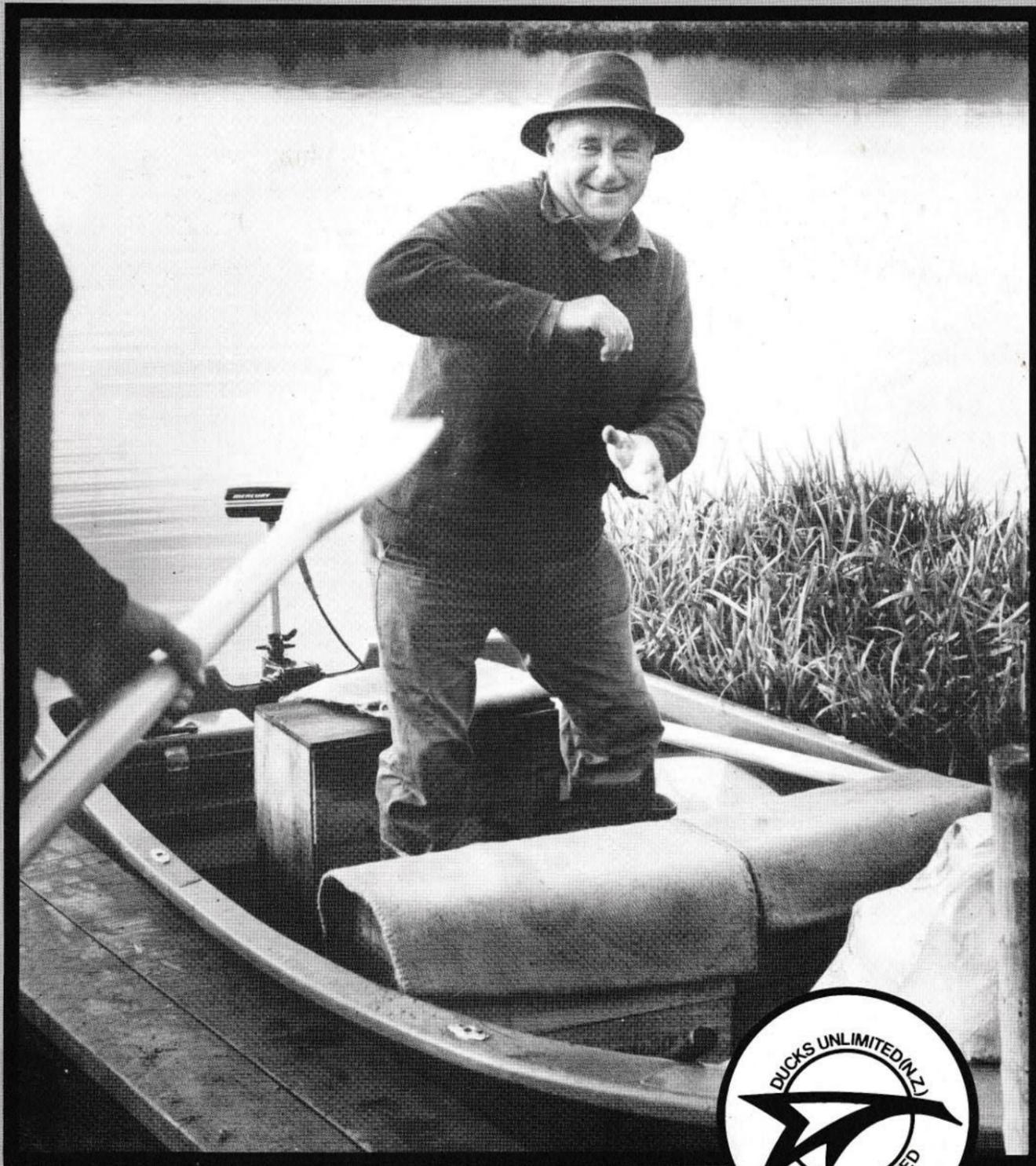


Flight

No. 3/84 • ISSUE 41 • SEPT 1984

NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE

DUCKS UNLIMITED'S
QUARTERLY
WATERFOWL JOURNAL

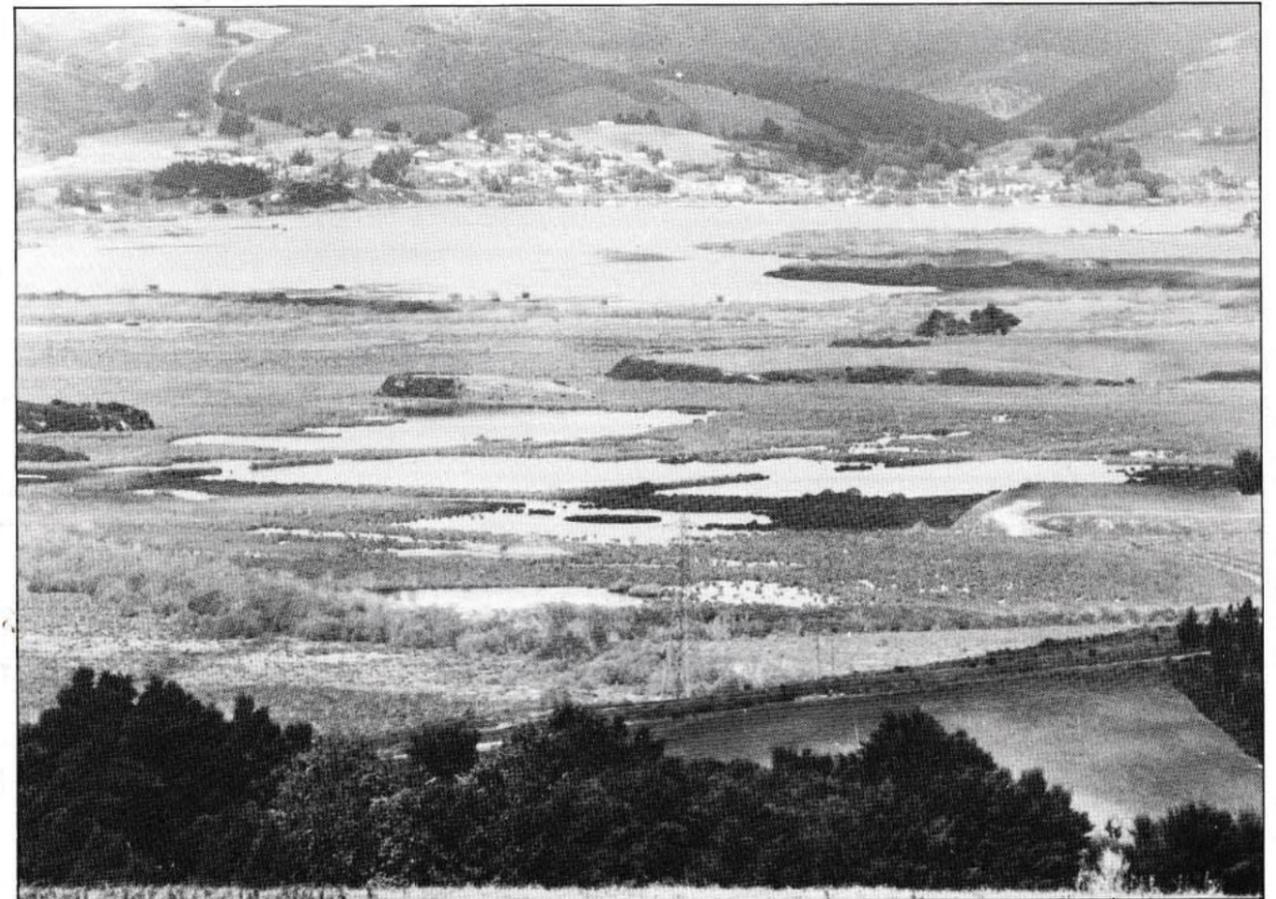


H. A. Sinclair.



Winchester (NZ) Ltd

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



Habitat: The Essential Ingredient
For Survival

The Sinclair Wetlands
Dunedin



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 1984-85

PRESIDENT

P.B.C. Pirani 'Branta' Kahikatea Flat Road, Dairy Flat, RD2, Albany, AUCKLAND.

