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A wetland wildlife habitat amidst quarrying operations near Miranda, Firth of Thames. Photo: Alan Fielding.

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Flight

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ISSUE 90



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For Wetlands and Waterfowl.

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INSIGHT

Alan Wilks

President

I hope you had a safe and happy Christmas, and best wishes for 1997.

During the third week of November our new member recruitment pamphlet was produced and distributed and we are very pleased with the result. All credit must go to our Executive Director who has come up with a quality product. Ten thousand colour pamphlets were delivered by Rural Post and immediately we began to get a response. If we can recruit 140 new members from this mail-out it will enable us to finance another campaign.

It is with regret the Board has accepted Carolyn Hooson's decision to retire as a Director due to the demands of a two year old plus a new baby. Carolyn was editor of "Flight" and worked hard for Ducks Unlimited. We hope it will not be long before we see her back on the Board.

The National Raffle was a great success and raised more money than ever before. Our thanks to William Abel for a job well done. Running the raffle is not easy and involves a great deal of work. To those of you who bought or sold books, we are grateful. Our congratulations to the prizewinners and to Joyce Brooks who won the pendant donated by William Abel for selling the most books, an incredible 40, plus the two bought by the family.

Unfortunately we did not receive a tender for the Pearce Wetlands that was acceptable to the Board. We are currently negotiating with parties who showed an interest in the property which will soon be listed on the open market.

I have received a number of comments from members regarding the cost of running the organisation. These have been prompted by the publication of the Annual Accounts in October "Flight" and focus on the cost of Management Services. Nearly a quarter of this is debt-servicing directly related to supporting the Sinclair and Pearce Wetlands, our two major conservation projects. We intend to amend the structure of our accounts to correctly show this as conservation expenditure.

It is vitally important that we increase our membership which will increase revenue without increasing management costs. Lets look forward to more members and more wetlands in 1997.



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OUR MISSION

We are a voluntary membership based society dedicated to the conservation of New Zealand wetlands through:

- wetland restoration and development
- conservation programmes for threatened waterfowl
- advocacy and education of wetland values.

By these means we seek to ensure the ethical and sustainable use of wetland resources by all existing and future users.

Cover Photo: Mute Swan and cygnets at Jim Cambell's near Masterton.

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DALE STEVENS

Dale has been a member of Ducks Unlimited for the past five years, having signed up on the recommendation of Ian Pirani, our foundation President. Dale has now joined the Board following his election to the position of a non-permanent director at this year's Annual General Meeting.

Resident on a 10 acre farmlet near the Waikato town of Cambridge, Dale is the General Manager of Rural Post based in Hamilton. He has already affected the lives of many rural DU members

following his successful push to have the rural delivery fee abolished.

Dale is married with four children and lists his interests as training and working gundogs, which is evident from his GUNDOG number plate, and the restoration and conservation of wetland habitat and endangered New Zealand birds. He hopes to one day own and develop a wetland property but in the meantime his farmlet is home to a range of cattle, goats, horses and dogs.

CRAIG WORTH

At 16, Craig was a Foundation Member of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand as a result of his father's significant role in establishing DU here in New Zealand in 1974. Since then he has attended almost all the annual conferences, and as his lounge at home testifies, has been a keen bidder at many auctions.

During his teenage years Craig and Jack spent countless hours working on both



Grey Teal and Brown Teal projects and together they were involved in DU's first successful chapter fund raising functions, the legendary Hamilton Hoot-an-nany's. Craig now owns Hamilton City Buses and still lives in Hamilton with Elizabeth and their two children.

As an active waterfowl hunter since the age of 8, Craig is very aware of the need for hunting and conservation to go hand in hand. As a Director of DU his aim is to work towards achieving a bigger slice of support from the hunting fraternity for our wetland conservation projects.



RAFFLE RESULTS

William Abel

The prize winners list for the 1996 Raffle is:

- 1st Geoff Reid Masterton
- 2nd Peter Cameron Morrinsville
- 3rd Peter Stevens Cambridge
- 4th Tom Caithness Wellington
- 5th Kevin Ogles Auckland
- 6th M. Cormack Auckland
- 7th J. Allen Masterton
- 8th P. Carson New Plymouth
- 9th Arnold Barden Whangarei
- 10th Ingrid Barrett Christchurch

Congratulations to all the prize winners and many thanks to everybody who bought and sold tickets. The net profit was around \$9,500 making it the most successful raffle that DU has ever run.

MANAWATU CHAPTER BANQUET

Neil Candy

The Manawatu Chapter held their annual Banquet and Auction on October 19 at the Coachman Hotel, Palmerston North. Unfortunately this coincided with some other functions and we had some difficulty selling tickets.

