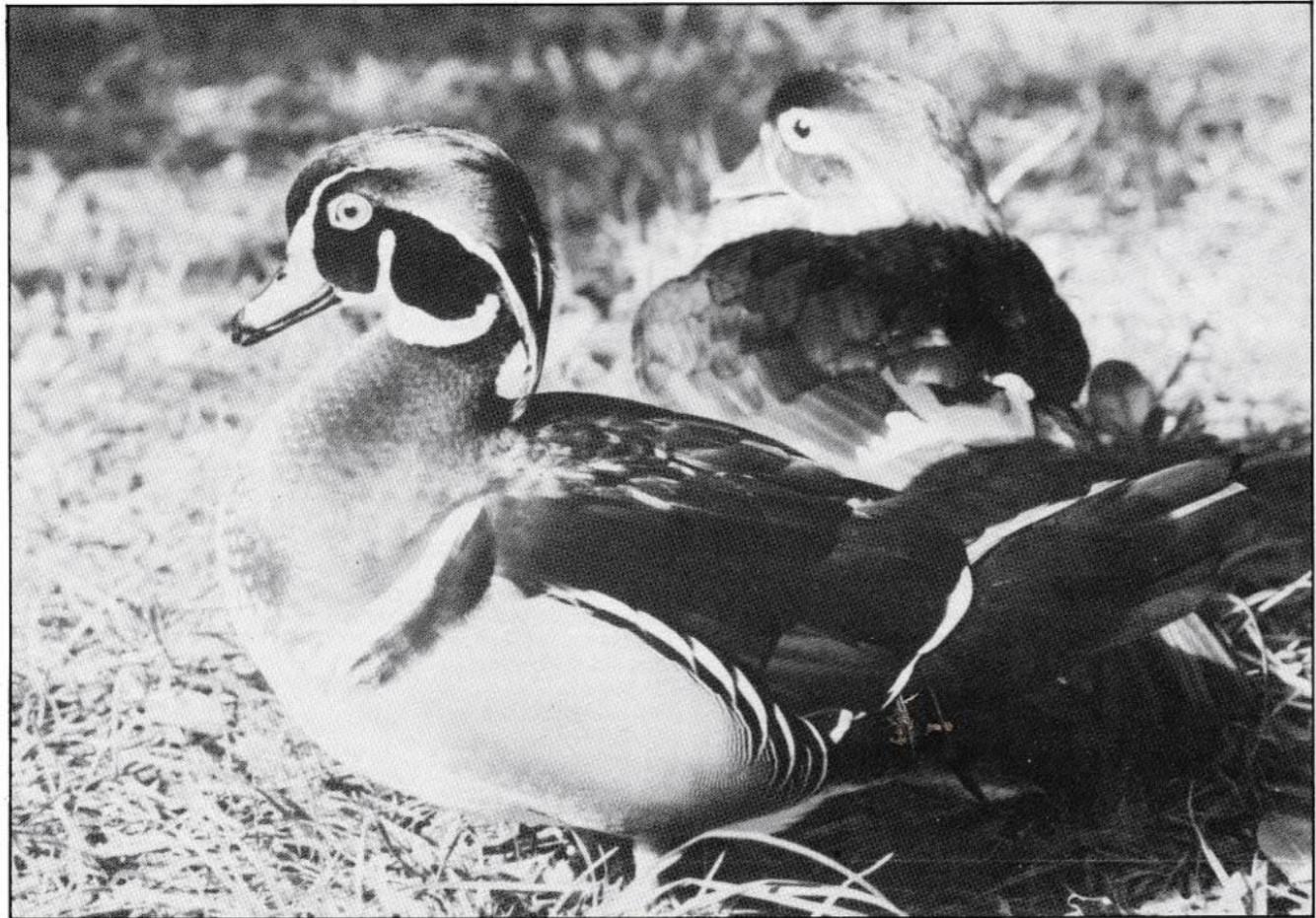


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Flight

No. 3/86 • ISSUE 49 • SEPTEMBER 1986

NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE

DUCKS UNLIMITED
QUARTERLY
WATERFOWL JOURNAL



DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z) INC.,

— FOR WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS —
PO BOX 44-176 LOWER HUTT, NEW ZEALAND

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COVER PICTURE

Auctioneer Bill Wilkinson in full cry at the annual auction. Photography: G. Girvan, F.N. Hayes, B. Coe.

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 2000 devoted members and friends concerned with waterfowl conservation. DU memberships beings at \$5.50 pa for Junior to \$16.50 for full membership with provision for trade and life members. Membership of Ducks Unlimited carries with it subscription to this publication. To assure prompt delivery, members who move are urged to forward their new address along with current membership details to national headquarters. Letters and contributed manuscripts and photographs should be addressed to the "Flight" Editor. Views expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily constitute those of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated.

"FLIGHT" IS PRINTED BY LITHOGRAPHIC SERVICES LTD, LOWER HUTT

12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE THC WAIRAKEI, 12TH JULY 1986

With each year, the Annual Conference gets bigger and more successful. This year 120 people attended the formal part of the meeting and the numbers rose to 160 for the dinner and auction, members coming from as far afield as Northland and Dunedin. Our new venue at THC Wairakei proved to be more than adequate to handle the increased numbers in comfort and had the added advantage of providing excellent facilities for families and young people. We look forward with confidence to breaking the 200 mark for attendance there next year.

Formal minutes of the Conference appear on other pages of this issue.

Without doubt the social and financial highlight of DU's year is the fundraising dinner and auction. The money raised here provides the main financial basis for DU's

activities through the coming year. We are pleased to report that Treasurer Chris Hooson was able to bank \$28,217.33 as a result of the evening's activities — a most gratifying result and a tribute to the generosity of donors of auction items, and to the considerable skills of auctioneer Mr K.G.W. (Bill) Wilkinson. This is Bill's twelfth DU auction, and once again he was in fine voice providing great entertainment while persuading participants to bid high for the items — an exhausting task this year with well over 70 items in the main auction. It would be difficult to exaggerate Bill's contribution to the success and enjoyment of the evening, indeed, it would be hard to imagine a Conference without his presence.

There was a magnificent array of goods donated for the auction, but special acknowledgement must be paid to the contribution

of DU Inc. (U.S.A.) in providing so many attractive items: art prints, books, crystal, and decoys from master carvers T.J. Hooker and Tom Taber. These items provoked some spirited bidding.

Highest price of the evening went for a W.C. Scott 20 gauge sidelock shotgun which was sold on a commission basis for \$8750.

This evening is the occasion on which Chapters announce the results of their fund-raising efforts for the year. The increasing importance of their contribution can be judged from the following results. Wellington Chapter headed the list with a sum of \$4500, a tribute to the efforts of their organising committee. Tiny Eketahuna showed what can be achieved by donating \$3000 — a magnificent achievement from such a small Chapter. Auckland Chapter's inaugural dinner raised \$2500 which gives promise of bigger things to come from them. Hamilton Chapter, somewhat in recess at the moment, presented a cheque for \$1072, while Taurarua's cheque for \$660 represented their efforts in organising the annual claybird championships. All told, their splendid efforts boosted DU's funds by the amount of \$11,732.

Busiest Director on the night was Diane Pritt, who was in charge of booking arrangements, registration, the sales table, and all-important cashing-up at the end of the evening. Special thanks are due to her and her band of helpers for the smooth running of the evening.