VICE-PRESIDENT

J. Campbell, Rameslie, RD1, MASTERTON

SECRETARY

F.N. Hayes, 17 Wise Street, WAINUIOMATA

TREASURER

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

BOARD MEMBERS

M. Timms, 9 Millward St., WANGANUI.

B. Coe, 11 Burnside, St., LOWER HUTT.

A. Elliott, RD4, PAHIATUA.

F.S.S. Bailey, P.O. Box 12003, PENROSE.

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

B. Coe, 11 Burnside St., LOWER HUTT.

'Flight' Editor

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

Wildlife Service Representative on the Board

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

Honorary Veterinary Adviser

J.O. Gill B.V.Sc, WELLINGTON.

HONORARY MEMBERS

K. Barnett, Tokaanu

H.A. Sinclair, Dunedin

K.G.W. Wilkinson, Cambridge

LIFE MEMBERS

W. Barrett, Australia

J.C. Campbell, Masterton

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

Isaac Wildlife Trust, Christchurch

N. Marsh, Taupo

TRADE MEMBERS

Marshall Fine Arts, Stratford

Allan Millar Gunsmith (1984) Ltd., Dunedin

Rod & Rifle Magazine, Petone

W.H. Day, Winton

Halcyon Publishing Co. Auckland

Reloaders Supplies Ltd, Auckland

Partridge & Savage, Porirua

Wgtn Sporting Arms Co. Ltd Petone

A.R. Wilson Ltd, Hamilton

Wellington Zoological Gardens

Winchester NZ Ltd, Auckland

Westpac Banking Corp, Te Aro, Wellington

Reikorangi Pottery, Waikanae

Nga Manu Trust, Waikanae

Stanley Ammunition Co., Auckland

Pacific Arms Co., Wellington

P. Johansen, Tokoroa

Otorohanga Zoo, Otorohanga

The World of Shooting, South Africa

TOKAANU 14TH JULY 84 - AN OUTSTANDING DAY FOR DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.)

Those hundred and twenty members who attended the 1984 annual meeting at THC Tokaanu are unlikely to ever forget that sensational afternoon of July 14th. Not because it was the 10th Annual meeting and election day, but because Horrie Sinclair was present.

To sum up an outstanding address, which covered his twenty-five years of managing New Zealand's best private wetlands, Horrie Sinclair announced that he had decided to gift his 779 acre property to Ducks Unlimited. The five minutes standing ovation which greeted this very moving moment will never be forgotten by those present.

The Sinclair wetlands have long been recognised as the best privately owned wetlands in New Zealand and a recent visiting authority considered the property to rank in the world's top ten private wetlands.

The property is a priceless paradise for some sixty-seven species of wildlife and Ducks Unlimited is honoured and privileged to become part of the Sinclair wetlands. Formal details of the gifting to D.U. are being drawn up and we hope to be in a position to make a

public announcement in the near future.

A comprehensive management plan, which will cover both short and long term considerations, will be drawn up for the area and a management committee, with Horrie as Chairman for life, will be established. Further details will be published later, but shortly we plan to get a wetlands fund raising project off the ground and all D.U. members will be asked to help. In addition a wetlands fund raising pamphlet will be distributed nationwide.

Habitat is the key to survival and the next period will see D.U. (N.Z.) making a very significant contribution to wetlands. Horrie Sinclair has provided us with the inspiration we need and our sincere thanks to him. In 1960 Horrie was a man ahead of his time (see the notes on his address) and it was only through his foresight and determination that the Sinclair wetlands still remain the best private wetlands in New Zealand. Let's ensure that they remain this way for ever.

Horrie's announcement certainly set the trend for what was easily our best annual gathering to date and it was an incredible achievement that we lost nothing to the



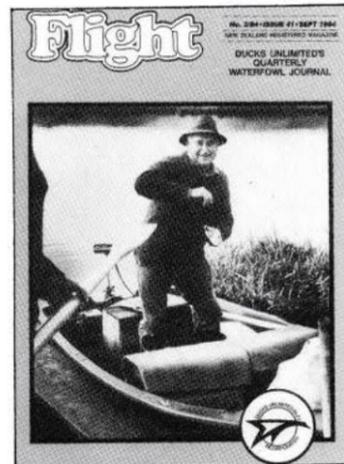
David McNeil delivering his WHIO report



"A small part of the Sinclair Wetlands . . ."

IN THIS ISSUE

TOKAANU 14TH JULY 84	3
LETTERS	7
DU NEWS	8
ANNUAL CONFERENCE	10



COVER PICTURE
The man of the moment —
Horrie Sinclair

Photography: Neil Hayes, Diane Pritt, Gary Girvan, Craig Walker

Ducks Unlimited (NZ) 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 (NZ) Incorporated reaching 1300 devoted members and friends concerned with waterfowl conservation. DU membership begins at \$5.00 pa for Junior to \$15.00 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 (NZ) Incorporated.

"FLIGHT" IS PRINTED BY LITHOGRAPHIC SERVICES LTD, PETONE

General Election. Naturally enough much of the credit must again go to THC Tokaanu Manager Keith Barnett who provided a superb four course meal, complete with wine, for 150 people.

Honorary member and auctioneer Bill Wilkinson was in fine form and in his 9th D.U. auction raised an all time record of \$9,000. The silent auction was also an outstanding success, raising over \$2,000 with some fast and furious bids.

The Hamilton Chapter again showed what can be achieved by dedication and enthusiasm and Craig Worth of the Chapter presented D.U. President Paul Pirani with cheques for over \$2,000. Bringing the total raised by the Chapter to over \$7,000 in three years. The new Taumarunui Chapter, which ran the inaugural clay bird championships, also presented, through its Chairman Gavin Brears, a cheque for \$500. Tremendous work by both chapters. The gross income for the weekend was some \$18,000, which was around \$6,000 up on 1983. Fantastic!

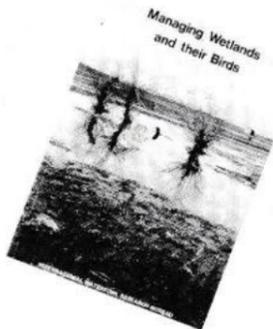


Horrie addressing the meeting



Craig Worth presenting Paul Pirani with a \$2,000 cheque from the Hamilton Chapter

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE



\$18.50
(inc Postage)

New from DU sales section is one of the best books we have seen on wetlands management. Written by the experts of the International Waterfowl Research Bureau the book covers such topics as: management of Water Levels, Management of Vegetation, Creation of Wetlands, Creation of Artificial Nesting Sites, Prevention of Crop Damage, Endangered Species Management, and much more. 368 pages. Order your copy now, from:

DU (NZ) Inc. P.O. Box 74, Hamilton

This year's auction items included six carved decoys and ten waterfowl art prints donated by D.U. (U.S.A.) – the world's largest conservation organisation with nearly 600,000 members. The support from D.U. (U.S.A.) over the past ten years has been outstanding.

Also outstanding has been the continual support from several N.Z. companies, particularly Winchester N.Z., Reloaders Supplies, Reikorangi Pottery, Wellington Sporting Arms Co., King & Henry, and W.H. Tisdall Ltd of Auckland.