We were fortunate to obtain from Mrs Bailey a 12 plate set of Limoges "Game Birds of the World" with designs by Basil Ede. After very spirited bidding these were knocked down to a local identity and

this one item greatly boosted our overall profit.

The Coachman supplied a superb meal which was supplemented by various game dishes produced by our members. Auctioneer Bob Wood was in fine form and got everyone involved with the bidding, even when they didn't want to be.

MANAWATU CHAPTER SHOOT

Neil Candy

Set aside Sunday 23 March for a simulated field shoot to be held at Foxton. This year we are privileged to be able to hold the event in conjunction with Andy Tannock's Hunting and Fishing Miroku Shoot. Details have yet to be finalised but the shoot will probably consist of 100 targets with a Miroku shotgun up for grabs. DU will also be supplying extra prizes over and above Hunting and Fishing's contribution.

PALMERSTON NORTH AVIARIES

Neil Candy

Members will recall seeing an article in "Flight" about new aviaries being built in Palmerston North for Blue Duck and Brown Teal. After much dedicated work by Peter Russell and Ken Cook, the two aviaries have been completed at the Palmerston North Esplanade and are now home to Blue Duck and Brown Teal. Any



The new Palmerston North Blue Duck aviary. Photo: Neil Candy

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members who are passing through Palmerston North should make the effort to view these rare birds in an easily accessible environment.

AUCKLAND CHAPTER CALENDAR

David Smith
Northern members can look forward to an intensive programme of Auckland Chapter events during February. The first of these is the annual simulated field shoot to be held at Gary Peter's property at Waiuku on Sunday 2 February. This will be followed the following Sunday 9 February by the second annual Habitat Day which this year will visit several large wetland properties owned by DU members in the northern Waikato. This is a day not to be missed as it will be an opportunity to visit some quite different wetland management projects.

The third event on the calendar is the Annual Dinner which will be held in Papakura on Friday 14 February. For a different slant on your normal Valentine's Day why not take you partner to a great night out and at the same time support the other love in your life - wetlands and waterfowl. For details about these events please contact either Graham Gurr on 09-

4895337 or David Smith on 09-3796960 (day) or 09-2984719 (evenings).

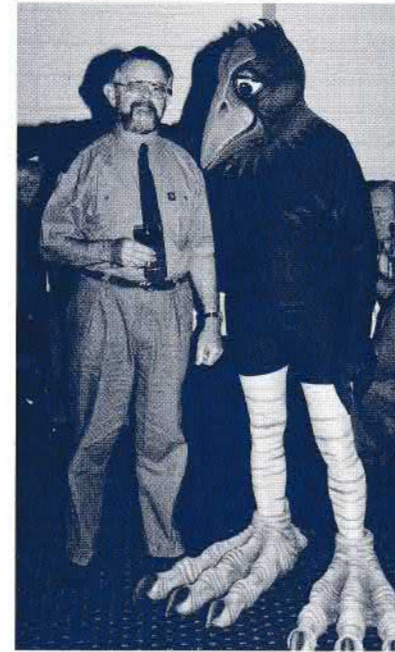
CONSERVATIONIST CONNED

Late last year, longtime DU member Howard Egan (the one with the beard) had a milestone birthday which he claimed was his 50th. Of course, we couldn't possibly comment. After a family gathering at home, Pearl offered to take him out to dinner on the following Saturday night to celebrate. Unbeknown to Howard, she had been planning a surprise party for months.

Howard is Manager of the YMCA in Masterton and, so far as he knew, a wedding had been booked for the Saturday in the large meeting room, so when Pearl drove him to the door of the YMCA his reaction was, "We can't go in there - its a wedding". When Pearl persuaded him to go in he was greeted by family members from as far afield as Auckland and Balclutha, a welcome gathering of friends, including Alan Fielding (the one without the beard).

As pukeko are a bird which Howard detests (he saw one take a Mute Swan cygnet from his Canada Flats wetland)

one of his obsessions is letting Pukeko know they are not welcome. Come up with a (publishable) caption for the photo of the conned conservationist and you could win a \$25 book voucher. Send your caption, name and address to DU at P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland.



Best caption published in April.

WATERFOWL AT THE AUCKLAND MUSEUM

By Brian Gill
Curator of Birds, Auckland Institute and Museum

Auckland Museum has collected bird specimens since about 1870, and the collection now numbers about 9,500 specimens. This is one of four major bird collections in New Zealand, the others being at the Museum of New Zealand in Wellington, Canterbury Museum in Christchurch and the Otago Museum in Dunedin, and is increasing at the rate of 100 - 200 specimens per year. Most specimens are found dead by wildlife workers, or members of the public, and are brought in to the museum.

