

# Winchester

NEW ZEALAND LTD

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



*Blue duck in aviary. This bird is part of the 'Operation Whio' breeding programme. - Photo: Isaac Wildlife Trust*



## WINCHESTER®

**MORE THAN A NAME. A LEGEND.**

**Distributed in New Zealand By: Winchester New Zealand**



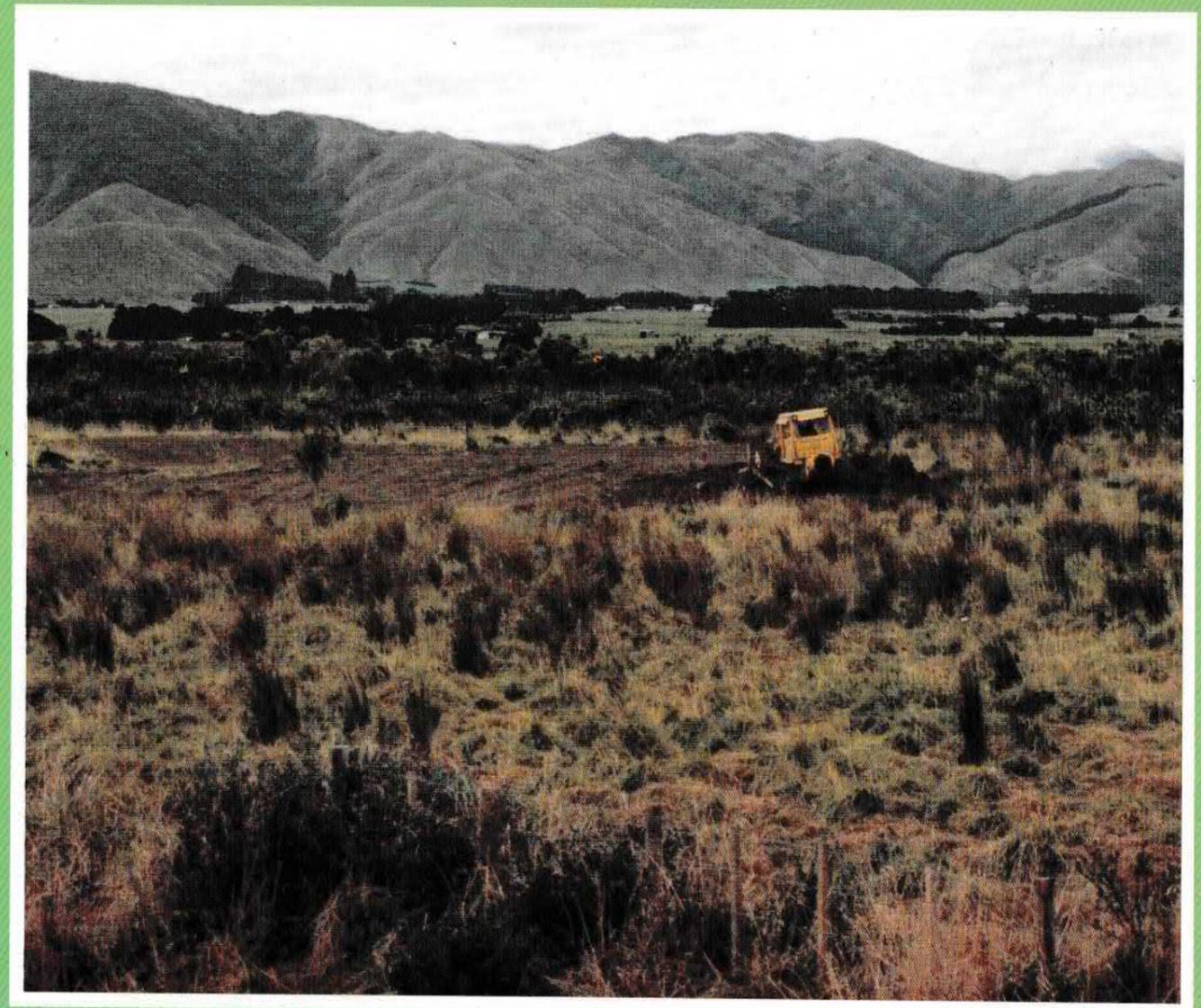
# Flight

No. 2/93 · ISSUE 75 · APRIL 1993

NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE

**DUCKS UNLIMITED QUARTERLY  
WATERFOWL JOURNAL**

**\$4.50**



In association with  
Ducks Unlimited U.S.A., Canada, Mexico and Australia



- FOR WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS -  
PO BOX 9795 AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICIALS CO-PATRONS

Lady Diana Isaac, CHRISTCHURCH  
Norman Marsh, BROADLANDS

## CHAIRMAN

Jim Campbell 'Rameslie', RD 1,  
MASTERTON

## PRESIDENT

D. D. Rice, LLB, PO Box 266,  
PAPAKURA

## VICE PRESIDENT

D. G. Smith, LLB, RD 5  
PAPAKURA

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. G. S. Dumbell, 21A Boyd Ave, Royal  
Oak, AUCKLAND Phone/Fax (09) 625  
9002

## TREASURER

Mrs G. Hansen, RD 3, EKETAHUNA

## SECRETARY

Ms M. J. McEntee, B.A., 21A Boyd Ave,  
Royal Oak, AUCKLAND

## BOARD MEMBERS

D. Pritt, Smiths Road, OHAKUNE  
K. Cook, 53 Waterloo Crescent,  
PALMERSTON NORTH  
H. Egan, RD 1, CARTERTON  
D. Johnston, Allen Road, RD 1, REPOROA  
A. Wilks, 73 Wood Street, GREYTOWN  
C. Hooson, PO Box 13335, WELLINGTON,  
G. Gurr, PO Box 360 AUCKLAND

## VETERINARY ADVISOR

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

## LEGAL ADVISOR

Don McCulloch, LLB, UPPER HUTT

## SINCLAIR WETLANDS MANAGER

H.A. Sinclair MBE, RD. 1, OUTRAM

## SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

Dr. J. Craig, AUCKLAND

## CORPORATE ADVISOR

P. B. C. Pirani, ANZIM, AUCKLAND

## HONORARY MEMBERS

K. Barnett, TOKAANU  
H. A. Sinclair, MBE, DUNEDIN

K. G. W. Wilkinson, WELLINGTON  
Adrienne Longuet, WELLINGTON  
R. T. Adams, UPPER HUTT  
Lady Diana Isaac, CHRISTCHURCH  
A. Flexman, POKENO  
L. Piper, CHRISTCHURCH  
S. Loach, DUNEDIN