The Sunday morning get-together proved very popular and successful and we were again privileged to have on display a fine range of Winchester sporting guns; the display having been very kindly arranged by Gordon Parker, Winchester's New Zealand manager. This display created great interest and comments were widespread about third mortgages being taken out!

D.U. Sales section benefited considerably from the Sunday morning session, and the opportunity was also provided for many members to talk to Horrie Sinclair at length.

All in all a highly successful and enjoyable weekend.

Great tribute must again be paid to Cheryl

and Dawn Pirani, Sylvia Hayes and Diane Pritt, who worked tirelessly throughout and helped make it work so well. (Not only did they work outstandingly well this year they have been doing so for ten years!)

Of course, the strong support from members continues to make our annual get-togethers so successful, particularly in respect of the magnificent auction items, and the D.U. Board of Directors would like to thank the following for donating auction items for the 1984 auction:

Mr & Mrs J. Campbell
King & Henry Ltd
Army Stores Ltd
Jack Worth
Brendan Coe
Mr & Mrs N. Hayes
Mr & Mrs I.H. Pirani
Mr & Mrs P. Pirani
Mr & Mrs A. Elliott
Halcyon Publishing Co Ltd
W. Day
T. Caithness
D.U. (U.S.A.)
W.H. Tisdalls Ltd
Hang Up Gallery
Mr & Mrs E. Hansen
C. Walker

Turoa Ammo Co.
M. Dench
Wellington Sporting Arms Co. Ltd
Mr & Mrs K. Barnett
D. Pritt
M. Timms
Drews Jewellers
G. Girvan
FCOS Ohakune
M. Bourke
B. Wilde
R. Trethewey, Canada
Neville Newcomb Ltd
Mr & Mrs J. Glover
Winchester N.Z. Ltd
R. Denny
D. McCulloch
Mr & Mrs G. Barlow
W. Barrett
K. Mackie
A. Wilks
A. Hart
A. Cutten
Reikorangi Pottery
M. Ford
N.Z. Field & Stream magazine
David Hagerbaumer U.S.A.
G. Boness
N.Z. Field & Stream
D. Eley
Broadhead Jewellers



Ian Pirani presenting Jack Worth with the Bill Barrett Trophy

HUNTERS AND CONSERVATION

No New Zealand hunter should ever return from the field or wetland without feeling richer for the experience — no matter what kind of day it was. Sure, he may have missed his duck or pheasant, and his bag may be empty. But the hunter can still come home with something in his pocket — and that's pride. Pride because there's still a quiet place to hunt and natural habitat where game can thrive.

Whether he took a limit bag or merely received exercise, the sportsman has joined in step with tradition, a valued tradition which has preserved the sport of hunting in New Zealand for generations. Hunters have been making important contributions to the management of our back country and wildlife since pioneer days. They have been in the forefront of nearly every worthwhile conservation movement for over a century.

Today, the voice of conservation is louder than ever before. The crush of the cities has brought conservation to the attention of people who have never before been concerned with improperly managed forests, waters and wetlands. Keeping in step with these demands of the '80s, Government is taking an ever-increasing role in setting aside open spaces to assure future generations of room for recreation.

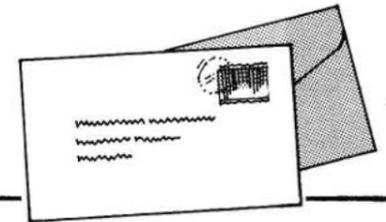
In the years ahead, as competition for open space increases, it is important that the general public be aware of the stake that the New Zealand hunter has in the out-of-doors; and the vital role that the sportsman has played in preserving this priceless land, and its wildlife, for the mutual benefit of all New Zealanders.



NEW ZEALAND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Department of Internal Affairs, Private Bag, Wellington

WORKING FOR YOUR SPORT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Neil,

May I through the columns of your 'Flight' magazine record my views and thanks to those involved with my attendance at what was my first AGM of Ducks Unlimited, over the weekend of 13th-15th July 1984 at Tokaanu.

My thanks to Neil and Sylvia Hayes, Brendan and Ngaire Coe for meals and accommodation, plus transport around Wellington. To Brendan Coe for transport to Tokaanu and out to Taumarunui for the clay bird shoot. To Paul and Cheryl Pirani for looking after me at Tokaanu. To Keith and Dulcie Barnett 'mine hosts' at THC Tokaanu for excellent accommodation and involvement throughout the weekend. To all D.U. Directors, plus many friends, old and new, thanks for a great weekend.

I must also mention that incredible fund raising auction, the auctioneer — my fellow Honorary member Bill Wilkinson, and the hard working girls at the core of collecting money and running raffles. Great work.

From one who has spent a lifetime involved in what D.U. is all about — conservation and habitat retention (without habitat we have nothing), may I express my congratulations to D.U. on reaching its 10th anniversary and from what I saw and became involved in over the weekend, and the total enthusiasm of all concerned, I feel sure that D.U. will go from strength to strength. I am very confident that the future of our waterfowl and the retention of wetland habitats to protect all the rare and endangered species is now much more assured than it was a few short years ago.

Truly an unforgettable experience and may I say to all D.U. members try to attend a D.U. annual meeting. You won't regret or forget it.
Horrie Sinclair

Dear Neil,

Like you, I am pleased that a research project on Brown Teal on Great Barrier Island is at last under-way, and I enjoyed reading about Grant Dumbell's Ph.D. programme in the June 1984 issue of 'Flight' magazine. The financial contribu-

tion made to the project by Ducks Unlimited is very valuable and is no doubt much appreciated by Grant, as it is by the Wildlife Service. I do have one small quibble about the 'Flight' article, however, and that concerns the omission of any reference to the fact that Grant's Ph.D. research has been made possible by the award of an Internal Affairs Wildlife Ph.D. Scholarship, which will provide almost \$20,000 over three years. Without this Scholarship, it is very unlikely that Grant would have been able to undertake the project despite the generous offer of \$2,000 per year from Ducks Unlimited.

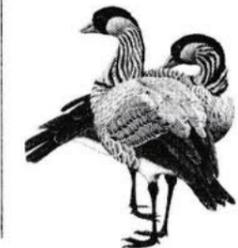
I look forward with eager anticipation of the Brown Teal research and venture to hope that future joint financial ventures involving Ducks Unlimited and the Wildlife Service will assist the cause of waterfowl conservation.

Yours sincerely,
Malcolm Crawley
Dr M. Crawley, Research Director Wildlife Service

We appreciate Malcolm's comments and had we known the full story when our June issue went to print we would certainly have mentioned the financial details of the Internal Affairs Scholarship. Some other good news for Brown Teal is that the Auckland Acclimatisation Society has, through the Wildlife Service, donated \$1,000 towards the project. Ed.

An extract from a recent letter from the Director of the Wildlife Service

Congratulations on the continued growth of D.U.: when I think back on those initial discussions and the almost impossibility of the task confronting the early stalwarts, I believe you can be well satisfied with developments to date bringing just reward for the hours of toil and hardship that hopefully are now well behind you.
Yours sincerely,
Ralph Adams



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 and 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

D.U. NEWS

1985 ANNUAL MEETING

The next annual meeting will again be at THC Tokaanu — for the 4th year running. The date is 13th July, so pencil in this date now! The December 'Flight' will have further details, plus a pre-booking form. Pre-booking will be essential for the 1985 annual dinner and a deposit will be needed.

DIRECTORSHIP CHANGES

John Gill and David McNeil announced their retirement from the D.U. Board at the annual meeting. The support from these two directors during D.U.'s formative years has done much to ensure our success to date and Directors thank John and David for their fine contribution.

John has very generously agreed to continue as co-supervisor for operation 'Pateke' and has generously accepted the newly created position of Honorary Veterinary Adviser.