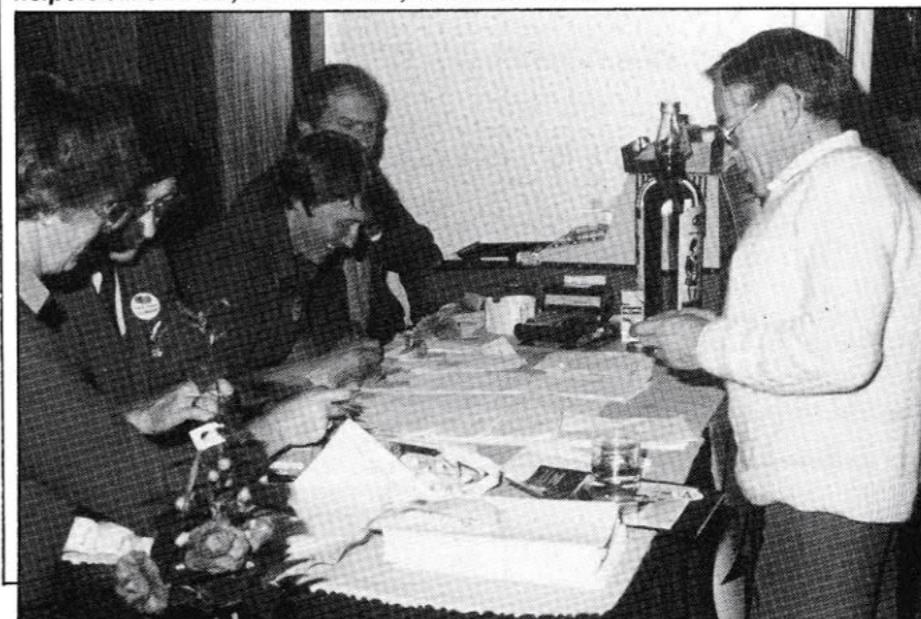
DU directors wish to thank all those members, organisations, and companies listed below for their generous donations to the auction and apologise to any whose names are inadvertently not recorded, especially those who donated at the last minute and whose names were not recorded:

Denise & Hugh Cooper	Rankin
Glenys, Colleen, Chris & Ted Hansen	Ron & Janet Denny
Jim & Pat Campbell	Wildfowl Trust, U.K.
Jim & Doreen Glover	Ducks Unlimited, U.S.A.
Allan & Jane Elliott	Anneke Borren
Neil & Sylvia Hayes	Cheryl & Paul Pirani
Reikorangi Potteries	Lin Morris
Brendan Coe	Broadhead Jewellers
R. Franklin	Horrie Sinclair
Gary Girvan	Graham & Sue Barlow
Peter Mcleod	Mark & Trish Newcomb
Don Elley	W. Clinton-Baker
Hedley's Bookshop	Ronald Lockley
K. Mackie	Mrs C.P. Sigvertsen
Michael and Sue Perry	Mrs Daphne French
Chris Hooson	O. Mapp
Ron Munro	H.E. Perry Ltd
Hang Up Gallery	Ralph Sutton
Tisdalls Ltd	Fred & Sue Bailey
H. & B. Avery	T. Harrington
P. Cooper	M. Midgley



Scene at the Conference Dinner.

The busy registration desk. Tom Caithness is welcomed by Diane Pritt and helpers Jane Elliott, Chris Hooson, and Mark Timms.



DU NEWS

1987 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1987 Annual Meeting will again be at THC Wairakei, on the 12th & 13th July. Pencil these dates in your diary now.

IAN PIRANI STANDS DOWN

Founder member and D.U. Director since 1974, Ian Pirani, stood down from the D.U. Board of Directors at the 1986 annual meeting. Ian has been a real driving force in D.U. and his input at Board meetings will be sorely missed. Ian assures us, however, that he will be maintaining his keen interest in D.U. affairs.

D.U. LIFE MEMBER RECEIVES KNIGHTHOOD

D.U. members would have been delighted to see Life member Neil Isaac feature in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list. Neil was created a Knight Bachelor for his services to conservation.

There would be few people in New Zealand who have not heard of Peacock Springs, near Christchurch, which was created in the early 1970's by Sir Neil and Lady Diana Isaac. As Managing Director of Isaac Construction, Sir Neil, with outstanding assistance from Lady Isaac, has created a series of quite magnificent waterfowl lagoons from the gravel pits at Peacock Springs. The whole area is in fact an outstanding example of one family's contribution to conservation.

It was Sir Neil and Lady Diana who were responsible for establishing our new Royal Swan project.

Ducks Unlimited congratulates Sir Neil and Lady Diana on this well deserved recognition of their work.

MEMBERSHIP

New Life Members

Ducks Unlimited is pleased to announce two new Life memberships. Andy A. Gurney of Upper Hutt, a D.U. member since D.U.'s foundation in 1974 has become a Life member, and the Central North Island Wildlife Conservancy Council has decided to strongly support D.U.'s aims and objectives by becoming Life members.

New Sponsor Members

Messrs M. Wennick, A. Terpstra and G.A. McLeod have become Sponsor members for 1986-87, as has Diane Pitt — for the third year running.

New Trade Members

Nelson Lakes Guiding Services of St Arnaud, E.G. Phillips of Cambridge, Magnetic Sweepers Ltd of Auckland, R.V. Atkinson of Te Kuiti, R.L. Newcombe of Masterton, the Kati Kati Bird Gardens, and G.R. Holmes of Wellington have recently become D.U. Trade members.

Subscriptions

Membership Secretary Brendan Coe reports an excellent response to the renewal subscription notice. But if you have not yet renewed please try to do so as soon as possible and save D.U. the cost of further postage.

SINCLAIR WETLAND BUILDING & DONATIONS

A delay in getting the Sinclair Wetlands building complex underway has been created by the fact that D.U. has to advertise in the Otago district that it wishes to erect a building at the wetlands. In the meantime donations to the project continue to arrive, and have been received from; Andrew Pitthie (aged 10), N.E. Plimmer, N.J. Telfer, R.N. Argent, Miss G. Johnstone, S. Gribble, D.N. Melville, R.J. Sowman (West Germany), Mr & Mrs J.F. Chetwin, R. Meads, G. Girvan, J. Wong Nam, S. Smale, J. Tilley, G. B. Mitchell, J.H.B. Ward, Roger R. Sutton (Roger's third donation), and Bill Clinton-Baker.

The Ornithological Society of N.Z. has made a very significant contribution of \$500. We hope that OSNZ (P.O. Box 35337, AUCKLAND 10) members will visit the Sinclair Wetlands when they are in the area.

BLUE DUCKS IN THE U.K.

Ian Bryant, officer in charge at the National Wildlife Centre, flew to the U.K. in Mid-May as a guest of the Wildfowl Trust, for six weeks.

During his stay in the U.K. Ian was able to see two pairs of Blue ducks, which were taken to the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge by Rod Hall in April, come out of quarantine and be transferred to their new aviaries at the Wildfowl Trust's centre at Arundel in Sussex.

D.U. Director Jim Glover was also in the U.K. recently and in late August visited Arundel. He was able to report that the Blue ducks have settled in well.

ANOTHER ILLEGAL DUCK BAND TURNS UP

Rod Cossee, banding officer with the Wildlife Service, reports that another alien waterfowl band has turned up on a duck shot in the Whangamarino Swamp during the 1986 duck season. The band is aluminium and carries the stamped inscription JR 80 F1. If any member knows anything about this band, and the bird wearing it, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

As mentioned in the last 'Flight', Ducks Unlimited is an approved banding operator and we are always pleased to assist in an approved banding programme.