## LIFEMEMBERS

W. Barrett, AUSTRALIA  
N. C. Cameron, FEATHERSTON  
I. H. Pirani, KATIKATI  
J. H. B. Ward, HUNTLY  
M. J. Bourke, KIMBOLTON  
Ava Zaubernen, AUCKLAND  
Isaac Wildlife Trust, CHRISTCHURCH  
F. S. S. Bailey, AUCKLAND  
N. Marsh, REPOROA  
Dr. T. Reiger, USA  
J. Campbell, MASTERTON  
Mrs C. L. Pirani, AUCKLAND  
Dr. M. L. Hucks, TAUPO  
K. Lowry, AUSTRALIA  
M. White, DUNEDIN  
A. A. Gurney, FEATHERSTON  
Central North Island Wildlife  
Conservancy Council, ROTORUA  
M. R. Grace, HUNTERVILLE  
Mrs M. Davison, WYNDHAM  
Glenys Hansen, EKETAHUNA  
Gaylord Donnelly, USA  
William D. Wright, USA  
Mr & Mrs P. D. Nolan, USA  
B. McDonald, OUTRAM  
C. Hooson, WELLINGTON  
L. McKinnon, KATIKATI  
A. Fielding, PALMERSTON NORTH  
S. Hughes, DUNEDIN  
Peter McLeod, CHRISTCHURCH  
Hazard Campbell, USA  
Dr. Duncan Sinclair, CANADA  
Mrs G. Campbell, USA  
E. Bidwell, TAUPO  
A. Terpstra, MURUPARA  
Mrs D. Barnett, TOKAANU  
L. Cleveland, DUNEDIN  
R. Meads, TURANGI  
M. Newcomb, AUCKLAND  
K. Butler, WAIPAWA  
H. Moulding, CANADA

A. Nicholson, WELLINGTON  
T. G. L. Pearce, WAIRARAPA  
S. B. L. Pearce, WAIRARAPA  
B. M. L. Pearce, WAIRARAPA  
D. Johnston, REPOROA  
L. Tapp, NORTHLAND  
M. Tapp, NORTHLAND  
C. M. Hansen, EKETAHUNA  
Miss O.D. Pearce, WAIRARAPA  
P. Roman, USA  
C. Ewing, CARTERTON  
E. M. W. Pearce, WAIRARAPA  
M. McEntee, AUCKLAND  
D. Robinson, TE PUKE  
Equine Nursery, TE PUKE  
Otamaire Trust, HUNTERVILLE  
C. J. Worth, HAMILTON  
Mr B. A. Morrison, CANADA  
J. O. A. Nielson, MASTERTON  
Mr M. Paku, MASTERTON  
Mr & Mrs J. O. Hall, USA  
Mr & Mrs C. Springer, ALASKA  
Mr R. B. Trethewey, CANADA  
Mr G. C. Henry, WELLINGTON  
Mr H. Honegger, OTAKI  
Mr R. Eberhardt, USA  
T. Arrin, USA  
E. Ball, AUSTRALIA  
Mr K. Ball, PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
Mrs Ball, PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
J. Betz, USA  
B. Burke, USA  
R. Corrigan Jnr., USA  
B. De Journett, USA  
Mr & Mrs Dean, USA  
J. Egger, USA  
R. Ehrlich, USA  
E. Engrav, USA  
Lt. B. Fotheringham, WELLINGTON  
B. George, WALES  
J. Hulbert, USA  
G. Jackson, CANADA  
D. Kaatz, USA  
B. Kapilla, USA  
M. Karnes, USA  
J. Konkel, USA  
O. Long, USA  
J. Luxford, USA  
D. Mitchell, CHRISTCHURCH  
Mr & Mrs Nugent, USA  
M. Pierce, USA  
J. Pittenger, USA  
P. Pund, USA  
S. & K. Reilly, USA  
E. Roberts Jnr., USA  
R. Strahs, USA  
C. Thomas, USA  
J. Walker, USA  
E. Walker, USA  
T. Williams, USA

# Positive Progress

In the three months since you read my last President's Report, in the January issue of "Flight," Ducks Unlimited has made some positive progress, and we are looking forward to the challenges of the new financial year with both vigour and enthusiasm.

I have written about the consolidation of Ducks Unlimited, however, with the dawn of our 1993/94 financial year we are looking to go beyond consolidation and to enter a phase of expansion. The news reports everyday contain some mention about our country's brightening economic future, and I am confident that this will have a spinoff for Ducks Unlimited as people become more confident about their future. I don't believe that this will be dramatic, but rather will be slow at first and quickening with pace over time. It has been my intention, in conjunction with the rest of the Board of Directors, to see that Ducks Unlimited is positioned to catch this rising wave of optimism and to keep pace with its effects and reach out to all parts of New Zealand.

The consolidation of Ducks Unlimited has involved a careful look at where we are going and how we are going to get there, and while this examination is not yet totally complete, we have not got sufficient pieces of the puzzle in place to form a launching pad. Probably the biggest part of this has been the re-imaging of our organisation with the launch of the new logo at last year's Conference.

Over the past nine months this logo has been used on our new range of stationery, including the window decal that you received in the October issue of "Flight." I hope that you are now proudly displaying this in a prominent place.

The most recent item to be produced has been our new membership pamphlet, and I have pleasure in enclosing one of these for you. This pamphlet has been produced with further generous support from DowElanco who have sponsored the pamphlet's printing costs, a gesture of support which is sincerely appreciated by the Board of Directors. You will recall that DowElanco presented Ducks Unlimited with a complete boat package at last year's annual conference and their offer to support our new pamphlet came as a most welcome present just prior to Christmas.

If DUNZ is to expand we need two things, increased membership and increased public profile. Our public profile is being addressed with more frequent and more informative statements to the press, while the need to

increase our membership is being addressed by the wide circulation of our new pamphlet.

I am asking you to take this pamphlet and show it to a friend to encourage them to join as a member of Ducks Unlimited. This will allow them to participate in active conservation, and until August 31, it may also win them some excellent prizes. You will see details of our new membership in this issue of "Flight." If you need more copies of the pamphlet please write to us, or ring our Executive Director who will dispatch more to you.

By encouraging a friend to join you can make a great contribution. We are seeking to at least double our membership in the next two years as this will allow us to do more for wetland and waterfowl conservation. Wayne Bennett, a member from the Waikato, is in the process of encouraging no fewer than sixty of his friends and acquaintances to become members. Please note that we have also confirmed that subscriptions to DUNZ are tax deductible allowing you to claim your subscription payment as a donation.

In addition to our re-imaging, we have also shown that we are serious about wetland conservation through our involvement with the Makerua Swamp rehabilitation project in Manawatu. This project has been in the pipeline for the past several years and its completion during March is a tribute to the work of our hardworking Manawatu Chapter. A series of interlocking ponds have been excavated, and a critical dike has been rebuilt to hold water in the area for longer. I am sure that this project will generate even greater exposure for DUNZ in the Manawatu and it shows that we are prepared to put our money where our mouth is.