Jim Campbell, our new Vice President, and Allan Elliott who have acted as members representatives for a number of years have been elected to permanent directorships. Jim and Allan are both farmers, with a wealth of experience in land management and in the creation of wetlands. They have also had extensive experience with the acclimatisation society movement.

The four Directors elected from the floor of the annual meeting also bring with them vast experience in farming and management; they are Jim Glover, Mark Timms, Brendan Coe and Fred Bailey. Brendan (Editor of Rod & Rifle magazine) and Fred Bailey (Managing Director of Bailey Engineering) join the Board for the first time.

MEMBERSHIP

New Honorary Member D.U. Directors are pleased to announce that Keith Barnett, Manager of THC Tokaanu has been appointed D.U.'s third Honorary Member for outstanding service to D.U. over many years. Congratulations Keith.

New Life Member Jim Campbell our new Vice-President and star of the D.U./Country Calendar programme has become our twelfth Life member.

New Trade Members The continued interest in Trade membership has resulted in five new Trade members. Marshall Fine Arts of Stratford have become Trade members. The Marshall Fine Arts company is run by Janet and Graham Marshall and Janet's superb bird paintings will be well known to D.U. members.

The well known Dunedin gunshop Allan Millar Gunsmiths (1984) Ltd have also joined as Trade members as have the Otorohanga Zoological Society, The World of Shooting, South Africa (see other D.U. news), The N.Z. Field and Stream magazine, and Peter Johansen of Morrinsville.

New members Membership continues to rise at an impressive rate and since the 1st April over 150 new members have joined, including: Dr T. Waring of Montana, who was in New Zealand for several months on sabbatical leave; Brian Swan, President of the South Taieri Gun Club; Les Cleveland of Otago, a well known conservationist and an elected member of the Otago Catchment Board; Vince Peterson, Vice President of the N.Z. Clay Target Association; Roger Sutton, Senior Field Officer of the Southland Acclimatisation Society — Roger was recently honoured in the Queen's Birthday honours for his services to conservation; and Fred Rouse, Vice President of the Marlborough Acclimatisation Society.

New Membership Category Subject to the approval of the Registrar of Incorporated Societies and the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, D.U. will establish a new membership category — a Sponsor member. A Sponsor member will have the same rights and privileges as a full member, but in addition will receive a card stating that the member is a Sponsor member for that particular year. The fee for Sponsor membership will be \$50/year. The existing method whereby Life membership can be obtained at a rate of

\$50/year will be eliminated — except for those Life members currently paying by this method. Two Directors — Diane Pritt and Allan Elliott have become our first Sponsor members.

Subscription Renewals and Donations 1984-85 subscription renewals have been coming in thick and fast, along with many generous donations. We thank members for their continued support, but if by chance you have not renewed your subscription please try to do so as soon as possible. To send out reminders is an expensive business and consumes funds that could be used for habitat work.

We would particularly like to thank the following members who recently sent donations (All tax deductible):

A.A. Gurney, A. Wilks, R. Munro, I. Davison, D. Hagerbaumer, E. Olsen, A. Fowke, J. Tilley, G. Donnelly, R. Vazey, D. Smith, P. Taylor, R. Winterburn, W. McLay, J.H. Ward and L. Gravatt.

Membership records Our new membership secretary, Brendan Coe, has very generously undertaken to computerise all membership statistics. With over 1,000 members we feel that now is the time to take advantage of modern technology.

D.U. Member elected Wellington Acclimatisation Society President Congratulations to long time D.U. supporter Paul Taylor of Lower Hutt on his recent election as President of W.A.S.

Presentation of 10 year badges The presentation of ten year badges took place during the annual meeting and the following members received their badges: Ian Pirani, Dawn Pirani, Paul Pirani, Cheryl Pirani, Craig, Claire and Jack Worth, Neil and Sylvia Hayes, Murray Dench, Tony Flexman, Jim Glover, David McNeil, Peter McLeod, Bud Jones, Ron Denny, Glen Butts and Don McCulloch. Congratulations and thanks to these members.

D.U. NATIONAL CLAY BIRD CHAMPIONSHIPS

After torrential rain on Thursday, Friday the 13th of July presented a perfectly calm sunny day at the Taumarunui Gun Club for the inaugural D.U. National Clay Bird Championships. A turnout of 54 shooters competing in five events indicated an enthusiastic interest from members.

Jack Worth, Gavin Brears and a fine team of workers ensured a smooth running and very successful competition.

Appropriately the Taumarunui Chapter Team consisting of Noel Taylor, John Walker, John Dempsey, Keith Tucker and Steve Redmayne, won the Chapter teams shoot.

The presentation of trophies took place dur-

ing the annual dinner at THC Tokaanu and the winners were:

Grey Teal nest box project at Pokeno, various other sites in the Waikato, a look at gun boats

SKEET	H/O Barry McDonald 'A' Rob Nison 'B' Ted Hansen	S/BARREL	H/O Dale Clark 'A' Gavin Brears 'B' Gordon Parker
SPARROWS	H/O Ray Hickey 'A' Greg Nicholl 'B' Ted Hansen	S/RISE	H/O Keith Tucker 'A' Ian Waterhouse 'B' Dave Williams
D/RISE	H/O Dale Clark 'A' Rex Mikkelsen 'B' Craig Walker		

WRITERS VISIT NZ

Over recent years an important function of D.U. (N.Z.) has been to act as a liaison group for wildlife people from overseas. With so many good keen D.U. people up and down the country D.U. is in a unique position to guide visiting waterfowl enthusiasts in the right direction. This was very evident when two international wildlife writers arrived here in June. The writers were, Peter Johnson and Alf Wannenburgh from South Africa. Peter and Alf are writing a tome 'The World of Shooting' and in compiling the information and photographs they are visiting just about every country in the world where bird shooting takes place. One of the main objectives of the book sets out to prove quite conclusively that hunters are the leading conservationists of habitat and wildlife.

The book will be limited to 5,000 copies and will sell for \$400 US/copy. This may sound expensive, but the book will be the ultimate reference on the subject. While the title implies lots of trigger pulling the essence will be on the hunters role in conservation.

President Paul Pirani drew up the itinerary for Peter and Alf and it involved visits to our

on the Piako Estuary, three days in the Sinclair wetlands, an inspection of Neil Issac's Peacock Springs in Christchurch, and so on.

Peter and Alf were delighted with their new Zealand visit and D.U. and N.Z. will feature prominently in the book.

D.U. Directors would like to thank the many D.U. members who gave up their time to show Peter and Alf what D.U. (N.Z.) is all about.

If you would like further information on 'The World of Shooting' write to Box 74.

A NEW ERA IN WETLANDS CONSERVATION TAKES OFF IN THE U.S.A.

The future of North American wetlands conservation left Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, in a Delta 3920 rocket on March 1.

Delta's payload was Landsat 5, the second of a new generation of earth resources satellites that is expected to help Ducks Unlimited biologists complete the first comprehensive inventory of wetlands in North America. The joint effort with NASA will also allow biologists to constantly monitor the health of wetlands.

Landsat 5, which will orbit the earth 14 times a day at an altitude of 440 miles, will be able to do in moments what now takes a team of biologists days to complete. In addition to charting the wetlands, the satellite will produce computer-generated "photographs" depicting all sorts of important biological information, from plant types to water quality.

Ducks Unlimited, the world's largest wetlands-conservation organisation, is interpreting the data at its international headquarters outside of Chicago to determine which areas are most important to North America's waterfowl.

"To some degree public conservation organisations have been using satellite imagery in their work for a number of years now," says Dale Whitesell, executive vice president of DU. "But we wanted something more sophisticated. A simulation study showed that this new satellite, with its improved imagery capabilities, will provide more accurate data than any previous system."

The new venture with NASA will mark the first time a private conservation organisation has attempted such an ambitious project.

