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Flight

No 2/85 — ISSUE 44 — JUNE 1985

NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE

DUCKS UNLIMITED'S
QUARTERLY
WATERFOWL JOURNAL



DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z) INC., — FOR WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS — PO BOX 44-176 LOWER HUTT, NEW ZEALAND

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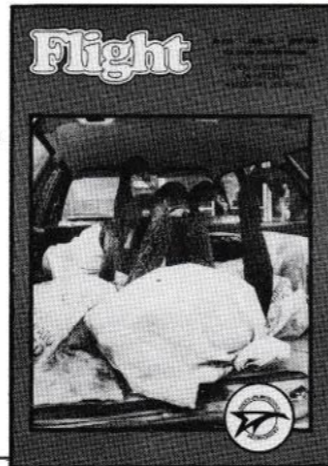
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Tightlines, Waipukurau

COVER PICTURE

Black Swans from Wellington Zoo, being transported by the best method, to DU members in the Wairarapa. (OM1 28mm lens on Ilford FP4) Neil Hayes.



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Photography

Neil Hayes, Garry Girvan, Diane Walker

Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated is a private, non-profit membership organisation dedicated to the preservation, restoration, creation 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 44176, Lower Hutt. "Flight" is the official quarterly publication of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated reaching 1500 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.

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THC TOKAANU - 11TH DUCKS UNLIMITED ANNUAL MEETING 13TH JULY 1985

For the fourth year running the Ducks Unlimited annual meeting and conference will be held at THC Tokaanu. Each annual meeting has been more financially successful than the previous one: last year we went over \$10,000 for the first time — what about making it over \$20,000 this year?

If you haven't yet attended a DU annual meeting you should make every effort to be present this year. For many the DU annual get-together has become a real highlight and one of the social events of the year.

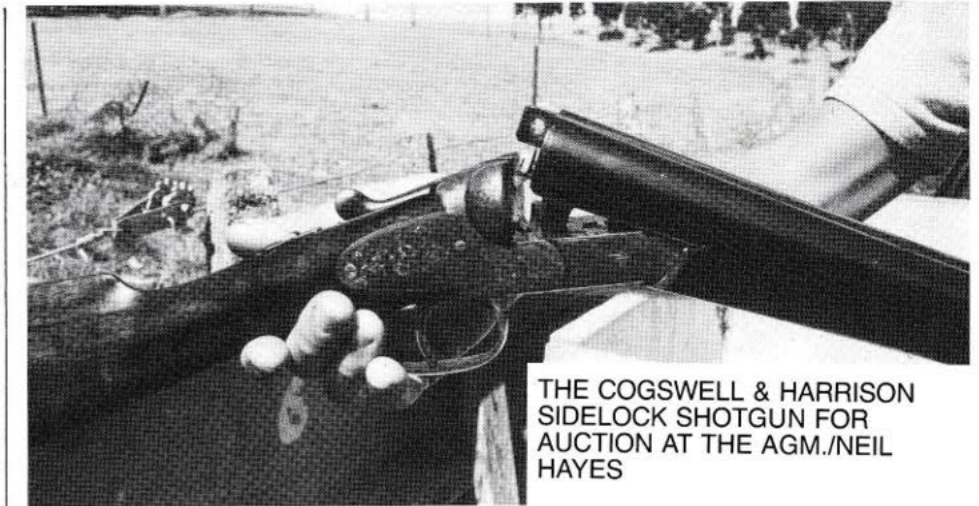
This year's auction promises to produce the best array of goodies ever assembled — the pair of Henry Atkin shotguns mentioned in the last 'Flight'; these 'best' English guns were built in 1907 and are cased and in excellent conditions; we also have some superb waterfowl paintings, carved decoys, pottery, sporting equipment, books, live waterfowl, and so on. In fact there will be something to suit everyone's taste, and everyone's pocket.

This year's registration fee is again \$20 — thanks entirely to the efforts of THC Tokaanu manager, and DU Honorary member, Keith Barnett we have managed to keep the fee to an absolute minimum. Particularly when one considers the fine menu Keith always manages to provide for the annual dinner. (If you require information on registration, accommodation and the annual dinner please phone Diane Walker on Ohakune 58-016)

Once again we look like experiencing some memorable moments during the weekend and the biggest moment in DU's history will occur during the annual meeting when the Sale and Purchase agreement for the Sinclair Wetlands is finalised with Horrie Sinclair. Guest speaker is Stewart Morrison, Director of Ducks Unlimited Canada. Stewart will provide what promises to be a stimulating address, which will be accompanied by slides and will detail some of the outstanding work done in Canada by Ducks Unlimited.

Also present for the meeting will be Bob Eberhardt, Chairman of the Ducks Unlimited America Board of Trustees, Omer Long, DU America Board member and Eric Gustafson, Executive Vice President of DU Mexico. While in New Zealand our overseas guests will naturally be taking a close look at DU (N.Z.) projects and, of course, the Sinclair Wetlands.