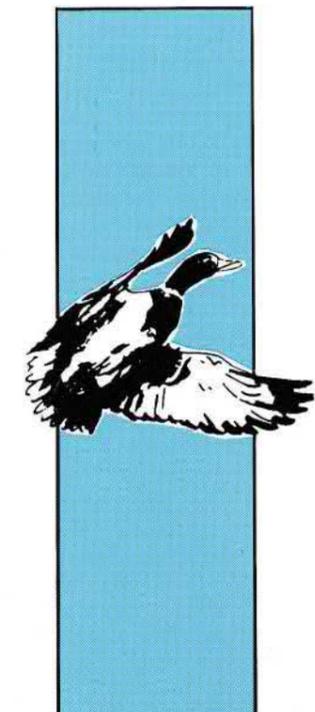
The wisdom of establishing a trust fund to bolster our finances is also beginning to pay dividends as DUNZ has recently received the first proceeds from the Life Member Reserve Fund which was established in late 1991. In addition, The New Zealand Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust has recently received a substantial donation, and these funds have been made available to DUNZ to assist with our debt retirement programme. This will give us large savings on our annual interest bill allowing even more funds to be committed to wetland conservation.

Our annual financial accounts will be published for you in our July issue of "Flight," and this year you will see some major changes to the way in which we state our accounts.

These changes have been recommended by our accountant and will allow easier scrutiny of the financial performance of our organisation. Again, these changes have been bought about through the assessment process we have been undertaking. These accounts will be presented to the Annual Conference in July, and I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to attend the Annual Conference and to participate in the main annual event of YOUR organisation. You will find further information about the Annual Conference elsewhere in this issue.

I would like to close on a personal note by offering sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mike Finlayson who died in February. Mike was a long time Wellington member of Ducks Unlimited and was a supporter of our work at every opportunity. His positive outlook on life should be an inspiration to us all. I would also like to extend best wishes from Ducks Unlimited to Andy and Michelle Tannock who were married in Foxton in early March, and to Chris Hooson and Caroline Carey who tied the knot in late March. Perhaps Ducks Unlimited can look forward to a future increase among the ranks of its Junior members.

David Rice President



## IN THIS ISSUE

Honker History .....	4
The Makerua Swamp .....	8
Annual Conference .....	10
DU News .....	12

Cover Photo: The Makerua Swamp - DU in action. Photo Ken Cook

# Honker History

John Dyer

Few birds in history have had a more fascinating or varied past than the giant Canada species - the race we have in New Zealand.

Thought to be extinct for nearly 50 years it was once believed New Zealand birds could be used to re-establish the species in the States. But due to man's help, the giant Canada is now the most common of all the North American goose species.

Canadas are divided into a number of races or subspecies primarily according to size, colour and geographical location. The giant Canada (*Branta canadensis maxima*) is at least ten inches longer than the smallest Canada - the cackling goose (*Branta canadensis minima*). Typical weights of these two subspecies might be 14 lbs and 3 lbs respectively.

However, in between these two extremes are the western Canada goose (*Branta canadensis occidentalis*) the lesser Canada goose (*Branta canadensis leucoparia*), the common Canada (*Branta canadensis canadensis*) and Richardson's goose (*Branta canadensis hutchensii*) plus a variety of others which scientists have trouble agreeing on.

The giant species historically nested east of the Rockies in the Canadian prairie parklands in south western Manitoba and south eastern Saskatchewan. This vast expanse of prairie was dotted with marshes, and intersected by wooded streams that drained into lake country. They shared this ideal range with multitudes of buffalo and deer. Fires set up by the Indians helped establish lush green growth to attract the passing bison herds and no doubt benefited the geese besides.

In the 1880's the region's natural fertility was recognised and agricultural settlers poured into the area. Within 30 years the landscape was forever changed and most major game species eliminated. Denied the buffalo, the Indians now concentrated on what was left including the geese. Similarly fur trappers took advantage of them and at nesting time they were particularly vulnerable. But in the final analysis it was intensive settlement that spelt their doom. They were practically eliminated from the area by 1900. The giant Canada adapts to captivity better than any of the other related Canada races because of its placid nature and this was to be its salvation. So quiet does the giant species become that it will readily accept food out of its keepers hand.

For instance in 1915 Martin Gullickson a

homesteader in Minnesota "stole away" two goose eggs from a nest at nearby Mud Lake. This may well have been the last nest in that area. He placed the eggs under a sitting hen and hatched two goslings. From this start the flock grew to 30.

The geese were free to walk around the streets in town and graze on pastures nearby. Some had their wings clipped. Others flew up to half a mile away and nested on the banks of a nearby river. But always they returned.

Martin used the geese for both food and as a source of down, though primarily they were his pets and each had a name. He also became intrigued at their courting antics and human-like traits. A hunting companion Oscar Schenkey hit on the idea of using them as lure decoys and indeed these two resourceful hunters were the first in their area to do so. The birds would be allowed to feed in open grain fields. Strings were tied to their legs and when other races of migrating Canadas flew overhead the string was pulled. This no doubt hurt the Canadas pride more than anything else and the flapping and honking that resulted attracted the wild visitors within range. Fairly soon word spread and a ready market developed amongst sportsmen for these live decoys.

However other accounts show that even in 1901 the practice of using live Canada decoys was catching on elsewhere. "At one (hunting) club they tie out about 70 geese on the beach. These birds are always on the watch and their calling is likely to attract any wild birds that come within sight... The birds are so trained that they may be turned loose to wander among the decoys at will or may even be thrown from the blind up into the air to fly short distances and then to alight among the decoys... This method of decoying the wild birds is extremely effective."

This practice is now illegal in New Zealand and was outlawed in the US in 1935. However the practice was to have a profound influence on the history of the giant race. When live decoys were prohibited in the US, hunters were loath to dispose of their pet geese and many simply retired them and turned them out to pasture. Others were donated to parks or given to bird fanciers.

In 1922 Dr Charles Mayo of Minnesota acquired 22 Canadas (more than likely 'decoys') and by 1939 500-600 were using his farm. In 1943 this grew to 4,000 (some of

which would be visiting migrants of other races). The nearby Rochester Park Board also acquired birds for Silver Lake and the two flocks grew.

Dr Mayo foresaw that the geese would have a therapeutic benefit for his patients and indeed they freely grazed on the hospital grounds at the famous Mayo Clinic.

Later a biologist named Harold C. Hanson became intrigued at the possibility 'extinct' giant Canadas still survived, as stories kept surfacing of hunters occasionally seeing or shooting abnormally large geese in their ancestral range. He was to rediscover the giants

at Rochester in 1962.

Let's take a step back in history though.

In 1905 Thomas Donne of the N.Z. Tourist & Health Resorts Dept, visited the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St Louis Missouri. Here he was to take delivery of wapiti generously given to the N.Z. Government by President Theodore Roosevelt (these were the origin of our Fiordland herd). However as the Tourist & Health Dept played a key role in acclimatisation matters in those days, Donne also arranged a series of purchases of other gamebirds and animals including 50 Canada geese. All were assembled in the Zoological Gardens in Washington DC and then forwarded to New Zealand.