The best mounted specimens are on display in the Bird Hall, the part of the museum that the public is most familiar with. The bulk of the collection is behind the scenes, in storage, where it is used by staff and visitors for identification and research. Most bird specimens are preserved as study skins, which allow the plumage to be examined easily and measurements to be taken of the wing, tail, foot, and bill. There is also a very important collection of bones, an essential

resource for identifying bits of birds, such as fragments of rare seabirds found washed up on beaches, or bones from Maori midden sites recovered by archaeologists.

Most New Zealand species are represented in the collection, with a bias towards those of the northern North Island. All the specimens are documented with the collecting locality, name of collector and date of collection. The sex and age, where known, are also recorded. Without documentation the specimens would have little scientific or historical importance.

Nearly all the registration records have been recently computerised and it is now easy to obtain listings of specimens in various formats, including geographical listings. The research specimens can be examined by any serious researchers, including artists, by making an appointment during office hours.

The table shows the number of specimens of New Zealand waterfowl currently held by Auckland Museum. While there are a few more mounts and eggs that have yet to be added to the main computerised collection, where there are zero's in the table, I would be pleased to acquire some material. Although captive specimens are of less scientific interest than wild ones, they are better than nothing for general purposes, including identification. Any Ducks Unlimited members with material to offer should contact me to discuss further details.

SUMMARY OF THE NUMBER OF NEW ZEALAND SWAN, GOOSE AND DUCK SPECIMENS IN THE AUCKLAND MUSEUM COLLECTION.

SPECIES	Mounts	Skins	Bone Sets	Eggs	TOTAL
Mute Swan	1	0	0	0	1
Black Swan	2	4	2	6	14
Canada Goose	1	0	1	0	2
Paradise Shelduck	5	5	3	2	15
Blue Duck	1	10	1	0	12
Mallard	3	12	3	6	24
Grey Duck	4	24	3	3	34
Grey Teal	2	17	9	2	30
Brown Teal	4	33	9	3	49
Shoveler	4	13	2	1	20
Scaup	2	8	2	2	14
TOTAL	29	126	35	25	215

receive a more detailed treatment. At the end of each is a list of reading which if the reader wanted further information gives a good starting point.

Importantly, Ducks Unlimited is mentioned with information about the Brown Teal, but sadly not with Blue Duck. In all, a first class book which this reviewer can recommend.

The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand can be purchased from Ducks Unlimited for \$49.95. Send orders to Ducks Unlimited, P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland.

usual front matter are an identification guide for the three hundred and twenty plus birds one is likely to encounter in New Zealand. Each of the birds is illustrated on one of the 74 colour plates beautifully painted by Derek Onley. On the page opposite the colour plate is a brief description of each bird illustrated with plumage and behavioural details to aid identification in the field. Also, and most usefully, there is a distribution map to show where the bird is normally encountered.

Part two gives more details on the distribution and ecology of each species. Those which breed in New Zealand

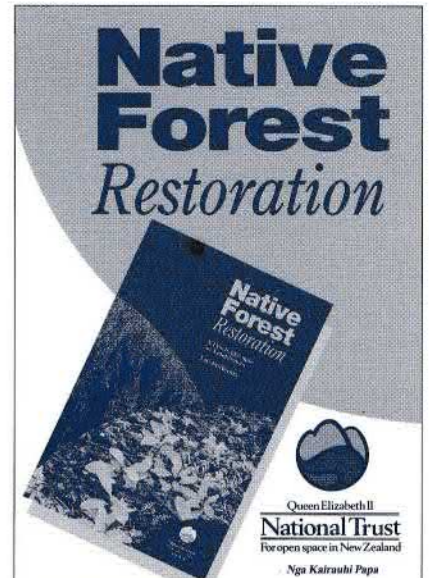
WIN The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand

Enrol 4 new members of Ducks Unlimited and the book is yours.
Send names and addresses of new members, plus the relevant subscriptions, along with your own name and address to us at P.O. Box 9795 Newmarket Auckland.

BOOK Review

The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand by Barrie Heather and Hugh Robertson Published by Viking at \$49.95

This is basically a book in two parts. The first 166 pages after the introduction and