Other highlights for the weekend will be the presentation of the Bill Barrett Trophy. This is awarded annually to a DU member who, in the opinion of the DU Board of Directors, has



THE COGSWELL & HARRISON
SIDELOCK SHOTGUN FOR
AUCTION AT THE AGM./NEIL
HAYES

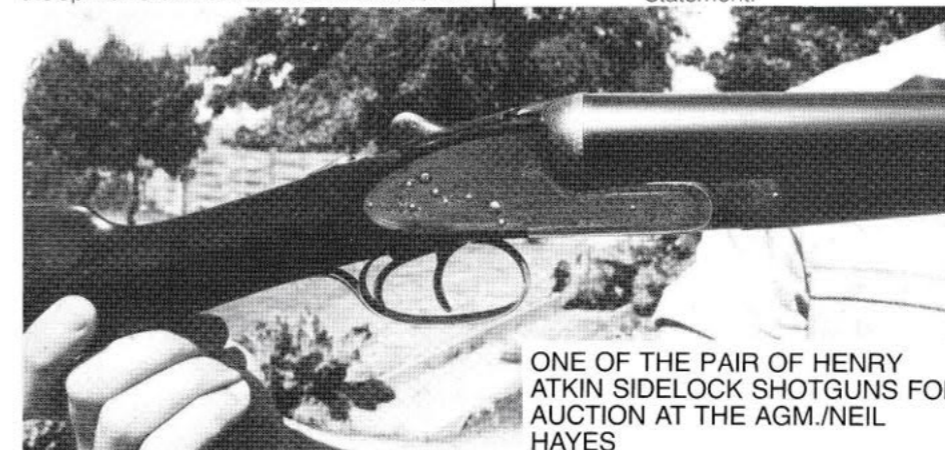
done most to promote the aims and objectives of DU (N.Z.). Last year Jack Worth, the founder of DU (N.Z.), became the award's first recipient. The trophy is in the form of a carved Blue duck mounted on a kauri base and was presented to DU by Australian DU Life member Bill Barrett. Bill was the founder of Australia's massive waterfowl nest box programme. Sunday morning will again be used for socialising over tea and biscuits. DU Sales department will also be open on the Sunday morning and we will also be privileged to again be able to view a selection of Winchester sporting guns, very generously displayed by Gordon Parker, Winchester's New Zealand Manager.

The full weekend programme is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Friday 12th July | |
| 9.00am | D.U. International Clay Target Championships at the Taumarunui Gun Club. (Entries close with Jack Worth, Ryburn Road, R.D.4, Hamilton, on July 7th. See March 'Flight' for full details). |
| Saturday 13th July | |
| 1. 1.30pm | Registration — \$20/head |
| 2. 2.00pm | Welcome and Apologies |
| 3. 2.05pm | Minutes of the 1984 Annual Meeting and Matters Arising. |
| 4. 2.15pm | President's Report and presentation of the Financial Statement. |
| 5. 2.25pm | Appointment of Auditors for 1985-86. |
| 6. 2.30pm | Election of four (4) Directors from the floor of the meeting. |
| 7. 2.40pm | Report on operation 'Pateke' (Neil Hayes) |
| 8. 2.50pm | Presentation of the 'Breeder of the Year Award' |
| 9. 3.00pm | Signing of the Sale and Purchase agreement for the Sinclair Wetlands, with speeches. |
| 10. 3.15pm | Guest Speaker: Mr D.S. Morrison will address the meeting on the topic 'Ducks Unlimited Canada'. |
| 11. 4.00pm | Break for refreshments (President's 'Shout'). |
| 12. 4.15pm | Presentation of the Bill Barrett trophy. |
| 13. 4.20pm | Report on operation 'Wetlands' (Brendan Coe) |
| 14. 4.25pm | Report on operation 'Gretel' (Jim Campbell) |
| 15. 4.30pm | Report on operation 'Whio' (Ian Pirani and John Cheyne) |
| 16. 4.35pm | Report on operation 'Branta' (Neil Hayes) |
| 17. 4.40pm | Editorial Report (Neil Hayes) |
| 18. 4.45pm | Presentation of (a) Ten year badges (b) Clay bird championship trophies |
| 19. 5.00pm | General business |
| 20. 5.15pm | Refreshments |
| 21. 7.00pm | Annual Dinner |
| 22. 8.15pm | Annual Auction |
| 23. 9.30pm | Refreshments |

Sunday 14th July

- 9.30am For those staying overnight coffee and biscuits and 2 to 3 hours of socialising. DU sales section will be open for inspection and purchases. Winchester N.Z. will also be staging a fine display of Winchester shotguns.