It is more than likely those birds were also 'decoys' as it became evident in later years New Zealand's birds were of the giant race. It would have been a comparatively easy job to obtain 'decoys' in that period and as we have

seen these were mostly the more docile giant race. In contrast finding wild giants then would have been nigh impossible.

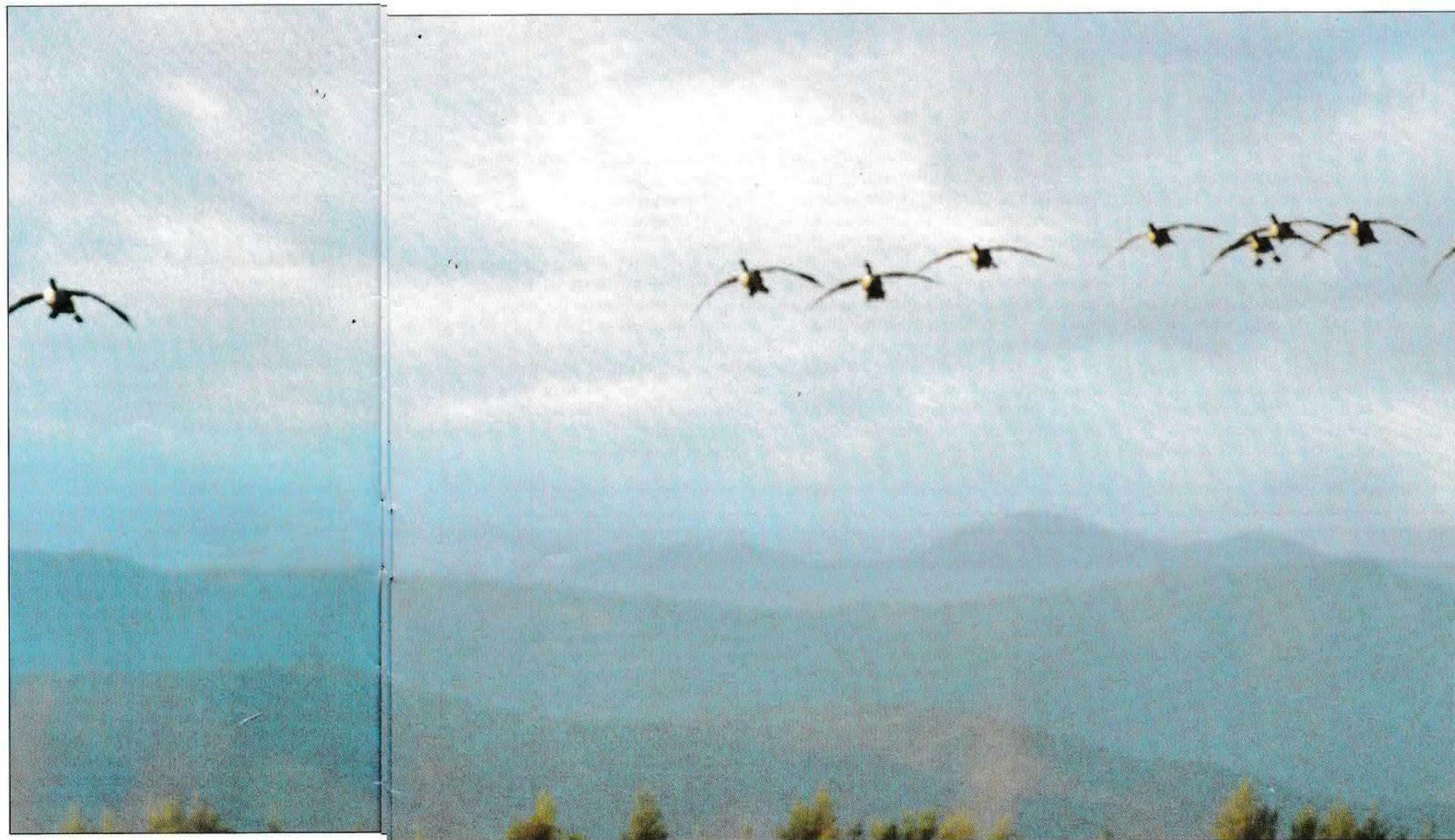
Tom Caithness of the N.Z. Wildlife Service was visiting the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Centre in North Dakota in 1969. The biologists at the centre expressed interest in the New Zealand geese (our 50 birds of 1905 had now grown to 20,000) and they suggested direct comparisons be made. Eggs were collected from Lake Forsyth and the Waimakariri River headwaters and sent to Jamestown, USA. Six goslings were hatched and in most every respect resembled the giant Canada goslings at the Centre.

Also the biologist who rediscovered the giant race in the US, Harold C. Hanson, identified as 'maxima,' several photographed geese taken at random from Lake Ellesmere in 1970. The following year M.J. Imber compared measurements and other charac-

teristics of geese from both North Canterbury and the Prairie Research Centre and concluded that New Zealand birds were primarily of the giant race.

The intense interest following the giant's rediscovery in the States was to reveal that many other flocks such as those that existed at Rochester were present. Hanson established there were altogether about 55,000 wild giant Canadas in North America in 1963 and up to 14,000 in private avicultural collections. New Zealand at the time had something of the order of 15,000.

A special Canada goose production centre was set up at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Columbia, South Dakota and birds were purchased initially from private breeders. In many cases these were also the progeny of decoy flocks. Between 1958 and 1968 some 35,000 geese were produced on the North Central State refuges alone. From



Credit: Gary Girvan

1962 onwards all geese used for introduction at the refuges were of the 'maxima' race.

Similarly many private citizens worked towards saving the giant Canada, with one individual alone; Mr Carl Strutz of Jameston raising 2,000 in 15 years. Hunter's clubs often purchased and then donated geese for the Fish & Wildlife Service or raised and released their own. Similarly their members voluntarily restrained from shooting migrant geese in release areas, because the establishing giants might be accidentally bagged.

Game managers also found the geese would accept artificial nests on either tree stumps, or poles over water or on rafts. At first ordinary

washtubs put on poles and lined with hay were used with the provision of a 9" wide slot for the hatched goslings to get out. Such measures reduced the chance of predation by, for instance, land based raccoons and coyotes - wily or otherwise. The rafts also rose up with floodwaters preventing the nest from being immersed.

The male goose in nature always waits nearby his nesting mate; to ensure he had somewhere to roost, boards were added next to the washtub and these became known as 'gander landers.'

As a measure to ensure more successful goose production these artificial nests were

extremely popular - not least with the geese themselves.

Today the giant Canada is the most common of all the Canada goose races in the USA yet so recently was believed extinct. It was man that nearly destroyed the species and man who has re-established them. The role of both hunters and aviculturalists has been essential in this programme. So perhaps the next time you knock down a Canada weighing 14 lb or more, keep in mind just how close such a magnificent species came to not being with us.