STOP PRESS — Raffle Results

Winners were:
 1st Prize: bronze shoveler duck: Leo Moslin
 2nd Prize: Brown Teal painting: Denis Handyside
 3rd Prize: Binoculars: Pauline Chitty

Congratulations to these lucky winners and thanks to all who supported the fundraising raffle which realised a profit of \$7,500

3RD D.U. NATIONAL CLAY TARGET CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

An excellent championship shoot was held at the Taupo Gun Club on Friday 11th July. 60 D.U. members attended and the shoot was again superbly run by Taumarunui Chapter Chairman Gavin Brears and the Taumarunui Chapter.

Results were as follows:

SKEET

H.O.A. J. Coatham	1stB G. Powell
1stA M. Pratt	2ndB J. Munden
2ndA J. Waterhouse	3rdB A. Hunt
3rdA G. Lamb	

1stC G. Williams
2ndC J. Tarrant
3rdC S. Munden

SPORTING

H.O.A. J. Bennett	1stB J. Corbett
1stA M. Pratt	2ndB S. Redmayne
2ndA G. Clark	3rdB N. Hayes
3rdA (R Young)	
(G. Brears)	
1stC D. Calder	
2ndC J. Worth	
3rdC P. Noon	

POINTS SCORE

H.O.A J. Bennett	1stB L. Kovaleski
1stA B. Beecroft	2ndB C. Pritchard
2ndA M. Pratt	3rdB A. Hunt
3rdA S. Redmayne	

1stC C. Walker
2ndC M. Chaney
3rdC E. Peterson

SINGLE BARREL

H.O.A J. Coatham	1stB L. Kovaleski
1stA J. Waterhouse	2ndB J. Wilkinson
2ndA G. Nicol	3rdB A. Hunt
3rdA G. Lamb	

1stC C. Walker
2ndC M. Chaney
3rdC E. Peterson

SPARROWS

H.O.A. G. Nicol	1stB C. Pritchard
1stA J. Coatham	2ndB L. Kovaleski
2ndA B. Beecroft	3rdB G. Powell
3rdA R. Hickey	

1stC E. Peterson
2ndC C. Walker
3rdC P. Noon

DOUBLE RISE

H.O.A R. Hickey	1stB L. Kovaleski
1stA J. Corbett	2ndB C. Pritchard
2ndA I. Waterhouse	3rdB G. Powell
3rdA G. Nicol	

1stC C. Walker
2ndC M. Chaney
3rdC P. Noon

SINGLE RISE

H.O.A. G. Brears	1stB J. Wilkinson
1stA B. Beecroft	2ndB S. Brodribb
2ndA M. Pratt	3rdB L. Kovaleski
3rdA N. Owens	

1stC C. Walker
2ndC E. Peterson
3rdC M. Chaney



Neil & Sylvia Hayes at Horries Investiture.

H.O.A. High Gun Merv Pratt. 171/185

A Grade. J. Bennett. B Grade. L. Kovaleski. C Grade. C. Walker.

N.Z. Team. M. Pratt, B. Beecroft, Norm Owens, G. Brears, J. Bennett, G. Lamb, S. Redmayne, L. Kovaleski, J. Coatham, J. Munden.

Score 1451/1500 49 Pts down

Winning Chapter Hamilton Blue. 74/75

John Coatham, L. Kovaleski, Merv Pratt,

John Bennett, Jim Munden

VIDEO TAPES

DU now has the following VHS tapes available on loan to members, for a maximum of two weeks and \$10 to cover postage:

1. Hidden Places/Sinclair Wetlands
2. Country Calendar/Ducks Unlimited
3. Country Calendar/Horrie Sinclair
4. River in Question

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

Wellington Chapter

Under the leadership of new President, Mark Harrison, and Secretary-Treasurer Derek Morrison, the Committee has been particularly active. They have produced an excellent newsletter which details forthcoming Chapter activities. Any D.U. member from the Wellington district who has not received this newsletter should make contact with Chris Hooson, Ph 859-166 (Bus) or 780-241 (Pvt). Recent fundraising events have included a Sporting Claybird shoot at the Ohari Valley range of the N.Z. Smallgame Shooters' Association, and the next social outing is to be a field trip to the Wairarapa. Members and friends will visit Mt Bruce National Wildlife Centre and be given a tour of D.U. President,

Jim Campbell's property to view his extensive wetlands development and the bird life it has attracted. It is hoped that the Canada Geese there will be nesting at this time. Details of the trip, which is scheduled for Sunday, 2nd November, will be given in the next Chapter newsletter.

Eketahuna Chapter

President Glenys Hansen has now been appointed to D.U.'s Board of Directors as a members' representative. No doubt the Board will benefit from her energy which has caused such great fundraising results from a relatively small membership. Early in August, the Chapter sponsored and manned a display at the Conservation Week publicity morning in Masterton. They will be seen in the Eketahuna streets at the Annual Country Fair. Glenys and her helpers will be turning 5kgs of flour into waffles to help swell Chapter funds and they will also be selling raffles.

On Sunday November 2nd, Eketahuna will be joining up with the Wellington Chapter's visit to Mt Bruce culminating with a barbecue at the Centre.

The Chapter has already sponsored one Simulated Field Shoot at the Eketahuna Gun Club — a most challenging and enjoyable course. Although the next scheduled D.U. shoot is not until 29th March next year, there is talk of organising one for January. Details will be announced in the next issue of 'Flight'.

Taumarunui Chapter

As detailed earlier in 'D.U. News', Gavin Brears and the Chapter organised the 3rd D.U. National Clay Target Championship at Taupo as a prelude to the A.G.M. and Conference.



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Refreshments available.

MINUTES OF THE 12TH

of Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Incorporated held at the THC Wairakei, Saturday 12th July 1986 commencing at 2.00pm

WELCOME

The President, J.C. Campbell, welcomed members and guests to the conference, specifically mentioning, Ralph Adams, Director of the Wildlife Service, Adrienne Longuet, 'Country Calendar' Director, Fred Rouse of the Marlborough Acclimatisation Society, Mrs Audrey Eagle of the Nature Conservation Council, John Cheyne, Conservator of Wildlife in Dunedin and Tom Caithness, Wildlife Service scientist. The President also commented on the D.U. Honorary memberships recently bestowed on Ralph Adams and Adrienne Longuet.

PRESENT

The President, Vice-President (N.M. Newcomb), and 120 members of Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Inc. The following apologies were announced: Sir Neil and Lady Isaac, Dr Peter Tapsell, Phillip Woollaston, Dr Allan Edmonds, John Gill, Murray & Lyn Dench, Roy Dench, Stewart Borlace, Ron Munro, Bud Jones, Peter Finch, Mark Harrison, Ian Jenson, Garth Rippon, Brad Parkes, David & Del McDonald, Graham Gurr, Bryan Rhodes, Andrew & Bruce Wilde, Heather Cheyne, Allan Hart, Dr Tony Cutten, Bruce Thompson, David Mitchell, Mick & Josie Whitall, David Wilkes, Bill Morrison and Robert Morgan. These apologies were sustained on the motion of J.C. Campbell and C. Hooson.

MINUTES OF THE 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On the Motion of J.C. Campbell and A. Elliott it was resolved that the Minutes of the 11th Annual Conference of Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) held at the THC Tokaanu on the 13th July 1985, having been published in the September 1985 edition of 'Flight', be taken as read and confirmed. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President referred to his report in the June issue of 'Flight' and commented that throughout the year he had attempted to keep members fully informed on important aspects of D.U.'s work in his 'Flight' column. He said that the fund raising appeal for the Sinclair Wetlands had been very successful with very generous contributions from members. He also recorded D.U.'s special thanks to the Wildlife Service, the Otago Acclimatisation Society and the Ornithological Society of N.Z. who had contributed \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$500 respectively to the fund raising campaign.