ONE OF THE PAIR OF HENRY
ATKIN SIDELOCK SHOTGUNS FOR
AUCTION AT THE AGM./NEIL
HAYES

**CREDIT CARD FACILITIES WILL
AGAIN BE AVAILABLE
THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND**



CREATION OF THE PEARCE WETLANDS/NEIL HAYES

THE PEARCE WETLANDS

by BRENDAN COE

The wetlands of the Wairarapa lie in the southern part of the great Wairarapa plain. The lakes and the surrounding swamp were formed by successive convulsions that thrust up Palliser Bay over a period of several thousand years, trapping the Ruamahanga river and its tributaries behind a shingle bar at the sea. This geological activity resulted in some 50,000 acres of lakes and wetland. The principal areas of water being lakes Wairarapa and Onoke. The outlet to the sea was occasionally opened in times of flood and the entrapped waters supplied a vast fishing ground for the maori people. The lake would be closed in normal weather patterns from December to March and the maoris would fish for eels using woven baskets. The harvest was huge and the eels were dried and sent throughout the North Island as gifts or for ceremonial feasts.

The pakeha came to the Wairarapa in 1840 and the first known European to travel around the coast from Wellington and walk past the Mukamuka rocks was William Deans who reported in a letter to his family "Would you believe it, no colonist but myself has been there. A month hence I will visit it again in company with fifty or sixty natives who are going to hunt wild pigs. If it turns out as well as I expect I think I will obtain a license and squat there "Deans never did, but grew potatoes and cabbages at Eastbourne before departing for Riccarton with his brother John three years later.

European settlement followed swiftly throughout the forties and fifties with large blocks of land being taken up by ambitious colonists. There were many problems to be overcome. The main worry for sheepmen for the first thirty years was scab or catarrh which wiped out whole flocks and was difficult to control. Land tenure was often bitter and protracted with rivalry between settlers and arguments over grazing rights. The main problem however was the flooding of the wetland (grazing land) in times of heavy rain. The obvious solution was to keep open a channel to the sea on a permanent basis. This was not as easy as it sounds because the maori owners wanted the outlet closed to preserve

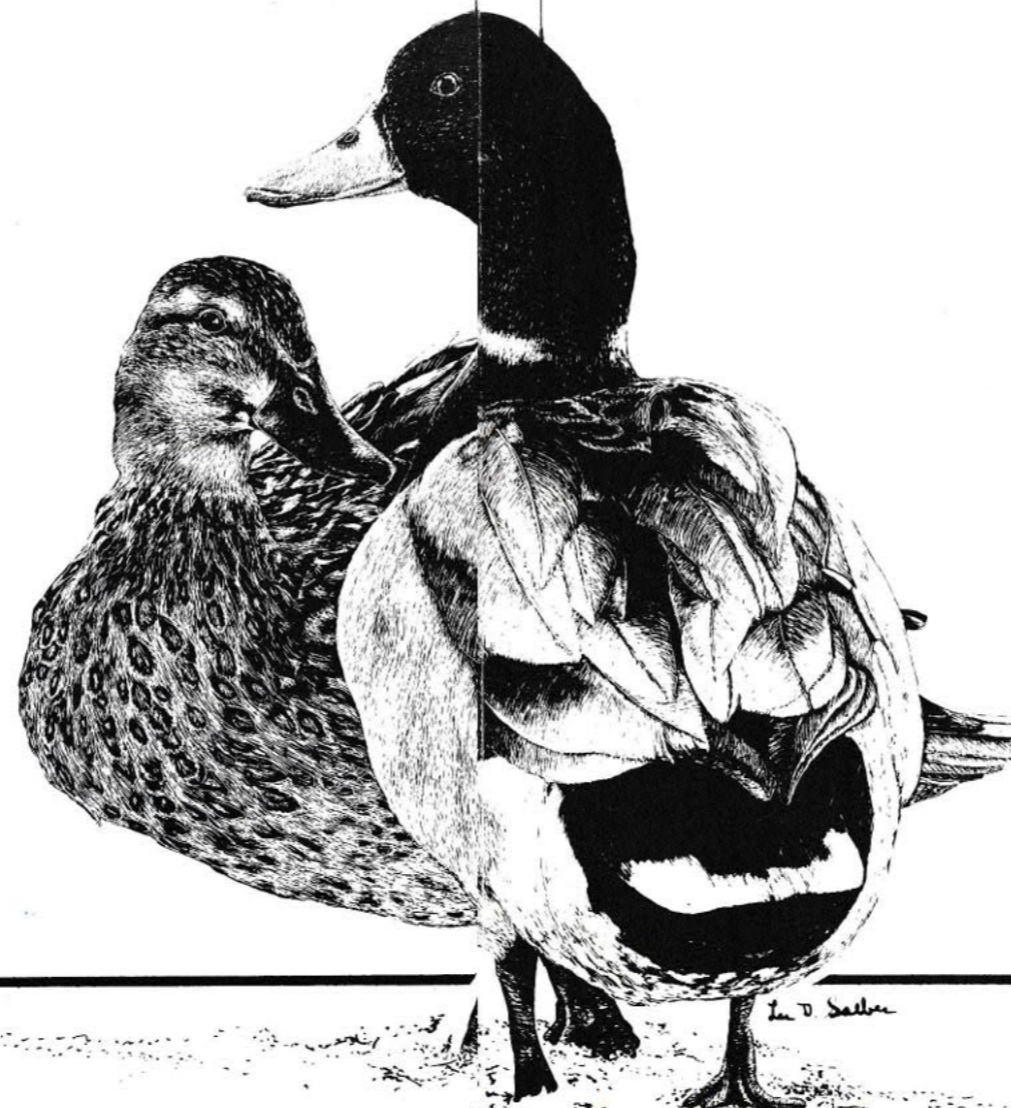
the fishing and so the arguments raged for nearly fifty years. To give an example of the resolution of both sides to their points of view, the following story is of interest. In 1892 a group of settlers with shovels, horses and a plough went to the spit to open the channel. Also present was a police inspector and six constables as well as over 100 maori people accompanied by their solicitors. The maoris had erected a fence over the outlet and the police inspector advised all concerned that the laying on of hands would constitute assault and precipitate arrests. The maoris asked if the touching of the pakeha's shovels was a breach of the peace. The inspector said "no". About a dozen pakeha shovellers started to open the trench and several maori men stepped forward and held onto the shovel handles. "Arrest those men", shouted one of the settlers. "No, it is passive resistance", came the reply from the law. The Europeans then joined hands and formed a circle around the men working to open the channel. Any breaking of the circle by force would constitute an offence. A number of old maori women suddenly started forward and dived under the closed hands and refilled the trench by scrabbling with hands and feet as fast as the shovellers emptied it out. The solution to this stalemate was the ruling from the law that such action was obstruction and constituted an offence. The maoris and their solicitors withdrew all opposition and the waters of the lake raced into the open sea three hours later. In 1896 the lakes were sold to the crown for two thousand pounds and the promise of additional land for the maori people. This event heralded the great drainage of the Lake Wairarapa wetlands. The reasons were plain enough. New Zealand's main export earnings came from the land and the majority of the people in local body and parliamentary power were runholders and farmers. Their activities provided the base for the countries present day prosperity.