## Broadlands Waters

Broadlands is situated between Rotorua and Taupo. The main three sources of water around where I live, are the Waikato River, Hardcastles Lagoon and the Torepatutahi Stream, which starts from a spring in the Kaingaroa Forest and wanders down through the man-made lakes of Broadlands Wildfowl Trust. Then on down through some beautiful swamps and into the mighty Waikato.

The Broadlands bird life includes many species found in other aquatic habitats. Among the birds found breeding in all three waters are the scaup, noted for its diving ability.

Some of the birds nesting here this spring included Canada geese, black swan, grey duck, N.Z. shoveller, whited faced heron, swallows, little shag, spur-winged plover, black-billed gull, red-billed gull and the swamp (brown) quail, which was introduced from Australia last century.

Two bittern have been sighted at Broadlands. The bird life is too numerous

to mention but the same pair of harrier hawks have nested in reeds on the stream for the last three years.

Many hours have I spent in the spring mornings, sitting on the banks of the lagoon. Two species of Australian frogs are also now well established, the green (whistling) frog and the common frog.

The best known fish at Broadlands are undoubtedly the brown and rainbow trout and many a trophy fish has been caught. There are also native fish, smelt, kaoaro, catfish, goldfish, eels and some of the bullies. Unexpected inhabitants of Broadlands are tropical fish - exotic escapees from aquariums. Four species now colonise the warm thermal stream running under the bridge over Broadlands road and many hours were spent there when my children were young, catching them and selling them for pocket money.

The water of the lagoon has a particularly high density of nutrients and oxygen.

This creates ideal conditions for aquatic flora and fauna. As one proceeds into the deeper and colder water towards the river, fewer species are found, yet native aquatic plants are still found in some areas such as the red Azolla rubra - a floating member of the fern family.

We can also boast of a large glow-worm cave on the edge of the stream which harbours bats, glow-worms, isopods and wetas.

A morepork makes its home year after year in a hole above the cave entrance and the remains of his midnight feast is often seen on the cave floor. Wild sweet potatoes twine their way up through trees at the entrance searching for the sun. With our many members of Ducks Unlimited who live here, Broadlands can only improve where wildfowl and nature are concerned and we can only hope our wetlands can be preserved for all time.

Maxine R. Greenslade

## FOR SALE



### "Black Swamp"

Te Hapua Road, Te Horo, Kapiti Coast

Unique 29 acres containing an original seasonal flax swamp extending to up to 14 acres of water. The ground cover has flaxes, cabbage trees and swamp vegetation.

The balance is grass covered rolling sandhills and peat flats. The land is a natural habitat, breeding area and home to vast numbers of wildlife including Mallard, Grey Ducks, Shoveller, Teal, Pukeko, Herons, and Black Swan.

Ideal for further planting and pond development. Drive on elevated house site with Kapiti Island views. Walk to the beach, 5 minutes by car to Waikanae and 50 minutes to Wellington. A rare opportunity for wildlife enthusiasts to purchase at \$120,000.

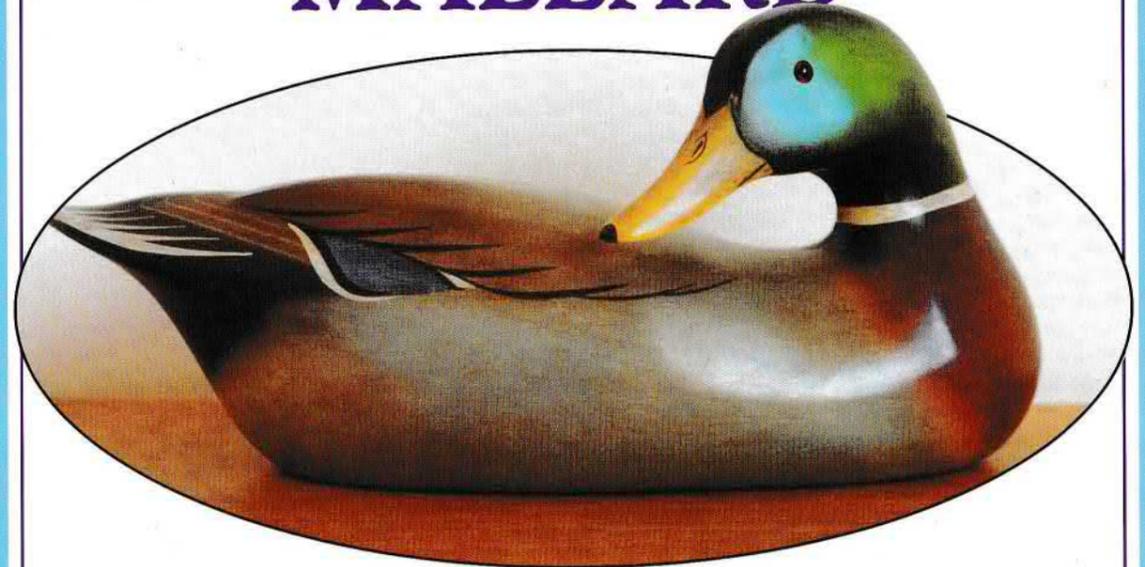
To view call Sole Agent Colin Davies 0-6-364 7720,

A/Hrs 0-6-364 3126, Mobile Phone 025-426 620

CASTLE REAL ESTATE, Otaki Office

WIN THIS

# MAGNIFICENT MALLARD



## SIMPLY JOIN DUCKS UNLIMITED

before August 31st and you are in the draw for this magnificent limited edition Mallard decoy

### 10 PRIZES TO BE WON INCLUDING:

- The magnificent Mallard decoy
- Limited edition prints of waterfowl
- Exclusive Ducks Unlimited shirts and hats
- Books on waterfowl and the New Zealand outdoors
- Or win back your subscription

All winners will be notified by mail and announced in the October issue of "Flight" magazine

### JOIN DUCKS UNLIMITED & MAKE WETLANDS THE WINNER

- We preserve, create and enhance wetlands throughout New Zealand
- We co-ordinate breeding programmes for NZ's threatened waterfowl
- We advocate the conservation of wetlands

#### MEMBERSHIP IS IN 7 CATEGORIES

- Junior (under 16) \$10
- Contributor \$30
- Trade \$45
- Life Membership (one payment) \$1000
- Bronze Sponsor \$60
- Silver Sponsor \$125
- Gold Sponsor \$250

**YES**

I wish to join Ducks Unlimited as a

Member

Name .....

Address .....

..... Phone .....

My Cheque for \$..... is enclosed

Please charge my VISA/BANKCARD for \$ .....

Card number .....

Expires: ..... Signature .....



Post this coupon with your subscription to:

**DUCKS UNLIMITED  
NEW ZEALAND INC**

PO Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland, NZ

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

# The Makerua Swamp

Makerua is a 47 hectare Wildlife Management Reserve, administered by D.O.C. The area is at Tokomaru, 25 kilometres south of Palmerston North.

In the days of the Wildlife Department a very good plan was in place for the enhancement and development of Makerua, involving stopbank erection, pond forming, and pumping from the adjacent Tokomaru River, to retain a water level suitable for wildfowl habitat.