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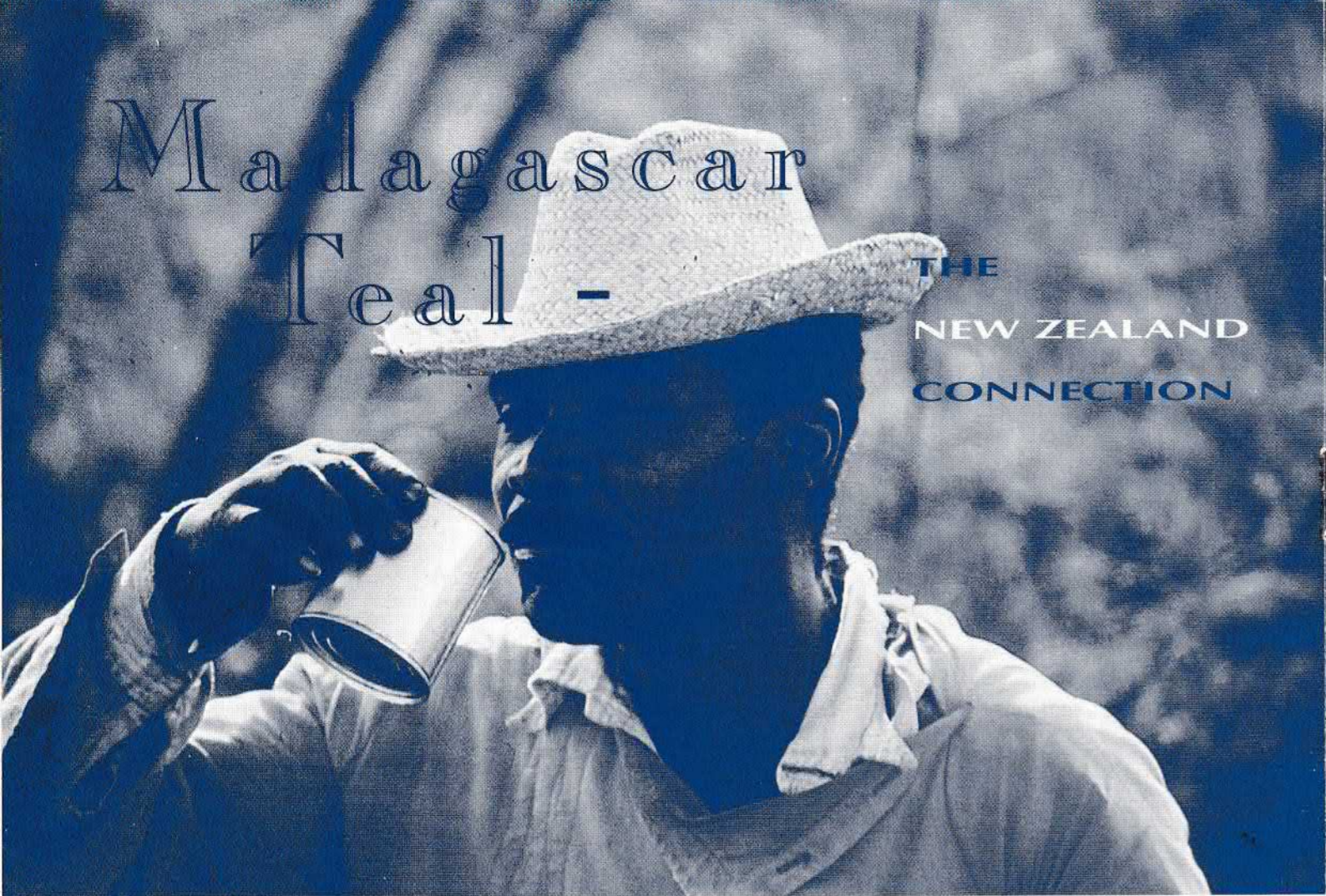
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Madagascar Teal

THE NEW ZEALAND CONNECTION



By Glyn Young
Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust

The widespread, and common, Grey teal is well known over large parts of New Zealand and in Australia. This small dabbling duck has some very close relatives that are a lot less well known and poorly studied. The Sunda teal from Indonesia, and the Andaman teal from India have at least been seen regularly. The Madagascar, or Bernier's teal, however, has only been recorded a handful of times since it was described in 1860.

The small, reddish Madagascar teal spends the dry season in shallow, often saline wetlands, river estuaries and mangrove all along the west coast of this large island off the coast of East Africa. Breeding has never been observed, nest site, eggs and young are unknown. The species has never bred in captivity as only one female was held before 1995.

The Madagascar teal was 'rediscovered' in 1970 in a group of small lakes, including Bemamba and Masama, 50-60

km south of the tiny town of Antsalova. One hundred and twenty teal were counted at Bemamba in 1973.

My own survey work for the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, on the island's east coast, looking for Madagascar pochard and Meller's duck detailed an overall, and rapid, decline in duck numbers along with serious habitat degradation in Madagascar. There were only sporadic sightings of small numbers of teal after 1973 and in 1992 I spent four weeks at Lakes Bemamba and Masama. We found only sixteen teal and observed a remarkable increase in the production of rice in the area. No suitable habitat remained at Masama.

The teal were once widespread over large areas of Madagascar. However, even before humans arrived from the east 1500 years ago, shallow lakes in the south-west were drying up, reducing available habitat. Early human colonists began the conversion of many shallow water bodies

for the cultivation of rice, still the country's staple diet. Deforestation and the resultant silting has dried up lakes and reduced aquatic biodiversity. Subsistence hunting, pollution and the introduction of exotic fish into many lakes have further reduced duck populations.