The President then referred to the Financial Statement that had been published in the June issue of 'Flight'. D.U.'s new Treasurer, Chris Hooson, moved the adoption of the Financial Statement and Mr A. Wilkes seconded the motion, which was carried.

In a question about the accounts, Tom Caithness asked about the large increase in

the 1985 Annual Conference costs. The President said that this was because of the payment made for the two shotguns sold at the auction on a commission basis.

The President then moved the adoption of his report, which was seconded by C. Hooson and carried.

AUDITORS

On the motion of C. Hooson and A. Elliott it was resolved that the present Auditors, Messrs Deloitte, Haskins & Sells be re-appointed for the 1986/87 period.

ELECTION — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The President called for four nominations from the floor of the meeting, to elect members' representatives to the Board of Directors for the year 1986-87. P.B.C. Pirani nominated M. Timms and J. Glover, and this was seconded by T. Caithness. P. Moon nominated Mrs G. Hansen and C. Hooson, and this was seconded by Mr A. Wilkes. There being no further nominations the President declared these four elected. This was carried by acclamation.

The President then read a letter of resignation from the Board from Ian Pirani. The President then invited Paul Pirani to say a few words about his brother's activities with D.U. Paul Pirani said that in the early days of D.U. in New Zealand there were four Piranis on the D.U. Board of Directors and that it was probably appropriate that he should publicly thank Ian for his involvement. He said that D.U. was founded in Ian's office in Hamilton in late 1973 by five people — Jack Worth, Ian Pirani, Trevor Voss, Don Main, & Dudley Bell. Ian Pirani was D.U.'s first President and was responsible for getting D.U. off the ground in

a businesslike manner. P. Pirani commented further on the relatively undemocratic way in which the D.U. Board of Directors was established, with six permanent Directors who could not be replaced and four elected at the annual meeting. This he said was largely responsible for much of D.U.'s success. He also said that Ian's very persuasive manner had ensured success for D.U. He said that it was important that the day should not pass without the meeting recording special thanks to Ian and to his wife, Dawn, for their outstanding contribution to D.U. affairs. This comment was followed by resounding acclamation.

The President said that one other matter in respect of Directors was that the D.U. Board had decided Brendan Coe should be appointed a permanent Director because of the tremendous amount of work he was putting into D.U. activities. The President then moved that this appointment be ratified by the meeting. This was carried by acclamation.

REPORT ON OPERATION PATEKE

Before Mr Hayes commenced his report the President paid tribute to the work done by Mr Hayes in ensuring the success of the project.

In his report Mr Hayes said that the 1985-86 period had been another good one for the captive rearing side of the operation and 130 Brown Teal had been reared by members during this period, this being the second highest figure to date. In addition 23 Brown Teal had been reared by the Wildlife Service at the National Wildlife Centre and transferred to D.U. for release.

During the year, 27 members had held 54 pairs of Brown Teal in captivity. For the new season the project would have three new participants and over 60 pairs would be held by members.

Mr Hayes went on to say that during the year a further 46 Brown Teal had been released in Northland, bringing the total released in Northland to 171 in just over one year. Later this month over 100 Brown Teal will again be released in Northland.

Mr Hayes said the past season's figures



Audrey Eagle presenting Horrie Sinclair with the Nature Conservation Council award.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

brought the total number of Brown Teal reared by D.U. members to well over 700, with over 500 having been released into the wild to date. He said that this was a quite incredible achievement.

Reports from Northland indicated that D.U. Brown Teal were surviving well and breeding had been confirmed.

During the past year more D.U. money had gone towards habitat protection in Northland and, in a joint project with the Wildlife Service, the Whananaki Estuary roost site had been fenced, at a total cost of \$2,300, with half the cost being borne by D.U. and the other half by the Wildlife Service.

Further D.U. funds were being allocated to Brown Teal habitat work in Northland and Mr Hayes said that D.U. Directors were hopeful that two more large lagoons could be created at the Mimiwhangata Farm Park, specifically for Brown Teal.

The D.U. holding aviary at Jim Campbell's had again enabled D.U. to hold all birds over for a Spring release. Mr Hayes said that D.U. was greatly indebted to Jim Campbell and to Jim's father, for looking after the Brown Teal for several months.

Mr Hayes went on to list the year's outstanding breeders, notably, Bill Clinton-Baker who had reared 32 Brown Teal from just two pairs, to set a new individual record; Charlie Money of Dargaville had reared 18 in his first season; Ron Munro had reared 14, as had the Otorohanga Zoo. Other prominent breeders were Melvin Pike who had reared 10, Wesley Sanderson had reared 9, as had Neil Hayes.

But, said Mr Hayes, the contribution by all members involved in the project had been outstanding and it was this involvement that had made operation 'Pateke' an outstanding success.

During the year researcher Grant Dumbell had continued his good work on Great Barrier Island and D.U.'s financial assistance towards this vital Brown Teal research programme had been money very well spent.

Summing up, Mr Hayes said that interest in Pateke remained high and he thanked all those involved. He also thanked the Wildlife Service and the D.U. membership at large for making it all possible.

OPERATION WETLANDS REPORT

In presenting his report Mr Coe said that the past year had been an excellent one for D.U.'s wetland projects with over \$22,000 being spent on a number of habitat projects.

He said that the D.U.-created Pearce Wetlands

in the Wairarapa

were looking really good

and a number of broods had been seen there

last breeding season.

He said, however, that D.U.'s biggest project had just been completed

at Te Hopai Station in the Wairarapa,

where D.U., in association with the landowner Denis Handyside, the Wairarapa Catchment Board, the Wildlife Service and the Wellington Acclimatisation Society, had restored the 60 acre Home Lagoon by taking a pipe from the Ruamahanga River through the stopbank, under the main road and into the lagoon. Home Lagoon had dried up through the draining of Te Hopai Lagoon in 1978. Mr Coe went on to say that further wetland creation work was planned in the Wairarapa and hopefully a large lagoon would be



Guest speaker, Grant Dumbell.

created on Wairongomai Station during the year. He thanked everyone for their support during the year and said that a full report on the Home Lagoon project would appear in the September 'Flight'.

The President thanked Mr Coe for his report and commented on the fact that D.U. was becoming more and more involved in habitat work and the need to do this was becoming more and more apparent.

SINCLAIR WETLANDS MANAGER'S REPORT

At this point the President called on Mrs Audrey Eagle to present Mr Sinclair with an award from the Nature Conservation Council.

Mrs Eagle said that she had been asked by the Nature Conservation Council to congratulate Mr Sinclair on his recent award of the MBE, which was so richly deserved, and to present Mr Sinclair with a Nature Conservation Council Citation, in recognition of Mr Sinclair's efforts to preserve the Sinclair Wetlands and for making the wetlands permanently secure by gifting them to Ducks Unlimited.

Mrs Eagle said she had first become aware of Mr Sinclair's work when she saw him on the Country Calendar programme last year and was so impressed that at the next Nature Conservation Council meeting she recommended Mr Sinclair for a Citation.