With the curtailment of funds back in the 80's, work ceased completely and the swamp

became increasingly drier and well drained.

With the approval of D.O.C., D.U. have now excavated and formed a series of ponds and channels in the driest portion of the swamp. Further to this work, the banks of Cairns drain (a 4m x 3m drain dissecting the swamp) have been reinstated, to ensure that some water is retained in one portion of the swamp, about 20 hectares.

It is expected to provide very good feeding and breeding habitat over the period August to January, and in a wet summer, probably 12 months of the year.

The Manawatu Chapter is committed to planting and further enhancing the newly formed ponds.

Under the guidance of Alan Feilding a comprehensive planting programme is in place.

A word of thanks, for the assistance and cooperation we have received from the staff of D.O.C. who of course are the custodians of Makerua.

Ken Cook



The Makerua Swamp from the air. 130 acres in size the DU sponsored project can be seen in the accompanying photographs



Photo's Ken Cook

## Straw to Lakes and Ponds Rescue

The accidental dumping of a bale of straw in a pond on an English farm is helping clear the water in Cambridge's Lake Te Koutu.

The beneficial effect of straw on water quality was featured in a "Beyond 2000" television programme which screened in New Zealand last September. The Waipa District Council decided to experiment and put four bales of barley straw in the town's lake in November.

Within a month the murky green colour of the lake was beginning to clear. Shortly after two more bales were added.

The councils park's manager, Mr Max Ward, said the appearance of the lake had definitely improved. "January and February are usually the worst times of the year for algae growth and it is not as bad as usual this year," he said. "In the past we have tried a free-flow waterfall system which hasn't done anything."

The bales were placed in front of the two inlets into the lake and amongst the reeds in the middle. First they were just put in but disintegrated quite quickly, so were then wrapped in wire. No one knows why the straw has such a beneficial effect but I believe the oxygen trapped in the straw stems would be some of the benefit.

Maxine R. Greenslade

# RELOADERS SUPPLIES LTD

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

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



**DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC**  
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

17TH AND 18TH JULY 1993

**TOKAANU HOTEL**

As a member of Ducks Unlimited you will be pleased to know that over the past year your organisation has carried out significant spending for the benefit of wetland conservation. Over \$20,000 has been spent on new developments at the Makerua Wetland in the Manawatu, along with further input into our Sinclair Wetlands project, in addition to the expertise and technical assistance given to many other smaller projects.

As a result, we have a major need to continue our fundraising efforts to ensure that we can continue to restore, create and enhance wetland habitat, and we need your support. We must ensure that this year's conference is a bigger success than last year and that we raise more dollars for the ducks. This is the only way that all of Ducks

Unlimited's worthwhile conservation projects can continue to benefit New Zealand's waterfowl and wetlands.

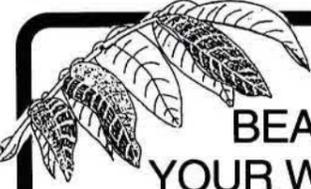
Again we have mapped out an interesting and enjoyable programme for the Conference and we are sure that there will be something for everyone. The Saturday morning guided walk and trout fishing are on again, to different destinations, and we have extended the programme into Sunday with the usual Trade Display and two informative workshops. Alan Fielding will conduct a workshop on wetland planting and Melvin Pike will address the captive breeding of waterfowl. Melvin is one of New Zealand's leading waterfowl aviculturalists.

Conference registration has been held down to \$55 per person. This includes the confer-

ence buffet dinner and wine, morning tea on Sunday morning, and the traditional President's Shout. We are limited to 110 for dinner so urge you to book in advance using the registration form attached to the conference programme. If you can donate an item for the auction this will also help ensure a successful conference. If you are able to donate an auction item please include the details with your registration form, or notify our auction co-ordinator Glenys Hansen, R D 3, Eketahuna. We will also have some items available from Ducks Unlimited Canada and USA, as usual.

I look forward to seeing you at the Conference in July.

Diane Pritt Conference Organiser



**BEAUTIFY YOUR WETLANDS WITH TREES**

- MANY VARIETIES
- TREES FOR BIRDS
- TREES FOR SWAMPS
- WHOLESALE PRICES

*Freighted anywhere in N.Z. for your convenience  
Send for your free price list from:*

**Nick NELSON PARKER**

CHEDDAR VALLEY NURSERY  
R.D.2, OPOTIKI  
PH (07) 312-4639



**WE SUPPORT WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS**

**SPORTWAYS GUNSHED LTD**

49 NORMANBY ROAD  
MT EDEN  
AUCKLAND  
PHONE 09 615-275, 09 687 -279  
FAX 09 609-536

**DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.**  
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**PROGRAMME**

**FRIDAY 16 JULY**

5.00 pm - Conference Room, Registration Desk, and Bar opens 7.00 pm - Happy Hour begins 8.00 pm - Happy Hour ends 12.00 pm - Conference Room and Bar closes

**SATURDAY 17 JULY**

T.B.A. - Guided trout fishing departs 9.00 am - Conference Room and Registration Desk opens 9.30 am - Guided walk departs 10.30 pm - Morning tea in Conference Room 12.00 pm - Buffet lunch (not included in registration price) 1.45 pm - Annual General Meeting opens Welcome from the chair Apologies Confirmation of 1992 A.G.M. minutes 1.55 pm - President's Annual Report 1.55 pm - Treasurer's Annual Report Election of Auditors 2.00 pm - Executive

Director's Annual Report 2.10 pm - Election of four Directors from the floor 2.15 pm - "Operation Wetlands" Annual Report 2.20 pm - Sinclair Wetlands' Annual Report 2.25 pm - Pearce Wetlands' Annual Report 2.30 pm - "Operation Pateke" Annual Report 2.35 pm - "Operation Whio" Annual Report 2.40 pm - "Operation Royal Swan" Annual Report 2.45 pm - "Operation Gretel" Annual Report 2.50 pm - "Operation Branta" Annual Report 2.55 pm - Editorial Report 3.00 pm - Annual Conference Guest Speaker's Address 3.50 pm - General Business 4.15 pm - Annual General Meeting closes

**SATURDAY 17 JULY**

7.00 pm - President's Shout begins in Conference Bar 7.15 pm - President's Shout ends 7.30 pm - Annual Conference Dinner

8.45 pm - Return to Conference Room Presentation of the Brown Teal Breeder of the Year Award. Presentation of the Blue Duck Breeder of the Year Award. Presentation of the Mute Swan Breeder of the Year Award. Presentation of the Jim Campbell Decoy Carving Trophy Chapter's present Annual Fundraising Totals. Presentation of the Chapter Challenge. Presentation of the Bill Barrett Trophy. Annual Conference Fundraising Auction 10.00 pm - Refreshments Late - Conference Room and Bar Closes

**SUNDAY 18 JULY**

9.30 am - Morning Tea and Trade Displays in the Conference Room 10.00 am - Captive Waterfowl Breeding Workshop 10.45 am - Planting Wetlands for Waterfowl Workshop 12.00 pm - Conference Room closes



**DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.**  
**19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 16-18 JULY 1993 AT THE TOKAANU HOTEL**  
**IN THE NEW CONFERENCE FACILITIES**

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION Please register ..... people for the Ducks Unlimited Conference

Name .....