Times have changed, but only a little. Agricultural produce is still our biggest export earner and farmers still represent a powerful lobby. We need farmers and their land; we also need some of the land left as natural habitat. In the case of Lake Wairarapa, this habitat is wetlands. The people who can pro-

vide this habitat are the landowners, as much of the remaining wetland is in private hands and its future rests squarely with the owners. Primarily, the landowner's wishes and livelihood have to be considered-a point sometimes missed by extreme preservationists. The retaining or reclaiming of wetlands can be a rewarding and valuable activity; take Mark Pearce for example.

Mark farms around 1000 acres at Boggy Creek on the eastern shoreline of the lake. The farm has a two and a half mile lake frontage

and runs parallel with the shore. Much of the property is reclaimed wetland and the farm carries sheep and cattle as well as crops. It also carries thousands of ducks that breed in the remaining wetlands and drains and sit along the shoreline in rafts. Arctic waders visit the lake edge and black swans and the occasional Canada goose can be seen out on the water. Grey teal, shoveller, mallard, paradise and grey ducks all live there as well as the native birds that inhabit wetlands. The house sits atop a hill and over looks the lake and the



farm. The view is panoramic and it is interesting to see flocks of birds wheeling and flying far out over the water. Mark Pearce is a hunter and his farm has been shot over since the days of last century. Down from the house and along ways are the old huts built by the Nitz brothers, farmers and famous as wapiti hunters in the 1920's and 1930's. Fred Yule, onetime mayor of Greytown has shot on the property for 52 years and you can find him in the huts during the season, well settled in with food and ammunition. He will sit back in a favourite chair and tell you stories of the old days. It used to be all grey ducks Fred says and you could row a boat from the willows just behind the huts. The greys are still there, but the mallard is king and Fred related an experience he had during the 1984 season. Sitting in his maimai out on the lake one day he looked out to see seven mallard drakes coming his way in a bunch. As Fred put it, he had to have a wee chat to himself to steady for the shot as they passed. Still enraptured with duck hunting after 52 seasons.

Boggy Creek has everything really, history and tradition as well as habitat and birds. The farm is a good one too and there is potential there for one of the best Wairarapa rural holdings. Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc. was both privileged and pleased to be able to assist Mark Pearce in a wetland habitat programme.

CREATION OF ANOTHER PART OF THE PEARCE WETLANDS. SOME 6-7 ACRES./NEIL HAYES

Mark wanted to put something back for the birds, a place to look at and be proud of and an area to provide breeding grounds for waterfowl. The plan was to bring in a bulldozer and clean off the bottoms of some previously drained areas and push the dirt up into pond sides with plenty of islands for loafing waterfowl. Work was completed in March this year and the result is two magnificent ponds of some twenty acres in total. What is particularly exciting is that the area is natural habitat and already has existing trees and feed sources around it. There is potential for grey teal nesting boxes and the proximity of the ponds to the lake will ensure an ideal environment for resident waterfowl.