Mrs Eagle went on to say that the proposed building for the wetlands and the other work proposed was an exciting development and would have great public appeal; very much like Sir Peter Scott's work in the U.K. The educational value of the Sinclair Wetlands was of prime importance. Only recently had the very real value of wetlands been realised. Mrs Eagle then read the wording of the Citation — 'Presented to Horace Alexander Sinclair in recognition of a significant contribution towards conservation, namely by safeguarding the Sinclair Wetlands by gifting them to Ducks Unlimited' The award was

then presented and acclamation followed.

Mr Sinclair thanked Mrs Eagle for the award. The President commented that the Citation brought home to all members the importance of habitat. He also mentioned Mrs Eagle's very significant input into conservation matters with her outstanding books on native trees. In presenting his report Mr Sinclair said the last twelve months had been momentous for D.U. in the Otago district and throughout New Zealand, starting off with the Country Calendar programme about the Sinclair Wetlands, which was repeated in December. He said the response to these programmes had created great interest in wetlands, as had his award of the MBE in the New Years Honours, which reflected recognition for all conservationists in New Zealand.

Also during the past year Mr Sinclair said that he had shown over 750 people around the wetlands, many from overseas and from all over New Zealand. Many school children were also included in the numbers viewing the wetlands.

In February this year the Dunedin TV unit had produced a programme about the wetlands and this was shown on 'South Tonight' and had created much interest.

The Otago Youth Adventure Trust had continued to use part of the wetland for canoeing and conservation-related programmes.

Dr Peter Tapsell, Minister of Internal Affairs, and Ralph Adams had recently visited the wetlands and Dr Tapsell had been impressed with activities there, particularly in respect of educating young people.

Mr Sinclair also reported on his recent investiture at Government House, and that support in Dunedin was very considerable and that he had personally recruited 147 members for D.U. Mr Sinclair said that each member should attempt to recruit at least one new member each year.

GUEST SPEAKER: GRANT DUMBELL

'OPERATION PATEKE: SAVING A DUCK IN DANGER'

This is the condensed transcript of an address delivered to the conference by this year's guest speaker, Grant Dumbell. The talk was illustrated by a series of slides and included details of Great Barrier Island, the research project and the Brown Teal's life cycle. After the address Grant answered a series of questions covering aspects of Brown Teal biology, Auckland Island Teal, current and future management before commenting on the endangered state of New Zealand's wetlands. Ducks Unlimited have helped support this research with funds totalling \$6000 to date.

The New Zealand Brown teal is now one of the five rarest ducks in the world. After being widespread throughout New Zealand it is now largely confined to an insecure Northland population and to a more stable Great Barrier Island population. My current Brown Teal research project is being carried out on this Great Barrier Island population.

The preservation of Brown Teal is the obvious aim of Operation Pateke, and this raises the question of how best to manage the species. Management options include

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

THE HOME LAGOON PROJECT

Brendan Coe



Home Lagoon at dusk.



The stopbank on the Ruamahanga River prior to digging.



Around the wetlands of New Zealand, ominous signs are starting to appear. The Mallard duck, the most prolific and successful of all the endemic waterfowl is on the decline. In the Manawatu the bird has all but disappeared and numbers are down in Otago and Southland, the original home of the species. Low numbers are reported from other localities and conservationists and sportsmen are at a loss to explain why.

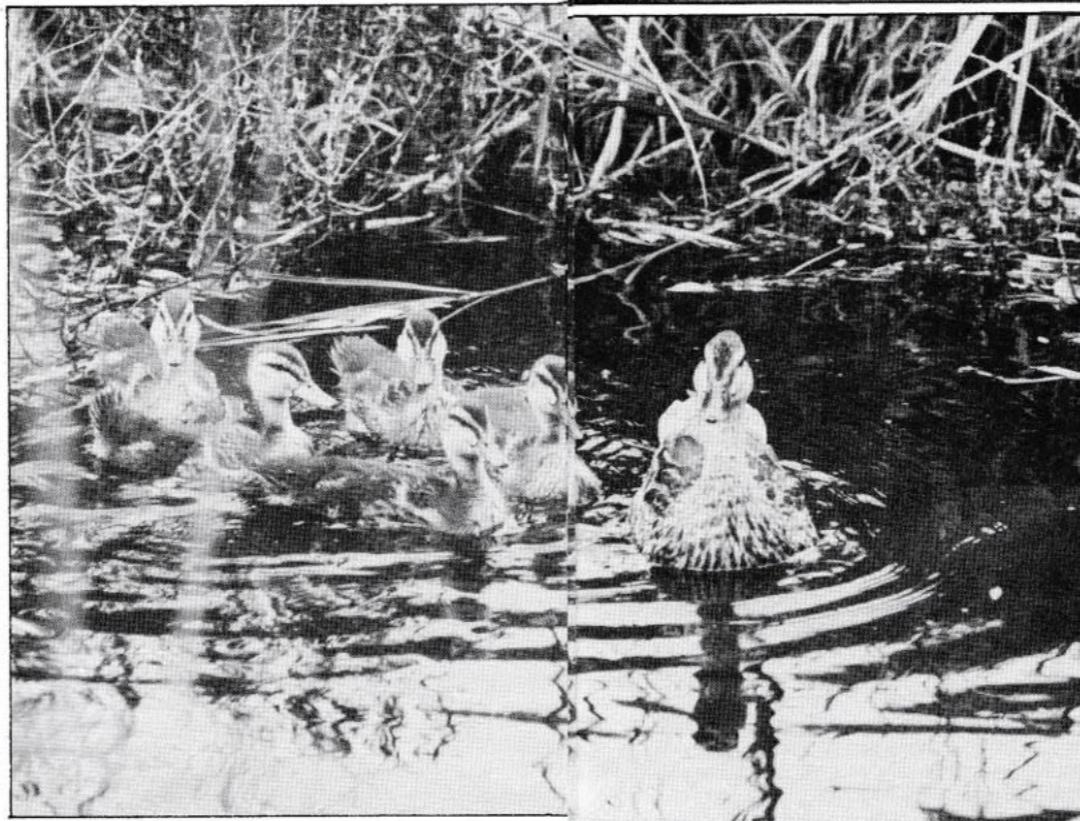
Originally liberated in the early part of the century the Mallard was the subject of an intensive backyard breeding program by the big Southern Acclimatisation Societies of Otago and Southland. Thousands of birds were reared and released into the wild, but even so the famous New Zealand naturalist G.M. Thompson declared that the bird would never do well outside the south of the South Island. He did not reckon on the amazing physical and biological characteristics of *Anas platyrhynchos*. Strong, aggressive, and opportunistic, the Mallard is the world's most successful and widespread duck. The species adapted well in New Zealand, especially after further liberations by the Auckland Society during the 1930's of American stock and the population continued to grow apace right into the 1970's and early 1980's. Acclimatisation Societies reacted to this population explosion by trying to control numbers with the gun through increased bag limits, pond feeding, extra-ordinary crop shoots and longer seasons. This policy seems to have affected numbers in some areas, but there is little accurate scientific study or information on the species so the cause and effect is difficult to ascertain. The dry weather and drought of the last few years is possibly a fac-

tor resulting in fewer numbers of birds, but one factor that can drastically affect waterfowl is the draining and destruction of habitat.