In more recent years drought on the high Central plateau has caused many people to move to new areas in the search for suitable areas for rice production. Western Madagascar, previously inhabited by the cattle herding Sakalava



H.G. Young, R. Salford and capture team.
Photo: H.G. Young



Male Madagascar Teal. Photo: H.G. Young

people, who put minimal pressure on the shallow coastal wetlands, has been invaded by newcomers with much less respect for the area and its wildlife. This migration of people has now become the biggest threat to Madagascar teal.

It soon became apparent during, and after the initial field research in 1992 that with almost nothing known about this enigmatic species it would be very hard to plan further research and develop a conservation strategy. In 1993 I returned to Lake Bemamba and captured four teal, all male, to initiate a captive breeding programme back in Jersey. In 1994 an expedition to Bemamba was unable to capture further birds. However, two pairs were sent back to Jersey in 1995.

With an established field programme centred on Lake Bemamba and the first ever captive pairs it became a time to call in the experts. After several years of correspondence with Murray Williams of DoC and Grant Dumbell of Ducks Unlimited, I was able to take up their kind invitation and visit New Zealand in November and December 1995.

Murray organised my visit so I could see as many aspects of the conservation and restoration programmes for the Brown teal as possible. The Brown teal is another relative of the Madagascar teal and although a little different in many aspects, an understanding of this programme has begun to influence my thinking about Madagascar's future.

Grant took me to see how wild populations of Grey teal have been

maintained and increased through habitat management and the provision of nest boxes. At the National Wildlife Centre

and at the Otorohanga Kiwi House I saw how the sub-Antarctic teal have been reared in these collections, especially encouraging when starting out with a species new to captivity.

I have read a great many things on the different Grey and Brown teal, but they are no substitute for meeting the experts in the field and being able to discuss with them the problems facing the Madagascar teal and its conservation. I am extremely grateful to Murray and to Grant, and their families, to Shaun O'Conner, Neil Hayes, Christine Reed, John Andrew, Gideon Anderson and Alan Tennyson. I hope that I will be able to use everything I learned in New Zealand to the benefit of the beautiful Madagascar teal.



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What You Told Us

By Dr Grant Dumbell

Members will recall receiving a survey questionnaire enclosed with one of the 1996 issues of "Flight" magazine. The flow of responses to this survey has now dried up so we have taken the time to collate your responses. Here is what you told us.

A total of 143 responses were received from the 765 questionnaires distributed. This response rate of 19% and is very high for this type of survey and shows DU members are taking a strong interest in the development of the organisation.

The questionnaire was in three sections:
About yourself
About "Flight" magazine
About the DU logo

ABOUT YOURSELF

Respondents were asked to indicate their age, gender and where they lived so we could gauge if the responses were a fair representation of all DU members. The survey then asked how many years members had been members, how they joined, what motivated them to join, and what their involvement with wetlands was. This information will help us with our ongoing membership recruitment.

The order of the regions very closely reflects the order of their DU membership and indicates that the responses are a good reflection of the spread of DU members. The exceptions were Overseas members, from whom the response was lower than expected and Northland and Central Plateau members, from whom the response was higher than expected. The responses to the questions about age and gender show that DU members are most likely to be middle aged men.

The responses about membership indicate that DU members are very committed to

conservation and "support the cause" for the long haul. On average, members support DU for just over eight years each, however, DU could do much more to publicise itself and promote its work. "Word of mouth" is clearly still the best form of advertising so don't forget to tell a friend about our work.

The motivation responses reinforce DU members commitment to conservation in general and wetland and waterfowl conservation in particular. Not only are a large proportion of members involved with their own private wetland projects, they also support other conservation organisations in large numbers.

One particular comment that we often hear from people who aren't members is that they think DU is a shooting organisation. While many members hunt waterfowl, and help DU fundraising by participating in chapter clay target shoots, the DU membership is not overwhelmingly dominated by hunters. DU has never been directly involved with gamebird hunting as this is the preserve of the Fish and Game Council's.

Clearly we need to do more work to communicate our wetland and waterfowl conservation message to the New Zealand public, but with waterfowl hunting being such a widespread recreation in New Zealand perhaps our detractors might like to ask how many waterfowl hunters support organisations like Forest and Bird and Greenpeace. Simply having hunters as members doesn't make us a hunting organisation, but we value and appreciate the support of hunters as they responsibly realise they have to put something back into wetland conservation for the enjoyment they take from their chosen winter recreation.

