEE YOUR COPY

Please send me one year's subscription to Rod & Rifle magazine. (6 issues)
I enclose my cheque/money order for \$10.50.

Name:

Address:

Post to:
Rod & Rifle Magazine
PO Box 38-138
PETONE

From page 5

who have indicated that their waterfowl collections are open for viewing; generally by appointment only — except in the case of Staglands, Hilldale Zoo, Mt Bruce, Wellington Zoo and Otorohanga Zoo, which are all open to visitors throughout the year. The list covers most parts of the country, so when you are in their area please do not hesitate to get in touch with the members listed. If you have a waterfowl collection and your name is not yet on the list but you would like it added please let us know. We are also indebted to Anne and Bill Clinton-Baker for compiling the list.

WATERFOWL COLLECTIONS

Barlow, Graham, R.D.1, Kaukapakapa, Northland.
 Bourke, Michael, R.D.2, Kimbolton (Rangiwhia 840).
 Brenkley, David, 48 Michael St, Masterton (80291).
 Bronger, S, Box 403, Tauranga (84914).
 Campbell, Jim, 'Ramslie', Masterton (25867).
 Clinton-Baker, Bill & Anne, 'Tupurupuru', R.D.4., Masterton (27801).
 Cosgrove, E.E., Akatarawa, Upper Hutt.
 Cox, Ray, Tikorangi Rd, Waitara (5345).
 Glover, Jim, R.D., Plimmerton (Wellington 331053).
 Goodwin, Mrs S, Spencer Rd, Lake

Tarawera, Rotorua (53113).
 Hayes, F. Neil, 17 Wise St, Wainuiomata (Wellington 646622).
 Hilldale Zoo Park, C/- M. Powell, Hamilton (84649).
 Issac, Neil, Peacock Springs, Christchurch (599145).
 McNeil, David, Te Poi, Matamata (Te Poi 809).
 Nga Manu Trust, C/- Peter McKenzie, Waikanae (Paraparaumu 88258).
 Morrison, Derek, Waitohu Valley Rd, R.D.1., Otaki.
 Morrison, Bill, 'Onetai', Masterton. (23825).
 Munro, Ron, Mokotua, R.D.7., Invercargill (Kapuka 827).
 Mount Bruce Wildlife Centre, Masterton (Eketahuna 4115).
 Nelson Parker, J, Lockhead Rd, Te Puna, Tauranga (25596).
 Otorohanga Zoological Society, C/- Barry Rowe, Otorohanga.
 Parris, Jack, 'Marahau', R.D.2., Motueka.
 Peters, Wayne, R.D.1., New Plymouth (Egmont Valley 893).
 Pirani, Ian & Dawn, Box 275, Ngongotaha (Kaharoa 692).
 Pirani, Paul & Cheryl, Kahikatea Flat Road, Albany (Hibiscus Coast 63332).
 -Pritt, Diane, 'Mitredale', Smiths Road, Oakune (Ohakune 182K).
 Smith Gus, 7 Dunk Place, Palmerston North (84425).
 'Staglands', C/- John Simister, Akatarawa, Upper Hutt (267529).

DU Directors to Attend Meeting in U.S.A.

While on a private trip to the U.S.A. three DU Directors, Ian Pirani, Diane Pritt, and Mark Timms, will attend the annual conference of DU (U.S.A.) which is being held in Acapulco, Mexico in April. While in the U.S.A. the party will also spend much of the time visiting our many contacts. They will be taking with them a tape of our Country Calendar programme and hope to show this at the annual conference.

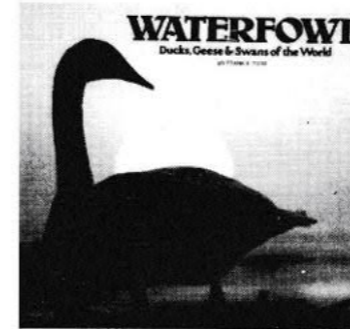
Country Calendar Video Tape

The use of our DU/Country Calendar tapes for private viewing has proved very popular and is an outstanding means of showing what DU (N.Z.) is all about. If any member would like the loan of a tape please drop a note to box 74, Hamilton.