The Pearce Wetlands is a new project with an exciting future and provides a working example of the combining of natural areas with productive farmland under the careful management of the owner and with the assistance of Ducks Unlimited.

Reference: Bagnall A.G. Wairarapa, An Historical Excursion. Hedley's Bookshop Ltd. 1976

D.U. NEWS

SINCLAIR WETLANDS

A comprehensive management plan which covers both short and long term management of the Sinclair Wetlands has been produced by a committee comprising Horrie Sinclair, Ducks Unlimited and the QEII National Trust. The plan was formally accepted by Horrie and the DU Board of Directors at the DU Board meeting in March.

The management plan incorporates three schedules:

- (i) The QEII Open Space Covenant which protects the property. This will be a legally binding document between Ducks Unlimited and the QEII National Trust.
- (ii) A management plan which sets out the objectives and policies and a description of the area, and
- (iii) A management schedule which sets out details of how the policies are to be achieved. The schedule will cover periods of five years, would include an annual budget and has provision for updating by the management committee.

The objectives of the management plan are:

- (i) To maintain, preserve and enhance the landscape, scientific and natural value of the wetland with particular regard to the indigenous flora and fauna.
- (ii) To develop the use of the wetland for recreation, including waterfowl hunting, in such a manner as does not conflict with the first objective.
- (iii) To encourage and utilise the wetland for scientific research and education as long as it does not conflict with the first objective.
- (iv) To continue the management practices developed by Mr H.A. Sinclair as defined in the management plan.

Some of the points covered in the plan are as follows:

Preface and Introduction
Part A, which covers the location and description of the property, tenure, history, soils, climate, hydrology, vegetation, bird life, fish life, amphibian life, mammals, invertebrates, biological records,



ecology, waterfowl hunting, fishing, scientific studies and boating.

Part B, which covers policies relating to all the above, plus, fire control, (smoking will be prohibited throughout the wetlands), access, commercial exploitation, mineral exploitation, power transmission lines, noxious plant control, exotic vegetation, exotic animals, fencing, buildings and other structures, recreational hunting control, public education, research, public usage of the wetlands and rubbish disposal.

Part C, which covers the administration of the wetlands, namely, composition and structure of the management committee and functions and responsibilities of the committee.

Appendices will be added to the plan as re-

quired, but the initial two appendices cover — The specifications relating to waterfowl hunting (in depth) and Fernbird Research. Other appendices will cover a complete inventory of birds and a complete inventory of plants.

There is still some work to do on the management plan but it is now very close to completion. The final version will be printed in booklet form and copies will be available to DU members.

We again take the opportunity to thank the QEII National Trust for its valuable contribution towards the production of the management plan for the Sinclair Wetlands; a plan

which we know has already achieved its initial objective, which was that it comply with the desires and requirements of the man himself — Horrie Sinclair.

PEARCE WETLANDS

We mentioned in the last 'Flight' that DU planned to financially assist the creation of wetlands on the property of Mark Pearce on the edge of Lake Wairarapa. The earthworks for these wetlands has now been completed — as can be seen in the photographs — and, should it ever rain again in the Wairarapa, a magnificent series of wetlands will be created. Between 15 and 20 acres of water will eventually be achieved and the whole area will be fenced. The habitat created will be ideal for Grey Teal, Shoveler and Grey ducks, and will go some way towards replacing some of the habitat that has had the plug pulled in recent years. Thanks again to Mark Pearce for his support and enthusiasm.

THOUGHTS ON DU'S WETLAND CREATION, RESTORATION and PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

DU's operation 'Wetlands' was only recently established; not because we didn't want to get involved in wetlands, but because DU funds have only recently reached a stage where we could seriously turn our thoughts to what in the long term must surely be our most important role.

The 'Wetlands' project started in a modest way with \$2,000 being spent, in 1983, restoring valuable Grey Teal habitat at Pokeno; this was followed by \$1,000 being spent in 1984 fencing the valuable Brown Teal roost site at Matapouri, and in this period upwards of \$4,000 will be spent creating wetlands in the Wairarapa. We also hope to finance further fencing work at Brown Teal haunts in Northland.

No set policy has yet been established in respect of DU funds for habitat, but a few thoughts are as follows:

1. The potential wetland habitat area will be on private property and must clearly indicate that the created wetland will be of a definite benefit to one or more of DU's waterfowl projects and to native waterbirds.
2. The created wetland habitat must ultimately embrace all aspects of good wildlife management i.e. fencing (with good

margins for waterfowl grazing), planting, islands, rafts, platforms, nest boxes, contoured profile, and so on.

3. When possible DU will finance the total cost of DU approved wetland habitat projects.

It is apparent that over the next few years Ducks Unlimited will be greatly expanding its activities in habitat work and if you know of any areas suitable for the creation, restoration or protection of wetland habitat please let us know.