The Te Hopai wetlands, adjacent to Lake Wairarapa in the Lower part of the North Island are a case in point. Part of the Boggy and Matthews wetland complex, Te Hopai was drained for the purposes of agriculture in 1978. The owners must be wondering why they bothered in the light of the current farming situation. Home lagoon some eighty acres in size was part of the Te Hopai wetlands and is situated on the Te Hopai station owned by Mr Dennis Handyside. The property was originally purchased by Mr Handyside's grandfather, Mr Holmes. Mr Holmes was a keen sportsman and he originally bought Te Hopai for the purpose of duck-shooting. Over the years the property was developed although Home Lagoon (so called because of its proximity to the homestead) was left in its natural state. The Handyside family recall it as a breeding ground for black swan and shoveler. When the main Te Hopai wetlands were drained, Home Lagoon drained also in part, holding water after heavy rain but drying out completely in summer. Neither pasture nor wetland, the area was still subject to Catchment Board rates and with the downturn in farming it was decided to drain the area properly to be put into pasture. This decision was to be acted on in May of 1985 and it was at this time that Ducks Unlimited were made aware of the situation by Mr Mark Pearce, a local farmer and D.U. member. A meeting was arranged with the landowner and after some discussion it was agreed to call a halt to the drainage scheme and to explore the possibility of returning the area to its former glory. The prospect of reclaiming some sixty acres of prime wetland was exciting and the final plan was to put a pipe under the Ruamahunga River stopbank, under the east/west bypass road and into the wetland. The intake pipe was to be situated a little above average river flow and a shut off valve was to be installed on the river side to control the flow in times of prolonged high river levels so as to prevent flooding of farmland. The Wairarapa Catchment Board agreed to organise the oversee of the project and after the water right application was advertised and no objections were received it was time to start what had become known as the Home Lagoon project. The process of planning and organising the project has taken almost exactly a year and in May 1986 the contractors arrived on site. Firstly a shallow ditch was dug from beside the road into the wetland a distance of some one hundred metres. The digger then cut through the road to a depth of some three metres up to the edge of the stopbank. Lastly the stopbank was cut through and the intake pipe posi-



Dennis Handyside, owner of Te Hopai station and Home Lagoon watches excavations with DU President, Jim Campbell and Wildlife Service Officer, Steve McGill. The Ruamahanga River can be seen behind the digger.



Fine Mallard brood. Is the Mallard on the decline?

tioned and the shut off valve installed. I went to view the proceedings one afternoon. It was a perfectly fine day and it was impressive to watch the digger cutting through the tar-sealed road. I chatted to one of the Catchment Board engineers there and he remarked that he had taken water out of many areas on different jobs, but this was the first time he had put water back in. After the project was finished, a southerly blow accompanied by heavy rain hit the Southern Wairarapa and Home Lagoon started to fill up rapidly. Such was the intake of water that the valve had to be shut to prevent possible flooding and the decision to use only a nine inch diameter pipe would seem to be vindicated at this early stage.

The total cost of the project was approximately \$8,000 and Ducks Unlimited was delighted to receive grants from the North Island Council of Acclimatisation Societies and the New Zealand Wildlife Service. Both of these bodies are totally committed to Wetland restoration and preservation and Ducks Unlimited is both pleased and privileged to

be involved in such a worthwhile financial partnership.

Will Home Lagoon hold permanent water throughout the year? The question has been asked and Ducks Unlimited is confident that it will. The intake of water from the Ruamahanga River combined with natural rainfall should see a permanent volume of water in the lagoon. The level may fluctuate, but this is a normal occurrence in a natural wetland and a necessary one for plant and insect life in the lagoon's margins. Although the Mallard does not appear to be declining in the Wairarapa that is no reason to pass up the opportunity of reclaiming such a large area of natural wetland. To restate the philosophy of Ducks Unlimited's most famous New Zealander Mr Horrie Sinclair MBE: "Without habit, you have nothing".



Water begins to flow through the inlet pipe.



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GRANT DUMBELL'S FOURTH GREAT BARRIER IS. BROWN TEAL REPORT

Trapping and banding Brown Teal has continued over the summer period and now 293 birds have been marked. The previously used trapping methods of cage traps and spotlight/handnetting were again employed and were supplemented by a new technique where birds passively enter a pre-baited trap which is set overnight. Muzzled pointing dogs were used to capture birds last winter and will be used again this year which will further increase the number of banded birds.

Although large numbers of birds are not caught simultaneously in the baited lily pad trap, its main advantage is its ability to retrap birds, often on successive nights. All the other trapping methods have a low recapture rate, which implies that trap avoidance is occurring after the birds are initially captured. This suggests that the experience of being captured in the lily pad trap is far less traumatic for the birds hence their willingness to re-enter the trap. However, it also appears that this method is selectively capturing male birds. By scoring the outcomes of agonistic encounters on the roost, it appears that males are dominant over females, and it is highly likely that this dominance is enforced where food is involved. This result reiterates the care that is required when interpreting the trapping data which is set out in Table 1. This table includes the combined results from all three trapsites used for capturing Brown Teal.

Whereas last year it appeared that a sig-

nificant asymmetry might be detected in the sex ratio, this now appears to have been an artifact of the sampling and is confirmed by counts of males and females at the roost. Gaining an understanding of the breeding system employed by Brown Teal directly affects the predictions that have to be field tested.

A second important area of investigation is in the area of pair bond duration. Ducks generally have pair bonds that are established in autumn or winter and persist until nesting in the spring. Then, during incubation, many drakes desert their mates to begin moulting. Brown Teal also form pairs in the autumn, but nest during the winter. The pair bond persists until the brood becomes independent in the spring, before the onset of the moult in October. It is during this winter period that numbers on the roosts drop to their lowest, as birds become very secretive. The numbers of birds seen feeding at night confirm that birds that do leave the roost, do not leave the general area but are simply dispersed and secretive. Conversely the numbers of birds on the roosts peaks in late summer. This year the highest count was 1208 Brown Teal in 27 different sites, where the size of groups ranged from two to 255 birds. The number of pairs reached a minimum at the same time and it is interesting to note that occasionally a brood of ducklings was seen. This indicates that breeding is not

wholly confined to the winter months but that it can occur at any stage of the year.

Behavioural observations over the whole period have given insight into the major activities of the birds in each season. On this basis the year has been divided into four equal length seasons that do not correspond exactly to the climatic seasons. Instead they correspond to the gross features of the birds annual cycle as shown in Table 2. Winter is devoted to establishing pairs and hatching eggs, while spring is when the majority of broods are seen, and juveniles begin arriving at the roost. The size of the roost flocks increases as adults also return to moult. This marks the transition to summer, and for males it involves both the post- and the pre-nuptial moults before about February. This is when the autumn season begins and when feeding is the main priority. It is the only time of the year when large numbers of birds feed during daylight as birds recover from the metabolically expensive moult and try to gain breeding condition for the ensuing winter.

SEASON MONTHS MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Autumn	Feb-April	Diurnal feeding
Winter	May-July	Pair bonding, nesting
Spring	Aug-Oct	Brood rearing
Summer	Nov-Jan	Post- and pre-nuptial moults

Table 2: A seasonal breakdown of the major activities of Brown Teal on Great Barrier Island.

This type of information will allow a better interpretation of the birds' habitat use throughout the year as this has direct consequences for management of the species. This is especially true where birds are relocated in new areas, but is also important where habitat creation or restoration is planned.

Since December progress has also been made in the laboratory. The starch-gel electrophoresis has been completed at Victoria University and the results are currently being evaluated. This analysis was made even more important with the inclusion of blood samples from Campbell Island and Auckland Island Teal, made available by Dr Murray Williams. Unfortunately no Northland Brown Teal blood was available so it is planned to collect samples later this year to complete the *Anas aucklandica* picture. Meanwhile, some of the preliminary work is being written up for publication both here in New Zealand and overseas to ensure that Brown Teal gain the recognition their plight deserves.