D.U. DIRECTOR'S ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Shortly after the annual meeting the engagement was announced of long term D.U. Director Diane Pritt of Ohakune and D.U. member Craig Walker of Raetihi. Diane is the daughter of Bill and Audrey Pritt of Ohakune. Bill, a farmer, has also been a D.U. member since the early days and an outstanding conservationist who has been responsible for the creation of well over one hundred wetland areas in the Ohakune/Raetihi district. We are sure all D.U. members will support D.U. Directors in wishing Diane and Craig the very best for the future.

JOIN

DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC

P.O. BOX 74
HAMILTON

Full membership \$15.00 year
Supporter membership \$10.00 year
Junior membership \$5.00 year
Trade membership \$20.00 year

Or write for further details

Name.....

Address.....



RELOADERS SUPPLIES LTD

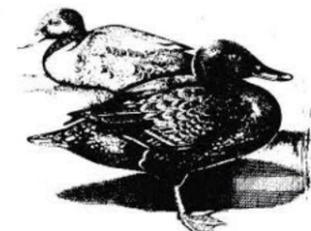
No. 1 IN N.Z. FOR ALL YOUR SPORTING SUPPLIES

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



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

HELD AT THC TOKANNU ON SATURDAY 14 JULY 1984 AT 2PM



WELCOME

The President welcomed members and friends to the conference and noted the presence of former DU directors, and also Messrs Tony Flexman, Lyn Harris, John Cheyne of the Wildlife Service, Don McCulloch, Bryce Johnson of the Acclimatisation Society movement; also Mr Horrie Sinclair, the guest speaker, and he gave thanks to Mr Keith Barnett, proprietor of the THC Tokaanu for the special arrangements made for the conference.

The President made reference to the 1984 conference being the tenth such gathering for the N.Z. organisation and commented that he was beginning his final year as President at what appeared to be the 'crossroads' for Ducks Unlimited.

PRESENT

The President (Mr P.B.C. Pirani), Vice President (Mr F.N. Hayes) and 123 financial members of Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Incorporated.

Apologies were read from a list provided by the Secretary and included Sir William Gilbert, Bill McLay, Maui Pomare, Mort Midgley, Ron Munro, John Gill, Andy Garrick, Dudley Bell, Kelvin Mackie, Bill Clinton-Baker, Ian Buchanan, Dr Paul Quin, Mr & Mrs L. Piper, Mr & Mrs S. Bronger and Sharon Walker. Apologies were sustained on the motion of A. Elliott/C. Worth.

MINUTES PREVIOUS CONFERENCE

On the motion of the President and Mr I.H. Pirani, the Minutes of the Ninth Annual Conference held on Saturday, 9 July 1983 at Tokaanu, having been circulated to all members in the 'Flight' issue September 1983, were taken as read and confirmed, there being no matters arising.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President referred to his report on the Annual Accounts which had been previously circulated to members and expressed his thanks for the outstanding achievements reflected in them. He then offered a personal opinion as to a possible path DU might follow in the future.

The President reiterated his earlier comment that, on the anniversary of its first ten years, Ducks Unlimited found itself at 'the crossroads'. Several paths beckoned — among them the 'soft option' of maintaining the status quo. The President asked the audience to think how often they had talked to the older hunters who could recall what hunting was like 40 or 50 years ago. He asked if they could recall how good it had been when they first began hunting duck — and how it had deteriorated since. He questioned how good hunting would be for their children; for their grandchildren. He stressed that if we did not retain our resources (the wetlands that is) we would not retain waterfowl.

One of the more stimulating and appealing avenues which lay before DU and other interested individuals was the concept of commercialisation of waterfowl, that is, paid shooting. He said the argument for commercialisation of N.Z. waterfowl began with the idea that only by demonstrating that we had a marketable attractive resource (and by resource he meant the wetlands) for either tourists or locals, could some form of protection



Auctioneer assistant Allan Elliott displaying a superb waterfowl print

for those wetlands to be achieved. One paid to shoot deer. Why not waterfowl, said Mr Pirani.

Like many others involved with wildlife conservation, he had come to the conclusion that the key to survival of our resources (and he was speaking not only of waterfowl) lay in this area... the marketing or 'prostitution' of the resource — for others to use.

He realised that the 'armchair protectionists' and the 'bleeding heart brigade' would 'rise up in arms' at such a suggestion. Mr Pirani said he often wondered whether the general public (the man in the street) really understood the basic philosophy and economics behind waterfowl conservation... particularly when they could see a better economic return, for example, in swamp drainage for agricultural purposes... and whether they understood, or wanted to, the urgent need for more participation by individuals; and that what little land was remaining be conserved — for the ducks. Not just for ducks alone, but also other wildlife which was dependent on the same ecological life support systems.

The President said that people involved with any species of wildlife at all knew that in order to perpetuate itself in the face of wholesale premature losses, every species on earth produced harvestable surpluses each year. These surpluses could be tapped by hunters without any danger to the species' survival he said. In N.Z. he said we grew sheep and cattle for a dollar return — so why not waterfowl. If a farmer received a return for sheep and cattle, for example, why could not that same farmer earn a return from the waterfowl on his swamp, questioned the President. The dollar was a great motivator. The President commented that it may be possible to get farmers to preserve their swamps instead of draining them... if the return was sufficiently attractive.

Mr Pirani said that the mallard was commonly regarded as a problem. Why not shoot mallard all year around, he questioned. Overseas visitors would pay large sums to be guaranteed a duck-shoot. Added value would be that they could also catch a trout, shoot deer.

Mr Pirani said he felt this was a 'gutter' issue. He personally considered that the regulations governing trout fishing and other forms of hunting in N.Z. should be carefully re-examined, and for

innovative methods of regulating shooting, fishing etc to be considered.

He said that New Zealanders who had travelled overseas, or who received overseas publications knew that, especially in North America, offers of 'paid hunting and trout fishing' in N.Z. were advertised and promoted (illegally, but nevertheless it was being done). The demand was there said Mr Pirani. The opportunity was there... for N.Z. wildlife to earn overseas revenue from tourism (without endangering the species' survival). Waterfowl hunting would logically fit in the tourist business 'mix'. His belief was that dollars spent on waterfowl hunting by tourists and locals would, in part, go back to the land; that is, retention of valuable wetland (otherwise lost to agriculture) by the farmer/owner/controlling body would become attractive.

The President commented that such a controlling body could be Ducks Unlimited, but not necessarily — it could be controlled by whoever wished to promote and manage the duck hunting concept country wide. Naturally, he added, quite some organisation would be required to set up such a tourist development. But he felt New Zealanders had the sophistication, skills and motivation in both tourism and waterfowl conservation to ensure success — both in economic terms and in terms of people appreciating the natural resources they took for granted; resources, he added, which were fast disappearing even in this enlightened age. The beneficiaries would be waterfowl said Mr Pirani.

Tourism was one solution to the problem of future survival of wet areas and would ensure their protection (therefore the future protection of the wild inhabitants). He said that the idea of the future of waterfowl in N.Z. depending on the restoration and maintenance of their breeding grounds was so sound that no-one who really considered it could for a moment doubt its fundamental importance.

Mr Pirani considered that what had been accomplished already was evidence that if those interested in the continuance of duck hunting in N.Z. once understood the situation they would get in behind the concept of commercial duck hunting. He felt the concept would arouse a good deal of anger and concern but said that if logical thought

was applied, one could see that the country was heading for a final debate on resources and the 'scramble' was one to hold onto what remained. He felt there was a good deal of hope that changes in agricultural practice now in sight... and enlightened attitudes by the farming community and other developers, would benefit waterfowl. However, basic changes in agricultural practice and, more importantly, attitude would not take place overnight.