WELLINGTON CHAPTER'S INAUGURAL FUNCTION

On Saturday 2nd March the DU Wellington Chapter held its inaugural function at the Shaw-Savill Lodge, Kilbirnie. Attended by some seventy members and friends close to \$3,000 was raised — for investment in DU's wetland habitat projects.

The function followed a similar pattern to the well proven formula used at DU annual meetings for raising funds; 26 main auction items were offered, plus 15 silent auction items. Prior to the auction those present were able to view DU sales items, watch Country Calendar and Horrie Sinclair's Swamp on video, study the new Brown Teal display unit, and also sit down to an excellent dinner.

Well known actor Alan Wilks acted as M/C and Allan Elliott performed outstandingly as 'guest' auctioneer. Some outstanding auction items were offered, including a fine framed photograph of three Canada geese, presented by the Wildlife Service, and a weekend deerstalking for two was very generously offered by Diane and Craig Walker. One of the auction highlights was undoubtedly the parade of two Cayuga ducks (generously donated by Roger Chorlton) prior to them being auctioned.

Several present indicated a desire to join the Wellington Chapter committee — under the Chairmanship of Derek Morrison, who had done outstanding work in arranging the inaugural function. At least one other function is planned this year and profits from the chapter activities will be handed to the DU President at the annual meeting in July.

MEMBERSHIP

All membership records have now been placed on computer and you will have noticed a new address label on your envelope. Please

let us know if there are any errors in your label. **Subscriptions:** Subscriptions are now due for the 1985-86 period and a renewal form was enclosed with the last 'Flight'. Please help DU help the ducks by paying your sub promptly.

New Life Members: We are delighted to announce that Dr Malcolm Hucks of Taupo, recently decided to become a Life Member. Dr Hucks has been a DU member for some time, but felt it was time to put a little extra into waterfowl habitat. A letter from Dr Hucks is published elsewhere in this issue. DU Director, Fred Bailey of Auckland, has also become a Life Member. Fred is Managing Director of Bailey Engineering Ltd.

Donations: Many thanks to the following for recent donations, Mort Midgley, John McKinstry, Mrs L. Laing, E.J. Thomson, Norman Marsh, the N.Z. Small Game Shooters Sporting Association, Halcyon Books, Ava Zaubernern.

New Trade members: The N.Z. Small Game Shooters Sporting Association, the Promotional Marketing Co of Lower Hutt, Langdons Machinery Ltd of Ashburton, and T.E. Fennessy of Wellington have become Trade members.

Sponsor Members: Brendan Coe, Allan Elliott, Rod Satherley, Mark Newcomb, Allan Knowles, Nick Burrows, Stephen Weston, John Murdoch, and Winstone Afforestation Ltd have become Sponsor members for 85-86.

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DU WATERFOWL BREEDERS

Over recent years there has been a tremendous upsurge of interest in waterfowl breeding and there is a continual demand for waterfowl to form waterfowl collections. Many DU members supply waterfowl to other members and a number of members have also indicated that their collections are open for viewing and a list is set out below. Private collections are usually open for viewing by appointment only.

WATERFOWL COLLECTIONS

Barlow, Graham, R.D.1, Kākapapapa, Northland.
 Bourke, Michael, R.D.2, Kimbolton (Rangiwahia 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, Frankton, 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.
 Money, Charlie, R.D.2., Ruawai, Northland.
 Morrison, Bill, 'Onetai', Masterton. (23825).
 Munro, Ron, Mokotua, R.D.7., Invercargill (Kapuka 827).
 Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre, Masterton (Eketahuna 4115).
 Nelson Parker, J. Lockhead Rd, Te Puna, Tauranga (25596).
 Otorohanga Zoological Society, P.O. Box 222, Otorohanga.
 Parris, Jack, 'Marahau', R.D.2., Motueka.
 Peters, Wayne, R.D.1., New Plymouth (Egmont Valley 893).

CANADAS' IN THE NORTH ISLAND/ DIANE WALKER

Pike, Melvin, 9 Plimsoll St, Carterton.
 Pirani, Ian & Dawn, Box 275 (Ngongotaha (Kaharoa 692).
 Pirani, Paul & Cheryl, Kahikatea Flat Road, Albany (Hibiscus Coast 63332).
 Walker, Diane, 'Mitredale', Smiths Road, Ohakune 58016).
 Smith Gus, 7 Dunk Place, Palmerston North (84425).
 'Staglands', C/- John Simister, Akatarawa, Upper Hutt (267529).

SIMULATED FIELD SHOOT

The DU Eketahuna Chapter are running a simulated field shoot at the Eketahuna Gun Club on Sunday 30th June commencing at 11am.