TRAPPING METHOD	CAPTURES	RECAPTURES	SEX RATIOS
		Number (%)	Females : Males
Cage Traps	208	4 (1.9)	1.68 : 1.00
Handnetting	55	6 (10.9)	1.04 : 1.00
Lily Pad Trap	37	16 (43.2)	1.00 : 2.50
Dogs	20	1 (5.0)	1.71 : 1.00
Total	320	27 (8.4)	1.40 : 1.00

Table 1: A breakdown of trapping results from all trapsites.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

creation, restoration and preservation of habitat, transfer of wild birds, and captive breeding. However, the evaluation of these options requires detailed information, hence my research programme.

Great Barrier Island is New Zealand's fourth largest island and is situated about 90 kilometres from Auckland. My main study area is in the Awana Valley, which contains the largest single Brown Teal roost site on the island. In total I monitor 28 study sites and these range from tidal streams to beaches, ponds and large drains. The field programme follows a six week rotation allowing the overall approach to be based on the birds' annual cycle.

My first priority of the project was to catch and band as many birds as possible. This was done by using a combination of cage traps, lily pad traps, spotlighting and handnetting at night and by using dogs to find sitting females. So far over 300 Brown Teal have been banded using coloured leg bands. The combinations record the sex and banding site of the bird and a suite of measurements, including head size, bill dimensions, wing length and width, leg and tail length and weight are taken. The state of any moult is also recorded and these measurements have allowed me to evaluate different sexing techniques.

The decline of Brown Teal over the last hundred years has shown that the roost site is vital to the social organisation of the birds and this is one aspect on which I have concentrated. My results to date indicate that there is a population of at least 1200 Brown Teal on Great Barrier Island and the seasonal population trends are monitored from the 28 study sites.

The annual cycle is now well established. Nesting occurs from May to July with broods appearing in July and persisting until October when the annual body moult begins. Males moult twice over the summer period before the birds devote the late summer/autumn to feeding, presumably to gain breeding condition. Pairs begin to appear from about March as the numbers of birds on the roosts start to fall from the summer peak, and the cycle begins again.

During the winter months numbers of teal at the roost sites reach a minimum as most birds are away nesting. Nest sites range from dense *Cyperus* to isolated clumps of rushes



The W.C. Scott shotgun held up for auction.

and open sites under tree ferns while clutches range from three to eight with an average of 5.6 eggs. Although most birds nest in late July I have found that nests do occur before and after this.

I measure the extent of pairing while the birds are nocturnally feeding on the pasture areas. Pairs are established in autumn and persist throughout the winter before breaking down before the October moult. During this period there is a large amount of male parental care, which is unusual amongst ducks. The roost is the most likely place for pairs to be established and although Brown Teal have all the typical *Anas* courtship displays — grunt-whistle, head-up-tail-up, down-up, — I have not seen these displays until pairs are well established in June. When they do occur they are at a low frequency and at this stage I do not know how pairs are formed. The levels of fighting that are recorded at the roost sites suggest that this is important for pair formation and this aspect will receive concentrated effort next year.

At this point the meeting adjourned for the President's Shout, during which the meeting was entertained to an outstanding display of wildlife photographs, by Roger Wasley of Masterton.

REPORT ON OPERATION GRETEL

Mr Allan Elliott reported that Grey Teal were well on the increase, thanks to D.U. nest boxes. Some areas with nest boxes took longer than others before being used by Grey Teal and Matthews Lagoon in the Wairarapa was a good example of this, but these boxes were now being used extensively.

Mr Elliott said that members would have

noticed a steady rundown of the financial input by D.U. into Gretel and this was because other projects had moved up in priority, the most important of these being habitat, which was vital to the survival of any species. He went on to remind members that when bidding at the annual auction they were helping to provide this vital habitat.

REPORT ON OPERATION WHIO

In introducing Ian Bryant, co-supervisor of operation 'Whio' and officer in charge of the National Wildlife Centre, the President mentioned that Mr Bryant had just returned from the U.K. having followed the Blue ducks which were recently exported to the Wildfowl Trust in the U.K.

Ian Bryant reported that the National Wildlife Centre would be holding 8 pairs of Blue ducks for the coming breeding season, and hopes were high that good numbers would be reared. Mr Bryant said that in a combined effort from the Wildlife Service, D.U. and British Airways he was able to spend five weeks with the Wildfowl Trust, mainly at Slimbridge, and he had brought back with him a very impressive video of the Wildfowl Trust's activities. (This is available for hire from Box 44-176) He said that the Wildfowl Trust was an intriguing place and a place that all members should visit if they were in the U.K.

The Blue ducks that had preceded him to the U.K. by two weeks had been confined to quarantine for 35 days and he had only seen the birds a day before he had left Slimbridge. He had, however, seen them transferred to their new aviary at Arundel, where they had settled in well. No expense had been spared in the erection of the two aviaries at Arundel — a Wildlife Trust reserve on the south coast of England. Between 60 & 70 Tonnes of rock had been used to create a mountain in the aviaries; water was pumped to the top of the rocks and flowed down over the rocks. Two of the Blue ducks had been reared at Mt Bruce and two were wild caught as ducklings and the Wildfowl Trust had a reasonably wide gene pool to work from. Mr Bryant said that he had just heard that after their initial settling in the birds had become very nocturnal, but he thought that this would be mainly due to the high day time temperatures.

REPORT ON OPERATION BRANTA

Mr Hayes reported that 53 Canada geese had been transferred from North Canterbury to D.U. members in the North Island, bringing the total transferred since 1976 to just under 500. He said that a recent census of North Island Canadas had shown that close to 4,500 were now resident, which was a clear indication of the project's success.

Mr Hayes went on to say that with three areas now hunting Canadas in the North Island it was very unlikely that D.U. would be



Neil Hayes introduces Ralph Adams to Brown Teal breeder Basil Graeme.

transferring any more geese from the South Island. Members would, however, be able to obtain geese from D.U. breeders in the North Island. He reported that D.U. members had in fact received 13 Canadas from the Wellington Zoo during the year.

Mr Hayes said that Ducks Unlimited would like to thank the Wellington Zoo for its continued support, also the North Canterbury Acclimatisation Society, the Wildlife Service, and Lawrence Piper and Peter McLeod for making the transfers possible; not only for this year's transfer but for the previous ten years also.

REPORT ON THE ROYAL SWAN PROJECT

The President said that from the last 'Flight' members would be aware of this new project. He said that the Wildlife Service had asked D.U. to become involved, no doubt because D.U. was now well set up to do such work. He then introduced project supervisor Jim Glover. Mr Glover said that a great team had worked behind the scenes to set up the Royal Swan project. He then reported on how the Mute Swan had been introduced into New Zealand in the 1860's and had established themselves well, particularly at Lake Ellesmere where several thousand became resident. But because of the Wahine storm in 1968 the weed beds on which the swans feed had been destroyed and the Mute Swan population had declined to only a few birds.

The only Mute Swans of any number in captivity were held at Peacock Springs near Christchurch and the owners Sir Neil & Lady Isaac had very generously offered all the progeny from last season's breeding, to D.U., to get the project going. Thanks to Jim Campbell and his Chevy Ute and a team from the Wildlife Service, 28 juvenile Mute Swans had been transferred from Peacock Springs to D.U. members in the North Island. Due to a large proportion of the 28 swans being males not too many pairs had been established in the first season, but it was hoped that this situation would be rectified early next year.