ABOUT "FLIGHT" MAGAZINE

Following on from the recent redesign of "Flight" magazine we included some questions about the new format to judge people's reactions. "Flight" is our main form of communication with members and represents a large expenditure for DU. It is also used as part of our publicity and marketing so it is crucial we take the time and effort to produce the best magazine that we can.

These responses show that "Flight" is working reasonably well as a channel of communication to members, however, many comments indicate that people are looking for more in-depth articles about the various aspects of our work. We have tried to address this over the past year with articles about the Pearce Wetlands, Grey Teal nest boxes, the Booth Wetland, Home Lagoon, international waterfowl conservation, Tannery Corner and Blue Duck.

People have also commented about space being allocated to material such as the annual accounts. Unfortunately, it is a legal necessity that we provide this information to our members, but we have tried to abbreviate it as much as possible to allow space for other articles of interest like duck feeders, school conservation and free legal advice. We are hoping to run more articles of general interest for members and have introduced the Conservation Project and Field File logos. These help differentiate features about our conservation work, from good practical conservation advice and articles of general interest which members kindly send in.

Members should take particular note of the results of the question about personal stories. It is clear that members would like to know what other members are doing so if you have something of interest write it down for us. Even a photo and a short paragraph will make an interesting addition to DU News.

Responses show that members are cooler about the new design of the magazine. While we agree that a colour magazine would be great it is important to note that the "Flight" redesign has saved about 25% of the cost of producing the magazine. The reintroduction of colour is high on our list of priorities for "Flight", as and when it is affordable.

ABOUT THE DU LOGO

Respondents were asked to give us their impressions about the DU logo which has now been in use for four years. With the clear indication that we need to do more advertising, our logo will be an important piece in the puzzle.

These responses show we are "on the money" with our logo as at least 90% of respondents agreed with both questions. A large number of comments were also made, especially the perceptive comment made by several members that the logo is attractive to members but may not be recognisable to a wide audience outside DU, and that we can't promote the logo enough. We will take note of your

comments as we put the logo into wider use.

SUMMARY

We are extremely grateful for the time and effort members put into their survey responses. Other information which has been collected includes a list of magazines which members prefer to read and this will help guide our advertising decisions.

The range of comments we received include some good ideas and we will act on these. A number of members also wrote letters about specific points and we have responded to these. Again, please accept our thanks for your time and effort to return the questionnaires. Should you have any questions about the survey please contact me at P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland.



ABOUT YOURSELF

How long have you been a member?

Less than 1 year	7%
1 - 2 years	8%
2 - 4 years	11%
4 - 6 years	14%
6 - 8 years	14%
8 - 10 years	14%
10 - 15 years	18%
Over 15 years	14%

How did you find out about DU?

Word of mouth	59%
Waterfowl hunting	18%
DU promotional material	17%
Media coverage	14%
DU show / display	6%
DU dinner / shoot	5%
Other means	3%

What motivated you to join DU?

Wetland projects	52%
Waterfowl projects	52%
General conservation interest	90%

Where do you live?

Auckland	20%
Manawatu	16%
Wairarapa	11%
Wellington	9%
Waikato	9%
Bay of Plenty	7%
Northland	7%
Central Plateau	4%
Canterbury	3%
Hawkes Bay	2%
Otago	2%
Overseas	2%
Southland	1%
Taranaki	1%
Wanganui	1%
Nelson	1%
Marlborough	1%
Not Specified	3%
Total	100%

How old are you?

Under 10	0%
10 - 19	1%
20 - 29	9%
30 - 39	17%
40 - 49	24%
50 - 59	24%
60 - 69	19%
Over 70	6%

Your gender?

Male	79%
Female	21%

Yes No

Do you own a wetland?	50%	47%
Do you have an involvement with a private wetland?	55%	36%
Do you regularly hunt waterfowl?	53%	45%
Have you attended a DU fundraiser?	49%	48%
Do you belong to other conservation organisations?	66%	28%

ABOUT "FLIGHT" MAGAZINE

	Yes	OK	No	Don't Know
Is "Flight" informative?	66%	30%	1%	3%
Is "Flight" easy to read?	84%	13%	2%	1%
Do you like the new design?	57%	32%	10%	1%
Does "Flight" give you good information about DU?	64%	34%	1%	1%

What would you like to see included in "Flight"? Yes

More practical conservation advice	76%	2%
More wetland and waterfowl articles	83%	0%
More information about DU projects	67%	9%
More information about DU administration	17%	44%
More personal stories	64%	13%
Are the sales goods of interest?	72%	28%
Have you ever bought anything from "Flight"?	43%	57%

ABOUT THE DU LOGO

	Yes	OK	No	Don't Know
Do you think our logo is attractive?	69%	23%	6%	2%
Do you think it portrays our involvement with wetlands and waterfowl conservation in NZ?	75%	15%	6%	4%

INVOLVEMENT VOLUNTEERS NEW ZEALAND.