OBITUARY

Ducks Unlimited and clay target shooting suffered a severe loss when John Clinton (Sos) Savage passed away on 11th February. Sos was a DU ten year member and one of New Zealand's most likeable characters, who excelled at his chosen sport of shotgunning. In the mid-70's it was Sos who really got things going at DU annual auctions, not only because he invariably ended up spending more than anyone else, but because he did it with appropriate comments and with a big smile. He believed in what DU was all about. Sos was Immediate Past President of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society and President of the Hutt Valley Gun Club and his leadership of the club over the last eight years resulted in the club purchasing its own property of some 70 acres. Sos was a national champion at clay target shooting and a New Zealand representative. He was a person who could communicate with people from all walks of life and of all ages, and he was an individual who lived life to the full. Sos will be greatly missed. DU and its members extend deepest sympathy to Shirley Savage and her family.

B80 SHOTGUN

No tender was accepted for the D.U. B80 shotgun and it will be offered for sale at the 1985 annual auction. There will be no reserve on the B80 and postal bids will be accepted.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Space does not permit detailed project reports in this issue, but briefly, in 'Pateke' thirty Brown Teal were released at the Matapouri Estuary in late April, bringing the total released at Matapouri to 86. Jim Campbell, DU Vice President, again took the birds to Northland in his Chevy truck and the release was assisted by Wildlife Service Officer, Alan Munn, and by the Field Officer of the Northland Federation of Acclimatisation Societies, Mark Poynter.

The 1984-85 breeding season for Brown Teal has again gone well and preliminary figures indicate that around 120 birds have been reared.

Successful breeding of Brown Teal in the wild has been recorded at the Nga Manu Sanctuary at Waikanae, where two birds were reared on the main lagoon.

In operation 'Branta', a shipment of Canada geese was transferred from the South Island to the Wairarapa in late March. All birds were released in a pinioned state and have settled in well.

PRESIDENT INJURED

President Paul Pirani was out of action for some time when he suffered serious burns to his hand during March. On arriving back at work he found the memo below on his desk.

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PROGRESS AT MT. BRUCE

Construction of the visitors' centre building at Mt Bruce is progressing rapidly. The contractor was already at work in good time for the official Sod Turning by Hon Peter Tapsell, Minister of Internal Affairs, on 4th December 1984.

By New Year the concrete floor and foundations were in place and the building was already taking shape.

Completion is expected by late June in time for the official opening, presently set down for 8th July 1985. The Governor General, His Excellency Sir David Beattie, has kindly agreed to perform the ceremony.

From the new building an elevated walkway leads through the tree-tops of the Mt. Bruce reserve towards the bush-walks and aviaries. The stream which the walkway crosses is already home for numbers of out-size brown trout and eels which can easily be seen from above.

The National Wildlife Centre Trust Board has been set up to organise the construction and to assist the Wildlife Service in administering the centre. The Board which is based in Masterton has representatives from conservation organisations, including WWF-NZ, Wairarapa local bodies and community services group and the Government departments which have participated in the project.



CONSERVATION AWARD

At a meeting of the Council of South Island Acclimatisation Societies in March Roger Sutton, MBE, until recent retirement, the Senior Field Officer with the Southland Acclimatisation Society, was presented with the Wildlife Service Conservation Award. In presenting the award the Director of the Wildlife Service, Ralph Adams, commented that only seven Conservation Awards had been made. (One was to Ducks Unlimited in 1983) Roger was awarded the MBE last year for his services to conservation and DU congratulates him on this further recognition.

Roger is the QEII National Trust representative in the deep South and recently carried out extensive work on the Sinclair Wetlands Management Plan.

OTOROHANGA NATIVE BIRD PARK

Many New Zealanders will know of, or perhaps have visited, the Otorohanga Kiwi House and Native Bird Park. It had its beginnings over 10 years ago when several Otorohanga residents realised that New Zealand's national bird, the kiwi, was declining in the wild before much of its biology had been researched and without public awareness of the situation.

Respect was earned through the research carried out on the Kiwi, mainly by local chemist and DU member Barry Rowe and

"THIS DOG WILL DEFINITELY NOT GO INTO THAT COLD WATER TO RETRIEVE THOSE DUCKS" SYLVIA HAYES WITH 'HADLEE' HAYES./ NEIL HAYES

visiting scientists and Wildlife Service officers. This work culminated in the first completely 'incubator hatched' kiwi chick, and since then many kiwi chicks have been reared at the park.

Today the Kiwi House and bird park displays over 30 species of native birds and reptiles with the emphasis on natural surroundings and research/breeding programmes wherever possible. Present projects include educational material for visiting schools and updated graphics which will be of value particularly for overseas visitors viewing our native birds for the first time. A well stocked shop specialising in 'wildlife' orientated gifts and books is also run to cater for tourists and provide a valuable income to help run the park.

With an annual visitation around 40,000 people and growing steadily, the small, country town of Otorohanga can be proud of what it has produced in just over 10 years. There is no doubt that the Zoological Society has had a marked influence on conservation issues and public awareness of wildlife during this time and will continue to do so in the future.