He said a change in law governing waterfowl hunting would be necessary... a step which would inflame many people... a step requiring major investigation, lobbying, determination (and courage) before it went to the legislators. However, a strong possibility existed that such changes would occur and therein lay the great hope for the future of waterfowl in New Zealand.

The challenge for the future, said Mr Pirani, was to meet the issues and conflicts 'head on'... confronting the criticism, the 'knockers' who were part of the Kiwi clobbering machine, the problems and setbacks with knowledge, with courage and determination. And, he said, courage would certainly be needed, especially concerning the emotive issue of commercialisation.

The President stressed once more that his comments on paid shooting and hunting of wildlife, more especially waterfowl, were personal... but deliberately provocative and intended to stimulate discussion on this important issue. He said that if his comments had outraged members or would motivate debate, then he would have achieved his objective that day. However, he had touched only the 'tip of the iceberg'.

'Just where does DU go from here?' Mr Pirani asked. It remained to be seen how many people Ducks Unlimited could motivate to develop ideas (no matter how controversial and innovative) for habitat restoration and maintenance which was, after all, the key to the replenishment of our wildlife resource, he said. The President concluded his remarks with the comment that he had received the distinct impression that Ducks Unlimited was only on the threshold.



Some of the outstanding auction items

The President then moved the adoption of the Balance Sheet and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 1984. Seconder was Mr J. Campbell.

*If any members have comments to make on this very controversial topic, please let me have them. Ed.

AUDITORS

It was resolved that the Auditors, Messrs Deloitte Haskins & Sells (formerly known as Hutchison Hull & Co) be re-appointed for the 1984/85 year. (Messrs G. Girvan/A. Wilks).

ELECTION — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The President advised he had accepted with great regret two resignations from Messrs John Gill and David McNeil. He outlined the contribution made by both to Ducks Unlimited — J. Gill as chief of the Brown Teal project and D. McNeil who had been responsible for the Blue Duck programme — and gave special thanks on behalf of members. J. Gill had accepted a future role as Hon. Veterinary Adviser to the group.

The President announced that in the light of the two resignations, Messrs J. Campbell and A. Elliott had been appointed to the Board as permanent directors, having filled roles as elected members' representatives for some years.

The President stated that under the Rules of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc., four persons could be elected to the Board at the meeting to represent members. Messrs J. Glover and M. Timms, being eligible, offered themselves for re-election. The President moved that these two persons be re-elected; this was seconded by Mr C. Worth.

The President called for further nominations to fill two vacancies. Mr E. Hansen nominated Mr Brendan Coe (seconded Mr J. Campbell). Mr I. Pirani nominated Mr Fred S.S. Bailey (seconded Mr A. Wilks). Mr Wilks moved that nominations be closed/seconded Mr C. Worth. The President

declared Messrs Coe and Bailey elected as members' representatives — he detailed their long interest and participation in the affairs of the organisation and welcomed them to the Board.

RULES

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

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The President stated that a signed copy of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1984 was available at the meeting for perusal by any financial member present.

REPORT ON OPERATION PATEKE

Mr F.N. Hayes presented his report, advising that the year under review had been the most successful to date; 147 Brown Teal having been reared by DU members, well ahead of the previous annual record of 112. Brown Teal reared in this way since 1976 now totalled a massive 550.

Leading breeders for the past season had been Mr John Gill with 25, the Otorohanga Zoological Society 24, and Messrs Roy and Murray Dench rearing 23; followed closely by Mr Ron Munro with 20. Mr Hayes said John Gill had won the Brown Teal Breeder of the Year Award for the third year in succession; a remarkable achievement.

Interest in the captive breeding side of the project was very high, stated Mr Hayes, and additional breeders would be welcomed for the forthcoming breeding season — he estimated at least 25 DU members would be rearing Brown Teal in captivity.

Mr Hayes gave details of a one-day Brown Teal management meeting held in Wellington where a decision had been made to concentrate the release of DU captive reared birds in the Northland region — where approximately 400 birds still survive in the wild. One hundred Ducks Unlimited birds were due for release in Northland in July 1984 in desirable areas where habitat had been restored and/or created. He praised Mr Richard Anderson of the N.Z. Wildlife Service who had been responsible for the habitat work, which had been financed by the Bay of Islands Acclimatisation Society, the Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited. Mr Hayes commented that with such work taking place he was confident there would be few problems maintaining a stable Brown Teal population in Northland. The management seminar had also decided to release approximately 30 birds annually at Nga Manu Trust, Waikanae.

Mr Hayes commented on the research into Brown Teal being conducted on Great Barrier Island — apart from DU's financial input, the Wildlife Service had made a study grant of \$6,000 per annum to assist the work. Ducks Unlimited had also gained a \$500 grant from the Environmental Council to assist with the creation of a Brown Teal display unit; which was due for completion shortly. Overseas, the Wildfowl Trust continued to do valuable work with Brown Teal propagation having reared over 100 birds since the first DU shipment there in 1979.

Mr Hayes concluded that this unique project

continued to make healthy progress and the Board congratulated all those involved. Special thanks were given to Mr John Cheyne and his staff at the Mount Bruce Native Bird Reserve for caring for most of the DU production for the season. Thanks were given to Mr Peter McKenzie of Nga Manu Trust and to Mr Jim Campbell for assistance with food supplies for Brown Teal.

PRESENTATION: BROWN TEAL BREEDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Although Mr John Gill could not be present to receive his award, due to ill health, the meeting warmly applauded his achievement of the award for the third year in succession.

GUEST SPEAKER — Mr HORRIE SINCLAIR

The President introduced Mr Horrie Sinclair to the meeting, briefly commenting on his 25 years of management of an area of 779 acres near Outram — a beautifully controlled and managed wetland.

Mr Sinclair used visual displays and slides to illustrate his remarks. He endorsed the President's earlier comments about ducks producing annual harvestable 'crops', stating that if the 'crop was not harvested' on his swamp, the birds would die of starvation. He said there were 67 different species of wildlife living in and on his area of wetland. He indicated most of the species individually, giving meticulous details of recorded sightings, particularly of the more endangered and rarely sighted birds and animals, including rare observations of Otter. Up to 35,000 Grey Teal were in the area at times; up to 1,700 moulting Paradise at any one time, Scaup and the odd Brown Teal. Thousands of Fern Bird were seen, with regular visits from up to 23 Royal Spoonbills. Bitterns were widespread, and a small breeding colony of Australian coot inhabited the area, as well as the many other species of bird life.

After giving the audience some details of his personal background and experience which encompassed activities ranging from working on threshing mills and haybalers, work for the Taieri County Council, Army service, waterside work,

employment with the Waterfront Commission, appointment as Chief Ranger, Otago Acclimatisation Society, rounding off his varied career between 1969 and 1983 as a field officer with regional Pest Destruction Boards until his retirement, Mr Sinclair also touched on his interest in gun dog clubs since 1946 including administration and judging, and active participation in dog trialing. He also mentioned his interest in gun club activities since the 1950s, his main speciality being skeet shooting.

After obtaining an option to purchase his wetland, for £2,000 (a very large sum in those days), Horrie Sinclair took possession of the area in October 1960. He detailed the turbulent history surrounding attempts by others to first buy back the option; then the title in the late 1960s; later attempts were also made by the Department of Internal Affairs to purchase the property in 1981. All were resisted. Mr Sinclair related what can only be described as incredibly tempting and unorthodox attempts to encourage him to sell by various parties — an unusual example being \$100,000 in notes brought in a suitcase to the wetland jetty on one occasion. He quoted recent special valuations of the property in 1981 for example, one being \$28,000 and another \$54,000; another in March 1981 at the figure of \$300,000; still another in September of the same year which placed a conservative value on the wetlands of \$1,000 per acre. All these offers and valuations did not deter Mr Sinclair from his intention to conserve the area solely for wildlife.