Jo Barr
P.O.Box 44044
Point Chevalier
Auckland.

Involvement Volunteers is an organisation started five years ago in Melbourne by Tim Cox who saw a real gap in the volunteering system. He could see young people 19 - 35 years old wanting to travel overseas and gain experiences of the country they were travelling to. He targeted people travelling for about a year and began to offer Australian experiences on farms, with social work, education, historic sites, heritage parks and conservation.

Many of these people wished to visit New Zealand where we have something different to offer. They meet the real people of the country, they learn about our culture, they give something back to the country, and also have some fun.

With farming and conservation placements volunteers stay for two weeks. These can be individual or pair placements, or in some places a group of up to 8-10 people. In certain situations

they are prepared to rough it, sleeping in tents, but normally we expect a reasonable standard of accommodation with washing facilities. In the case of groups, volunteers can cook their own food and cover these costs themselves. With individual volunteers, or pairs, it is expected that the host family will feed them in return for their labour.

If there is anyone reading this article who is interested in hosting volunteers or knows of anyone who is setting up a reserve, historic site, a wetlands, or need help with weed or possum eradication, tree planting, making paths, etc etc please feel free to contact I.V.N.Z. for an application form. To judge if a volunteer will be suitable we forward their CV ahead of time and we tend to work about six months ahead. The volunteer does not expect to receive any payment and the host does not have to pay I.V.N.Z. for the services of the volunteer.

We have had many volunteers through New Zealand and the scheme has been very successful with the majority of both volunteers and organisations very happy with each other. The only criteria for

having a volunteer is that they would not be taking a paid position away from a New Zealander.

If in the unfortunate situation a volunteer is not suitable for the placement you are free to discuss this with the volunteer and if the situation is not reversed to ask them to leave. The same goes for the volunteer if they find the conditions or the work unacceptable. We do ask both the volunteer and the hosts to contact us in these situations so that the problem can be solved promptly. Sometimes a situation just calls for more communication or more local knowledge. Don't forget the volunteer has come to learn. For example, we had a young man get very confused when in Australia he was protecting possum and here we were asking him to kill them.

We also help young New Zealanders who wish to travel overseas and meet the people of various countries so if you are in that position write to us and we will send you more detailed information as we have many countries available for you to travel to. There is a small cost involved to cover the administration.



... FROM THE 19TH AT CARTERTON

By David Yerex

A lame duck is, according to Webster, "a disabled person or thing", or "a person unable to fulfil his engagements".

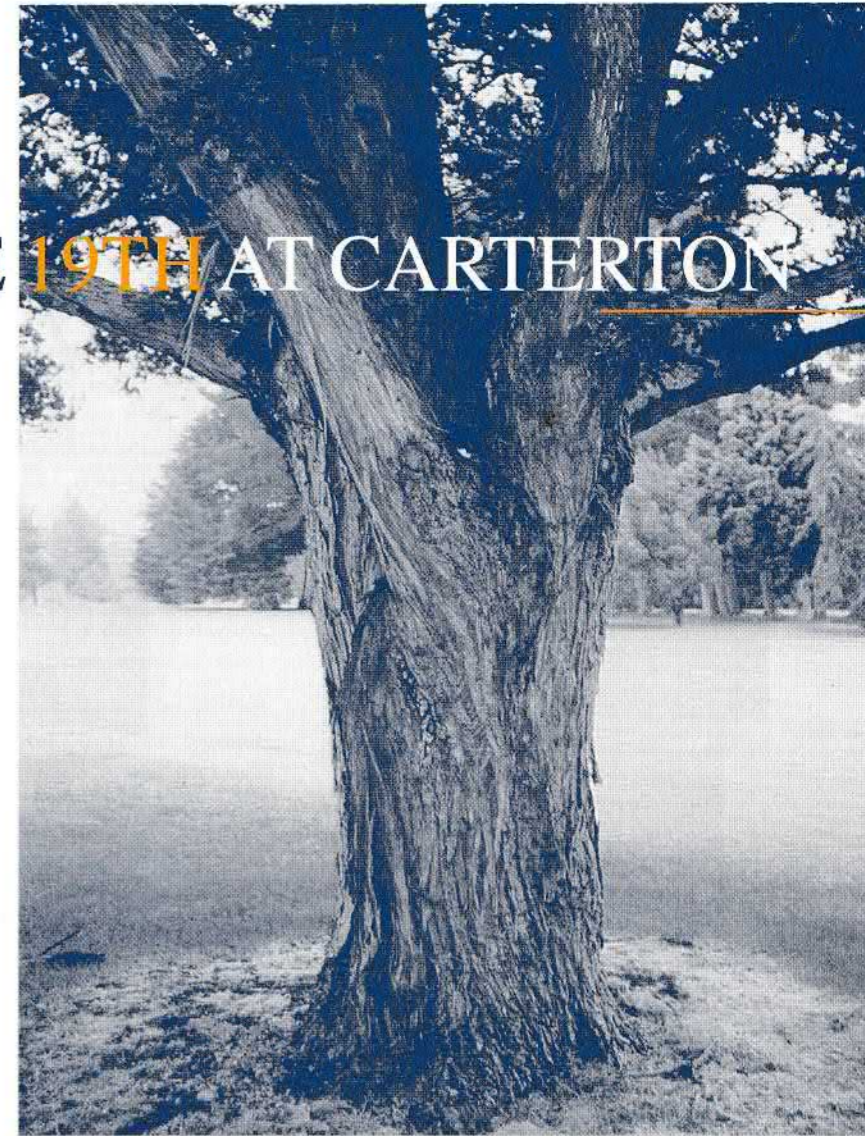
It is quite apparent that Webster has not, of late, trundled down the fairways at the Carterton Golf Club, which is probably due to his deceased status. However, had he done so of late he would have added a further definition, along the lines of: "lame duck, a duck with uneven gait". Something along those lines.