Mr Glover said that interest in the project was high and D.U. had a waiting list of members keen to join the project.

The President then mentioned the contribution to waterfowl from Sir Neil & Lady Diana Isaac and their significant contribution to the World Wildlife Fund of N.Z. and to Ducks Unlimited.

EDITORIAL REPORT

Mr Hayes reported that another four issues of 'Flight' had been produced during the past year, to a reasonably high standard. Around 1800 copies of each issue now had to be printed to meet the demand. Revenue from advertising had now reached close to \$2,000 and Mr Hayes said that D.U. would particularly like to thank Winchester N.Z., the Wildlife Service, Rod & Rifle magazine, Kilwell Sports and Reloaders Supplies for their excellent support by way of advertising. He said that D.U. Directors hoped that members would support advertisers at every opportunity. Mr Hayes said that he would also like to thank Brendan Coe and his staff at Lithographic Services for their support. He also reported that Gary Girvan would be taking over as Editor from the September issue and with one less job to do he would be able to spend more time on D.U.'s public relations work.

The President commented on the tremendous amount of work that Neil Hayes had put into 'Flight'. This was supported by acclamation.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

In the absence of the Under Secretary for Conservation the President called on the Director of the N.Z. Wildlife Service, Mr Ralph Adams, to provide the meeting with a brief rundown on the new Department of Conservation.

Mr Adams said he was pleased to provide a few comments about the new department, but before doing so would like to say how thrilled he was, and was sure his colleagues in the Wildlife Service would agree with him, with the development of Ducks Unlimited in terms of its involvement with waterfowl and wetlands. Mr Adams said that while he could not go back to the first meeting of the Directors of Ducks Unlimited he was certainly involved in the second and third meetings and it was gratifying to see a group like D.U. and to see the enthusiasm that can come from a bunch of volunteers who have an ideal and are prepared to do something about it. He was certainly pleased to have been involved with Ducks Unlimited since its inception and that D.U. could be proud of what it had achieved. D.U. could look forward to the future with continuing support from the Wildlife Service.

Mr Adams also commented on Grant Dumbell's address saying that it was obvious that Grant had become very involved with his study and that it was a tremendous credit to him that he had become so deeply involved. Grant's address was an inspiring one and Grant had probably given himself a new nickname — Grunt Whistle Dumbell.

Mr Adams said the Department of Conservation would be up and running next year and the Wildlife Service welcomed the setting up of the new department which would present a united front on conservation matters. The new department would incorporate the Wildlife Service, the environmental areas of the Forest Service, Lands and Survey National Parks section, Historic Places Trust, and the coastal marine reserves. Mr Adams said DOC would be a large and strong department employing over 1,000 staff, with a budget of between \$60 and \$70 million. The current Government had done its best to ensure that the new department's funds were realistic. Much work behind the scenes had been carried out in setting up the new department, as over 20,000 civil servants were affected by the changes.

Various quangos, legislation, advisory groups, fauna protection sections, and acclimatisation societies all had to be evaluated, as to where they fit in with the new department. Some real progress had been made recently and the new Director General of the department had been named and he was personally very excited about what was happening and he thought the new department would be very good for organisations such as Ducks Unlimited.

In reply to a question about the powers of the new department Mr Adams said new legislation would be introduced giving the department much of the current legislation covering wild animals, historic places and reserves management. With these the department would have real teeth and would be the largest land owner in New Zealand.

In reply to a question on the role of the Wildlife Service in the new department, Mr Adams said that he had been asked to carry into the new department all current aspects of the work of the Wildlife Service. The Wildlife Service would lose no staff and Mr Adams said the new department would receive a much better hearing from Government.

In answer to a question relating to habitat acquisition, Mr Adams said that the Wildlife Service had purchased over half a million dollars worth of wildlife habitat over the last three years and he had successfully recently negotiated with the Department of Lands & Survey to obtain one million dollars for habitat purchases. This was the sort of attitude now coming through that was not there before and he believed there would be a reasonable budget for the new department and he had requested at least one million dollars for habitat acquisition. He also mentioned that covenants to protect habitat could be applied.

The President thanked Mr Adams for his informative address.

The President invited D.U. Director Mark Newcomb to say a few words about the recipient of the Bill Barrett Trophy.

Mr Newcomb said that the Bill Barrett Trophy was Ducks Unlimited's attempt each year to point out an individual or group who had most contributed to D.U.'s aims and aspirations. He said that as D.U. grew larger and became more influential the annual selection of a recipient for this award would become more difficult, but this year the decision was made easy by the presence of one man. Mr Newcomb then went on to quote Aldo Leopold on modern conservation ideas — conservation through wise use and scientific management of wildlife, written in the 1930's. About the time this was written the recipient of this year's award was born and Mr Newcomb invited Ralph Adams to present this year's award to Horrie Sinclair MBE.

Before Mr Adams presented the award he commented on his recent visit to the Sinclair Wetlands, he then presented the award. Mr Sinclair commented that the award would be on display in the new Sinclair Wetlands building and everyone was most welcome to come and look at it.

The President said that the Sinclair Wetlands building plans had hopefully been finalised and that building would commence in August.

BREEDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The President read a recent letter from the Wildfowl Trust to Bill Clinton-Baker regarding the successful breeding of the N.Z. Shoveler which were donated to the Trust by Bill in 1983. He mentioned Bill's outstanding contribution to waterfowl breeding and that he had easily won the Breeder of the Year Award by rearing 32 Brown Teal. The President then presented the award.

In reply Bill Clinton-Baker mentioned the incredible productivity of the Brown Teal and he was confident the decline of the Brown Teal would be reversed.

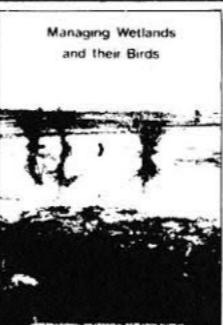
GENERAL BUSINESS

The President mentioned that the Silent auction items were on display at the rear of the room. A recommendation was received from the Eketahuna Chapter asking that Directors give thought to holding the next annual conference in Masterton. The President asked the meeting for an indication of what support there was for this recommendation. A show of hands indicated that around 50% of the meeting was in favour of the recommendation and 50% against. The President said that the Directors would make every effort to arrive at the best decision.

There being no further business the President thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

A vote of thanks to the Chair was carried with resounding acclamation, and the meeting closed at 5.10pm.

D.U SALES DEPT



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.



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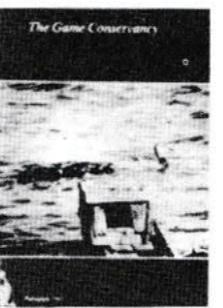


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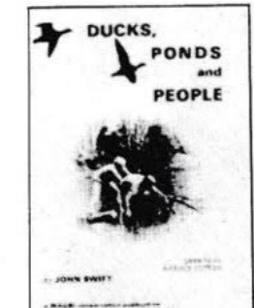


the duckshooter's bag by Murray Williams. 120 pages covering facts, figures and wildlife management of waterfowl in N.Z.

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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.)



A Coloured Key to the Waterfowl of the World by Sir Peter Scott. 96 pages with colored plates and notes detailing the status of the waterfowl of the world.



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OR PLEASE CHARGE TO MY VISA/BANKCARD/AMEX/DINERS
(Delete to suit)

CARD NO..... EXPIRY DATE.....

NAME (Please print).....

ADDRESS.....

BUSINESS HOUSES: TAX INVOICE REQUIRED (Tick)