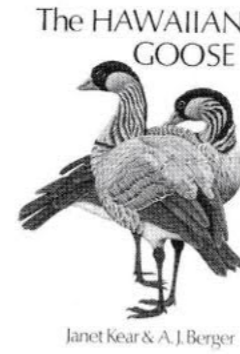


Helena Bay roost.

D.U SALES DEPT



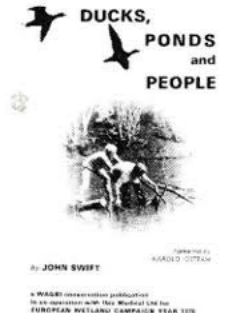
Waterfowl: Ducks, Geese & Swans of the World by Frank Todd. This is the ultimate in waterfowl books and a must for all DU members. 400 pages covering the status of the world's waterfowl, their aviculture and general management. Also contains excellent chapters on photography and on hunting and conservation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



The Hawaiian Goose 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.



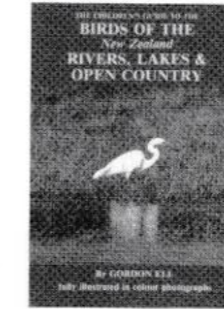
A Coloured Key to the Waterfowl of the World by Sir Peter Scott. 96 pages with coloured plates and notes detailing the status of the waterfowl of the world. Price \$8.50.



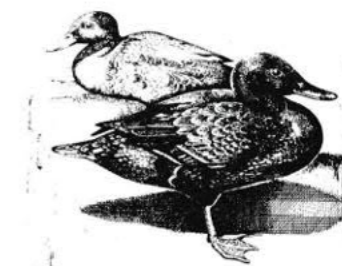
Ducks, Ponds & People by John Swift of B.A.S.C. 112 pages provide a guide to the management of small lakes and ponds for waterfowl. (DU's best selling book.) Price \$7.50.



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.



New from DU sales division. A greetings card showing our rare Brown Teal in pen and ink by Wellington artist Pamela Matthews. There are ten cards and envelopes per pack. Four cards are in a plain finish, three in a silver finish and three in a bronze finish. Very high quality and only \$5 per pack incl p&p.



Ducks Unlimited membership badges, sized 5/8" diameter, featuring the corporate symbol in gold/white/blue are available from DU Headquarters, PO Box 74, Hamilton. Price \$5 each.



Gamebird Hunting by Tom Caithness. 96 pages covering problems, questions and answers on gamebird hunting in N.Z. Price \$7.00 incl p&p.



Duck Shooters Bag by Murray Williams. 120 pages covering facts, figures and wildlife management of waterfowl in N.Z. Price \$7.00 incl p&p.

ORDER FORM
 PLEASE ALLOW APPROX. 3 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

TO: DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INC., DATE.....
 PO BOX 74
 HAMILTON

PLEASE POST ME THE FOLLOWING (All prices include postage)	Cost each
Waterfowl: Ducks, Geese & Swans of the World	\$49.50
A Coloured Key To The Waterfowl of the World	\$8.50
Ducks Ponds & People	\$7.50
Wildfowl Management on Inland Waters	\$9.50
The Duckshooters Bag	\$7.00
DU Badge(s)	\$5.00
Brown Teal Greetings Cards (per pack of 10)	\$5.00
Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Decals	\$1.00
Birds of the NZ Rivers, Lakes and Open Country	\$5.00
The Hawaiian Goose	\$22.50
Gamebird Hunting	\$7.00
DU Tie	\$12.50

I ENCLOSE MY CHEQUE FOR \$..... IN PAYMENT
 NAME (Please print).....
 ADDRESS