Address .....

Phone .....

I/We will require accommodation for the nights of .....

Number in party .....

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: \$55 each x ..... people = \$ .....

TOKAANU HOTEL ROOM DEPOSIT: \$75 per room x ..... rooms = \$ .....

or TOKAANU LODGE ROOM DEPOSIT: \$30 per room x ..... rooms = \$ .....

Please charge my VISA/BANKCARD No:           Expiry Date ...../...../.....

Signature .....

My cheque for \$ ..... is enclosed

PLEASE SEND YOUR REGISTRATION TO:

**Diane Pritt, Smiths Road, Ohakune**

**Ph: (06) 385-8016 a/h or (06) 385-8244 wk**



# DU News

## FURTHER ROTORUA ISLAND VISIT

In December, Grant Dumbell made a further visit to Rotorua Island in the Hauraki Gulf as part of the ongoing plans to eventually release Brown Teal on the island. A plan to guide the restoration of the island is being drafted in conjunction with the Salvation Army, the owners of the island, and this will specify the habitat development work which will be needed prior to any release of Brown Teal. The island already has three ponds, and these will be the focus of planting activities to enhance habitat values for Brown Teal. It is envisaged that Rotorua Island will be restored using similar techniques as used on Tiritiri Matangi island, the site of a very successful

## FURTHER DOWELANCO SUPPORT

In late December, Ducks Unlimited received further corporate sponsorship from DowElanco in the form of \$2000 to assist with the production of the new Ducks Unlimited promotional pamphlet. The pamphlet design was finalised during February and colour photos added from the photo collections of the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences and the Department of Conservation. The pamphlet was printed just prior to the end of the financial year in time for distribution to members with this issue of "Flight" magazine. The Board of Directors has expressed their sincere appreciation to DowElanco whose support of our work in the past year has totalled \$5000.

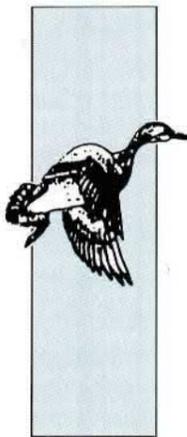


## NEW PAMPHLET

Now that Ducks Unlimited has taken delivery of the stock of our new pamphlet it is a priority to distribute this as widely as possible.

Every current DU member will receive a copy of the pamphlet, along with every past member that we have information for. We are hopeful that past members will renew their commitment to wetland conservation by again joining Ducks Unlimited, and if anyone knows of past members perhaps they could be reminded of the ongoing efforts that are needed if we are to make a difference to our wetlands.

In addition, we will be arranging to have our pamphlet on display in a range of retail locations throughout the country, in a bid to attract new members. If any readers could help in this regard please contact our Executive Director, Grant Dumbell via the DU address of P.O. Box 9795, Auckland. Grant will then arrange for you to receive a regular supply of pamphlets for distribution.



## SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Ducks Unlimited has recently received information from the Inland Revenue Department that subscriptions to Ducks Unlimited are tax deductible. As a result, we are clarifying the situation with regard to the documentation needed for members to claim this deduction and will have full details in this year's membership renewal notice which is being prepared for mailing to members.

## VISITS FROM DU AUSTRALIA

We have recently received visits from Garry and Lou Duncan and Mick Olsen from DU Australia. Garry is DU Australia's Artist of the Year and has come to New Zealand to gain an appreciation of our country, especially our native habitat and birds. Mick is the Chairman of DU Australia and attended the 1992 DUNZ conference on his previous visit. DU Australia have plans in hand for chapters in both Victoria and Canberra and we have details of the events planned to launch both these chapters in May. If any member is interested in receiving these details please contact the Secretary.

## NEW ZEALAND WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS TRUST

The New Zealand Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust has received its first substantial donation with the receipt of a cheque for \$20,000. This donation will form the basis of a fund to support Ducks Unlimited's wetland conservation activities through "Operation Wetlands," and as such it will benefit conservation in perpetuity. The trustees are most grateful for this support which will go a long way to ensuring that Ducks Unlimited is able to fund some wetland conservation projects every year. The trustees have also recently donated \$600 to Ducks Unlimited which are the first proceeds generated from the Life Member Reserve Fund, which was established in late 1991. It will be used to offset the costs associated with servicing our many Life Members both here in New Zealand, and overseas.



# DU News

## DU AT OPEN DAY

Ducks Unlimited featured at the recent Open Day held at the National Wildlife Centre in the Wairarapa. Local members erected the display, which included a display of live waterfowl, and manned it over the two day event. The DU display was a feature of the event and many visitors to the Open Day learnt about our aims and objectives along with our conservation achievements. A range of DU literature was also distributed as part of our stated aim to increase our profile among New Zealanders interested in conservation.

## VISIT TO HOKIANGA

During early March the DowElanco boat was put through its paces during a reconnaissance of the upper reaches of the Hokianga Harbour in Northland by Dave Johnston and Grant Dumbell. This area is the source of persistent reports of Brown Teal despite their recorded extinction in the harbour during the 1970's. While no birds were found, some very interesting habitat was inspected and we intend to place the Hokianga on the list of potential Brown Teal release sites for consideration by the Brown Teal recovery group. The performance of the boat was outstanding, allowing close inspection of tidal channels and flooded mangroves as a result of its exceptional manoeuvrability.

## MAKERUA SWAMP REHABILITATION

Ducks Unlimited's Makerua Swamp rehabilitation project finally began during March. A series of interconnecting ponds have been excavated inside the reserve to increase the area of open water available, and a critical dike has been rebuilt to hold water for longer periods inside the reserve. This project represents a major milestone for the Manawatu Chapter of Ducks Unlimited who have been planning the project for several years. Ironically it couldn't be completed last year due to wet weather! Ducks Unlimited would like to acknowledge the substantial assistance given to the project by the earthmoving company WARE and SONS who completed the work at a discounted rate.