Mr Sinclair continued with his history of the property saying that when he took it over in 1960 he 'inherited' some 44 existing shooters and 9 of his own. Shooting took place constantly; morning, noon and night, seven days a week, all season. Many of the 44 existing shooters showed no respect whatever to the wildlife, the wetland, or the new owner and his specific requests — they would bring along unwanted visitors and all were 'well lubricated with alcohol'. As a result, Mr Sinclair closed the entire property to all shooting for the duration of the 1966 game season. To police this he slept in a hut on 'Ram Island' for 22 nights on end and thereafter maintained constant vigilance to keep off poachers and vandals. He apprehended or hunted off some 38 people in the first 48 hours. He admits to being the most hated man in

the Taieri area for many years because he locked out the shooters.

Mr Sinclair related how he resisted attempts by a neighbour to join with him in a scheme which would have drained the top 286 acres.

He refused offers by other neighbours to drain with him or for him, or for him to sell the best of the 286 acres to develop it into farmland. Again he resisted another attempt by the same neighbours to drain out through a third neighbour. For this last scheme, Mr Sinclair said, the Department of Agriculture costed and surveyed the proposed scheme. The Otago Catchment Board applied for the necessary water right to the Regional Water Board (effectively the same body of people under a different chairman sitting to hear its own application, commented Mr Sinclair). He resisted the Bruce County Council's 'bluff' attempt to force drainage under threat of enforcing the 1908 Drainage Act. The local Crown Law Office advised him that the County Council had no jurisdiction under the Act and the threat was eventually withdrawn. There followed hearings and a High Court decision in 1981 — the turbulent history relating to attempts to force Mr Sinclair to drain his property was quite scandalous and among other unorthodox matters it appears no evidence was recorded at hearings; and the Minister of Works' request to designate the area wetlands, or similar, was rejected by Mr Sinclair's opponents. However, Horrie (as he likes to be called) won the day — the Minister of Works eventually rejected the Council's submission for drainage and Mr Sinclair was free to realise his dream of creating and preserving one of the country's finest wetland areas.

Mr Sinclair described how he commenced changing the management structure of the area in 1967 — a maimai set-up has been in place since that time. No outboard or motor boats have been permitted — Mr Sinclair uses a Mercury battery-powered dinghy to negotiate his wetlands. No shooting is permitted other than on Saturday and Sunday mornings on the first three weekends of the season, plus Queen's Birthday Weekend. No night shooting is permitted. Shooters are changed freely from maimai to maimai to equalise shooting. Decoys are limited to sets of 10. No dogs are used in most of the wetlands, because of the extensive areas of cutty grass. All these restrictions are to ensure minimum disturbance to the waterfowl population.

Mr Sinclair outlined the situation with maimais, many of which have been totally rebuilt and regularly maintained — any work carried out on them is completed prior to the local pegging day. He described how ducks arrive from all over Otago as others build or peg maimais. Once in the totally undisturbed wetland, the ducks stay on until opening day.

Mr Sinclair went on to describe how decoys are placed on the Friday before opening. The time sequence is planned to achieve minimum disturbance and everyone must leave the area by 1 pm. Examples of duck shot from particular maimais were quoted as 579 from Goodies Lagoon (5 maimais), 468 from Ram Island Lagoon; the top total was 1,501 in 1977. 39 maimais are located in the entire area.

Mr Sinclair hosts guests ranging from the elderly to the youthful, to the underprivileged youth; his visitors include those from other countries and locally — from private individuals, to ornithologists, photographers, journalists, university officials, international wildlife experts to school children. Mr Sinclair has encouraged school groups; who learn canoeing and dinghy skills while visiting. He arranges conservation talks and field studies on site, and at camps; walkabouts to 'Ram Island', Dur-

ing Conservation Week 1984 he estimated 500 people are to undertake a field trip to the area. The Accident Compensation Commission Training Camp took place at his wetland for 3 days in May 1984, participants coming from throughout the country.

Touching on the subject of habitat, Mr Sinclair felt strongly that if mankind retains, develops and promotes good wetland habitat, nature will look after the birdlife and necessary food chain to maintain same. 'Without habitat,' stressed Mr Sinclair, 'we have nothing!' The larger the associated areas, the more valuable it is for wildlife,' he said. He commented on a recent survey which showed released pheasants cost a local Society more than \$1,200 per bird returned to the gun. He felt it was time to put out a challenge to the acclimatisation societies — it was time they bought wetlands and gave pheasants away. Mr Sinclair commented that to spend vast sums per bird was out of all proportion to the cost of actually purchasing wetlands. He cited examples of land which could have been purchased many years ago very cheaply at a time when no-one was interested in buying. Wetland today was a lot more expensive, said Mr Sinclair, but, comparatively speaking, it was not too late — tomorrow might be.

Mr Sinclair offered some constructive criticism of a South Island acclimatisation society which by 1960 had spent over £100,000 breeding and releasing pheasants at a cost of up to £8 per bird at release date. Of 130 birds released in a particular area, 4 were shot by 44 shooters, 24 bodies were found, the remainder presumably were lost due to snow, frost and lack of food. He felt that if the same £100,000 had been spent on wetland habitat instead of pheasants, the wetlands would have continued to produce duck, swan, geese etc for the next 10; 100; 1,000 years and all the other rare marshland species inhabiting the area would have prospered too. He mentioned an area covering Green Island Swamp, Otanamomo, Riverside and Tuakatoto which could have been the greatest chain of wetlands in the world had some thought gone into retaining them in their original unique form.

Turning to the subject of nesting sites, Mr Sinclair said there were thousands, perhaps millions, of niggerheads throughout the wetland — every one a potential nest site. He had monitored up to 100 nests at any one particular time. There were 50 Grey Teal nest boxes, often with nests near or alongside. Swan abound in the area — Mr Sinclair quoted recording the sight of 300 white cygnets in one area alone in the spring of 1981.

Mr Sinclair then turned his attention to Ducks Unlimited, noting that the organisation had reached its tenth year of operation. He considered the breakthrough point had been arrived at. He encouraged Ducks Unlimited to 'think big' and 'get up and go!' He said he had personally enrolled some 75 new members since October 1982 and hoped to hit the 100 mark inside 2 years. He put out a plea for each member to recruit one more member — effectively doubling membership.

'There is one other thing I have to tell you,' he said. 'I am over 60 now and worried about what will happen to the place when I go. As of this morning in consultation with your directors, and subject to small print being confirmed in a suggested agreement, I have gifted my property to Ducks Unlimited as of now.'

This was an emotionally charged moment for all present at the meeting; followed by a brief silence and then loud applause with a standing ovation for Mr Sinclair. The President accepted Mr Sinclair's gift, thanking him on behalf of Ducks Unlimited. He outlined briefly discussions directors had held with Mr Sinclair over past months,



Tamarunui Chapter Chairman Gavin Brears presenting Craig Walker with his clay bird shooting award

commenting that Ducks Unlimited felt very humbled and privileged to be entrusted with care for this quite magnificent property. It was a place, said the President, with fascinating and unlimited potential for waterfowl and associated wildlife.

Mr Sinclair concluded by saying that managing the wetland during the shooting period was critical — the placement of shooters was vital. Controls may seem rigid, he said, but were part of the overall plan to benefit waterfowl and provide a balance for this unique area. Limited shooting enabled ducks to have a chance to come back and settle he said. Mr Sinclair stressed that 'Management... straight management' was the solution to maintaining this key waterfowl area.

The President expressed his thanks for the stimulating address and conveyed once more Ducks Unlimited's sincere gratitude for the generous gift entrusted to it. He assured Mr Sinclair that the future of 'Horrie's wetland' would remain secure. The audience reacted with another standing ovation.