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LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

A recent letter from the Rt Hon Sir Thaddeus McCarthy

Dear Editor,
Reading your note on the protection given to the Manganui-a-te-Ao in your issue No. 42 of December last, I was sorry to see that no reference was made to the part played by the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust in securing that protection. Indeed, the part played by the Trust was the most important and effective one.

The petition to Parliament to which you referred was a significant help, but it failed to achieve a satisfactory conclusion. It was then that the National Trust took the matter up, lodged an application to the Water and Soil Authority under a section of the legislation which had not previously been invoked, obtained a hearing of the application and prosecuted it to success. That it was this application which was the really decisive step in the long campaign to secure protection for this lovely river cannot be questioned, as I am able to say having been Chairman of the National Trust at the time and having presented the Trust's case to the tribunal.

Sir Thaddeus McCarthy

And a letter from our latest Life member

Dear Mr Hayes,
After twenty five years of shotgunning, mainly in the Taupo region, I have become increasingly distressed by the loss of suitable habitat for all game birds and the decline of upland



game birds in particular.

I firmly believe that the time has come where New Zealanders must be prepared to persuade government departments to set aside suitable tracts of land and promote adequate funding and expertise to restore game birds to their original level.

The co-operation between Ducks Unlimited as a private organisation and the Wildlife Service has encouraged me to make my small contribution and become a Life member.

I would hope in the future that Ducks Unlimited will become financially able to extend their excellent aims to all species of game birds while continuing to build up the numbers of threatened species.

In my opinion the co-operation of the farming community, forestry companies and Maori corporations should be actively sought

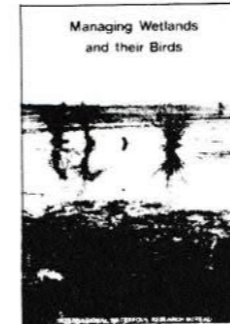
in preserving remaining suitable habitat and the funding necessary must be solicited from those New Zealanders who wish their sons and daughters to enjoy the benefits of a sport which many take for granted.
Dr M.L. Hucks

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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. Price \$21.50.



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 \$10.00.

The HAWAIIAN GOOSE



Janet Kear & A.J. Berger

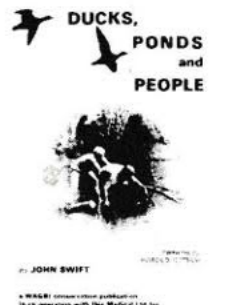
The Hawaiian Goose by Janet Kear & A.J. Berger. This outstanding book is an absorbing account of the world's most successful waterfowl conservation project, which has seen the population rise from 30 birds to over 2,500. Price \$22.50.



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 32 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.



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 \$10.00.



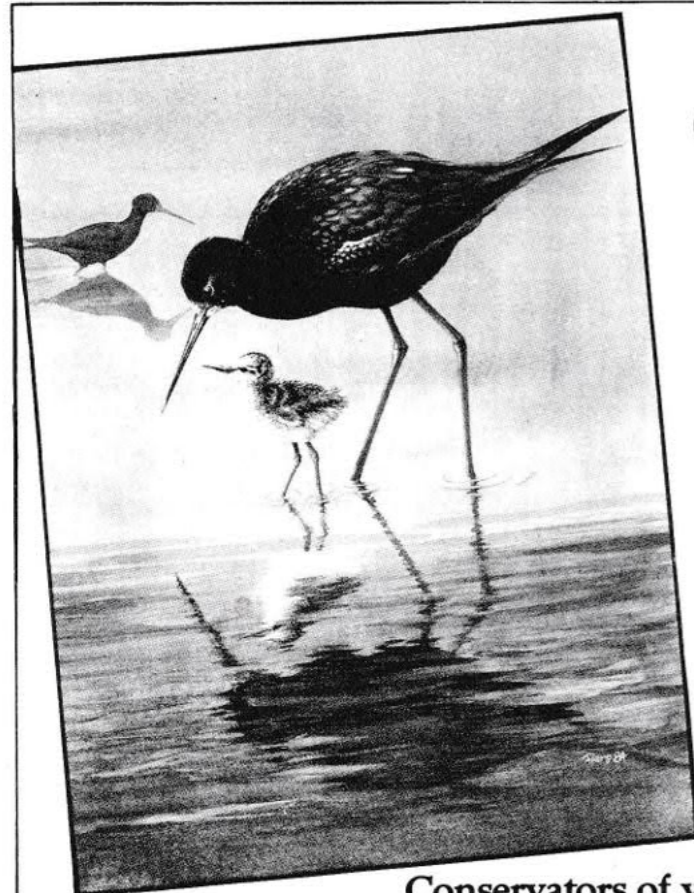
Ducks, Ponds & People by John Swift of B.A.S.C. 112 pages provide a guide to the management of small lakes and ponds for waterfowl. (DU's best selling book.) Price \$10.00.



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. Price \$5 each.



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