This magnificent jewellery box made of English Walnut and featuring an inlaid duck head logo was made and donated to Ducks Unlimited by Brad Parkes of Pukeko Industries. It was auctioned at the recent Auckland chapter annual fundraising dinner/auction where it was a feature item in the auction

# DU News

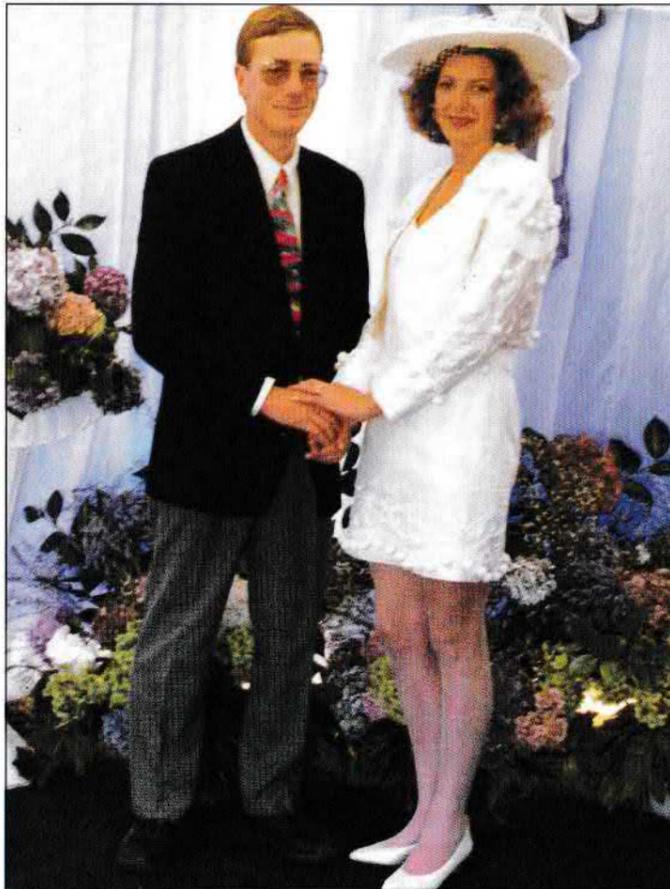
## DUCK STAMPS

Ducks Stamps are about to become a reality in New Zealand with legislation being entered into Parliament to enable the establishment of a duck stamp programme. A programme along these lines has been needed in New Zealand for many years as it will ensure that money is collected from game bird hunters, as users of the game resource, specifically for the conservation of wetland habitat. While the primary focus of the programme is the conservation of habitat for gamebirds, it must be remembered that wetlands for game birds also benefit a vast range of other wetland species, including threatened species. Game birds themselves are completely protected outside of the game season. Ducks Unlimited welcomes the introduction of this programme and has already indicated its support for the programme to the Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.

## AUCKLAND CHAPTER DINNER

The Auckland Chapter held its annual fundraising dinner/auction in early April and raised over \$4,400. The dinner was later than normal this year, but was a great success as a record 99 tickets were sold. The Auckland Chapter would like to thank everybody who donated items to the auction especially;

- SPORTWAYS GUN SHED
- HALCYON PUBLISHING
- ROD AND RIFLE MAGAZINE
- DAVE JOHNSTON
- CHRIS BINDON
- HOWICK GUN SHOP
- CANADIAN AIRLINES
- NZ OUTDOOR MAGAZINE
- RELOADERS SUPPLIES
- MRS BUTTS
- BRAD PARKES and
- DARYL CRIMP.



Long standing DU members Chris Hooson and Carolyn Carey were married on Saturday 27th of March at Waiwhio Estate Tuturamuri

## JIM CAMPBELL Carving Competition

Categories:  
Working Decoys;  
must float level  
Decorative Decoys;  
any size

Entries will be judged at the AGM at Tokaanu 16th to 18th of July 1993

## D.U. WATERFOWL EXCHANGE SERVICE

Members having birds for Sale or Exchange, or wanting to obtain Waterfowl, can write or telephone:

**Bill Clinton-Baker**  
RD 4 Masterton  
Tel: 0-6-372 7801

Bill is keeping a record of whereabouts of waterfowl

## GIMPEX GRAIN DISPENSERS

The first grain FEEDER only feeding out when activated by YOUR birds! No loss of grain to rats and sparrows, low cost feeding in all conditions year round, great success on poultry and game farms in New Zealand. Will adapt to any bird numbers without alteration. GIMPEX



GRAIN DISPENSERS are suitable for chicks from one week on and older, ducks, pheasants and partridge. GIMPEX "ready to use" FEEDERS have large 20 litre rainproof containers with strong handles. GIMPEX DISPENSERS are for self-mounting onto other systems.

GIMPEX COMPLETE FEEDER \$41.30 inc GST add \$6 P/P. GIMPEX DISPENSER "ONLY" \$27.00 inc GST add \$4 P/P. For free information please write to GIMPEX NZ PO Box 2202 Rotorua LET GIMPEX HELP YOU TO THE LIMIT

# NATIONAL SALES ITEMS

## BOOKS

Duckshooters: Sportsmen & Conservationists .....	20.00
Complete Book Australian Birds (Readers Digest) .....	85.00
Coloured Key to the Waterfowl of the World .....	14.50
New Zealand Birds .....	11.30
The Hawaiian Goose .....	25.50
Ponds and Lakes for Wildfowl .....	54.00
Wildfowl by Eric Hosking .....	50.00
Wetlands by Gordon Stephenson .....	15.00
NZ Wetlands: A Management Guide .....	25.00

## APPAREL

DU Hat Red/Blue/Black (one size fits all) .....	15.00
DU Jersey - Red/Green/Blue (state size) .....	76.00
DU polo Shirt - Dark Blue .....	40.00
Stirling Silver Duckhead Pendant .....	45.00

## FINE ART PRINTS

Mallards - Janet Marshall (numbered but unsigned) .....	44.50
Shovelers - Russell Jackson .....	65.00
"Whio" - Paul Martinson .....	65.00
Grey Teal - Lex Hedley .....	65.00
"Pateke" - Pauline Morse .....	65.00

## 10% DISCOUNT

off selected items

Roll Bag .....	\$21.00
Jerseys .....	\$68.50
Polo Shirts .....	\$36.00

Order through Sales Dept

## BADGES

DU Decal .....	1.00
DU Cloth Shoulder Patch .....	9.60
DU Canada 50th Anniversary Badge .....	5.60
DU Duck Head Badge - Large Gold .....	6.75
DU Duck Head Badge - Small Gold/White & Green .....	5.60
DU Duck Head Stick Pin .....	5.60

## STATIONERY

DU Maxipens - per box .....	13.00
DU Maxipens - single .....	1.50
Postcards - Mute Swan/Brown Teal 10 pack .....	4.00

## GENERAL

Fenn Traps Mk 6 .....	36.00
DU Cam-O-Paint .....	10.00
DU Plastic Ruler .....	1.50
DU Plastic Mugs - set of 3 assorted colours .....	2.00
Engraved Crystal Decanter .....	50.00
Roll Bag .....	24.00
Camo Back Pack .....	36.00

I ENCLOSE MY CHEQUE FOR \$ ..... IN PAYMENT OR PLEASE CHARGE TO MY VISA/BANKCARD (Delete to suit)

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

NAME (Please print) .....

ADDRESS .....

POST TO DIANE PRITT, SMITHS ROAD  
OHAKUNE 0-6-385 8016  
BUSINESS HOUSE: TAX INVOICE REQUIRED  (Tick)