REPORT ON OPERATION GRETEL

Mr Jim Campbell commented that the past season's results had been excellent once again. There were still nest boxes available for any member who desired to purchase and erect same. A major concern was the price of plywood which was used for box construction as costs had risen to an exorbitant level.

During the year a tragedy had occurred with the draining of Barton's Lagoon in the Wairarapa — this had been a prime Grey Teal area. Mr Campbell said the boxes had been moved to another area and DU was working with Mr Barton to increase in size a further area for Grey Teal.

Mr Campbell also commented on a further area of private land in the Wairarapa which was available for Grey Teal development where the owner was keen to retain habitat for waterfowl

rather than developing it for farming. Questions followed, relating primarily to the recent Grey Teal census.

REPORT ON OPERATION WHIO

Mr David McNeil said he presented his report with some disappointment as it was the only DU project that had not been a 'success story'. The number of birds held had been further reduced by deaths and various natural causes with the result that only 6 birds remained at Mt Bruce, one at Hilldale, one with D. McNeil and 2 at Otorohanga. Ducks Unlimited had had no fresh introductions from the wild, either by eggs for incubation or capture of live birds — the reasons being the apparent reluctance of the Wildlife Service to put men in the field for this purpose; reasons with which DU sympathised — but nevertheless it was a bitter disappointment for the directors who felt DU had demonstrated its enthusiasm and genuine desire to help the waterfowl of N.Z. and especially the Blue Duck. This had been demonstrated with success with Grey Teal, Brown Teal and Canada goose projects he said. He repeated his comments of the previous year; that it was a 'numbers game' and DU must have a nucleus of birds adapted to captivity to replace losses through death. A few members had successfully bred these birds where they had been able to obtain suitable (female) stock.

Mr McNeil concluded by saying that the purpose of the Blue Duck project was to gain expertise with the species before numbers fell too low in the wild. He said it was significant that the Wildfowl Trust in Britain should support the mission of Mr Rod Hall to obtain incubating eggs for transfer to their waterfowl collections because of the species' diminishing numbers in the wild. Ducks Unlimited wanted to be able to make a contribution in this field but to do so it must have breeding birds. Several questions followed relating to the numbers of Blue Duck remaining in N.Z.



The winning Tamarunui Chapter team with sashes very generously donated by Ken Lowry of Winchester

PRESENTATION — BILL BARRETT AWARD

The President advised that Mr Bill Barrett of Australia, long time supporter and life member, had made a generous donation towards an annual award to be given to the person who, in the opinion of the Board, had done an outstanding job of promoting the aims and objectives of the organisation in N.Z. He called on Mr Ian Pirani to make the presentation.

Mr Pirani announced the first recipient of this award, a carved Blue Duck mounted on a kauri base, was Mr Jack Worth, the founder of DU in this country. Mr Pirani outlined Mr Worth's contribution since establishment and more particularly his involvement in the fundraising chapter which regularly achieved remarkable results. Mr Worth was warmly applauded as he received the Blue Duck carving.

One of the main workers — life member Dawn Pirani



A fine display of Winchester sporting guns

REPORT ON OPERATION BRANTA

Mr Hayes reported that Operation Branta had another successful year with large numbers of geese being reared by members in the North Island. Thirtyseven geese had been transferred from the South Island in March 1984 and distributed to DU members. Wellington Acclimatisation Society had assisted with distribution. Canada geese were now to be seen in many parts of the North Island, said Mr Hayes, and DUs establishment programme has been completely successful. He said the two screenings of the DU/Country Calendar programme on television which featured Operation Branta had resulted in a large demand for geese from many North Island farmers. The 37 geese therefore did not go very far and thanks were given to Mr Jim Campbell and to Wellington Zoo who donated further geese to be transferred to other members, and to a collection of waterfowl at Rathkeale College, Masterton. Special thanks were given to the Wildlife Service for supplying the South Island geese; to Mr L. Piper for holding and pinioning, and to Mr P. McLeod for arranging shipment. Mr Hayes con-

cluded his remarks saying the past year's shipment brought the total Canada geese transferred to over 300 since 1976 when the project commenced.

EDITORIAL REPORT

Mr Hayes commended that the highlight for the year had been the December edition of Flight with the coloured cover. He appreciated the support for the magazine received from writers and photographers, mentioning particularly Dr Murray Williams, Messrs Garry Girvan and Donald Bate; the advertising support from Winchester and the N.Z. Wildlife Service was gratefully received. Thanks were given to the Ministry of Recreation & Sport for their financial assistance towards publication expenses. Mr Hayes said that 1,500 copies were produced each quarter. Special thanks were given to Mr Brendan Coe, responsible for printing production and quality, for achieving a first class publication for the organisation.

Mr A. Wilks proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Hayes and the publication staff.

Mr M. Newcomb suggested that when members use the services and products of the advertisers in 'Flight' they should identify themselves as DU supporters — this was generally agreed by those present.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The President announced the awarding of 10 year badges — he read from a list provided by the Membership Secretary the names of those members who had been financial since 1974 and thanked them for their continuing support over the period.

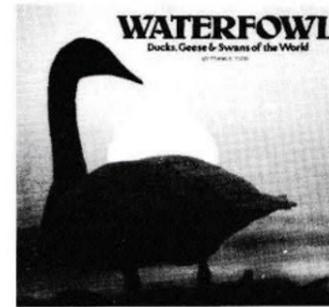
The President announced that as time was short, the presentation of clay bird championship trophies would follow the auction proceedings later in the evening.

Mr A.T. Flexman commented favourably on the recent visit by two representatives from The World of Shooting prestige publication whose itinerary in N.Z. had been prepared by the President. Mr Pirani added his comments and read extracts from a letter received from The World of Shooting individuals following their departure thanking DU and generally applauding its work for waterfowl in New Zealand.

Mr A. Wilks proposed a vote of thanks to the President who was entering his final year in office; the audience showed its appreciation.

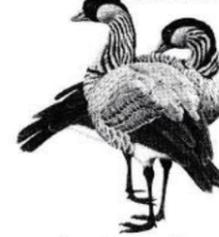
The President asked Mr Ian Pirani to comment on his recent visit to the Ducks Unlimited International conference held in Mexico in May. Mr Pirani gave an outline of the areas visited and commented specifically on the warm and generous hospitality extended by the various arms of Ducks Unlimited, in Mexico, in the United States and from members of the Canadian organisation. He had been accompanied by his wife and fellow directors Diane Pritt and Mark Timms — all had returned full of ideas and enthusiasm for the N.Z. organisation. He gave a back-grounder on funds raised annually by the American and Mexican organisations, commenting that, pro rata, per capita, N.Z. compared very favourably in terms of funds raised for waterfowl. Mr Pirani said the work undertaken by Ducks Unlimited in the United States, Canada and Mexico was impressive and their organisation of both administrative and practical matters was quite superb and professional. The effort was a superb example of efficient, effective private conservation on a truly international scale.

After extending an invitation to members to participate in morning coffee on Sunday, the President declared the annual conference closed at 5pm.



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



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



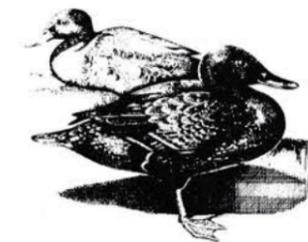
Ducks, Ponds & People by John Swift of B.A.S.C. 112 pages provide a guide to the management of small lakes and ponds for waterfowl. (DU's best selling book.) Price \$7.50.



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.



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
Managing Wetlands	\$18.50
I ENCLOSE MY CHEQUE FOR \$.....IN PAYMENT	
NAME (Please print).....	
ADDRESS.....	