The fact is that the Carterton Golf Club, with its picturesque wetlands populated by Mute Swans, Black Swans, Grey Teal, Coot and Scaup (courtesy of Melvin Pike), and golf balls (courtesy of innumerable members of the species *Golfus ineptus*), has a problem.

Said problem became evident when members of said fraternity began to notice a clutch of Mallard young limping laboriously along the fairways. The cause of this sad situation did not become evident until a member reached 24 on his film roll. The last of the photographs showed a tall totara midway between two fairways, in the crotch of which - the totara, not the fairways - a female Mallard had nested and laid a clutch.

At the time of his discovery of this arboreal maternity ward, the member had considered the desirability of providing some form of ladder access for the ducklings to reach ground level. Any such aid was rendered obsolete, however, since the nest was discovered to be vacated the next day.

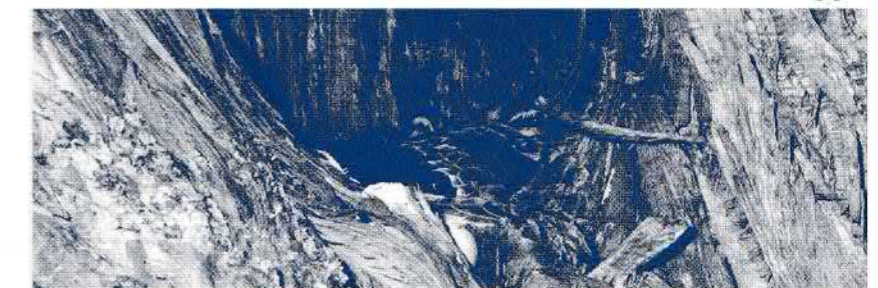
It was then that the reports of the presence of lame ducks (actually ducklings) began to come in. But it was only when photographic evidence was added to these reports that cause and effect became evident.



Mallard high-rise living at Carterton.

The habits of Mallards causes considerable mystification among members of Carterton Golf Club, more accustomed to birdies and the odd eagle than to ducks. They cannot quite understand why said ducks darken the waters of their "wetland" so often during the year, but take off to nest in the oddest places around the course.

One nest with sixteen eggs, of which only five hatched, was at the foot of a totara within a couple of metres of one of the greens. The duck sat silently and still for weeks on end while grumpy golfers rolled their trundlers past within feet of her



Mallard and ducklings in a tree nest at Carterton Golf course.

nursery. Few of those who passed by realised that she was there.

As the season progresses they have become accustomed to waiting patiently on the tee while a duck with a brood of young in her wake, plods purposefully across the fairway.

There is, however, one place that ducks never nest. That is the island created in the middle of the club's wetland specifically to provide a safe nesting place for ducks. But that's the irrational sort of situation you expect on a golf course.





DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.
For Wetlands and Waterfowl.

YES, I wish to join Ducks Unlimited as a member Please send me further information, I may join later.

Title _____ First Name _____ Surname _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Membership is available in seven categories:

Junior (under 16) \$10 Contributor \$35 Family \$50 Life (one payment) \$1000
Bronze Sponsor \$60 Silver Sponsor \$125 Gold Sponsor \$250

My donation of \$ _____ is also enclosed. Please find my cheque attached.

Please charge my VISA / MASTERCARD No: _____

Expires: _____ Signature: _____

Please renew my membership each year and charge my credit card **YES / NO**

Please return to Ducks Unlimited, P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland. Thanks for your support

Shopping

FOR AROUND THE POND



FENN TRAP MK 6

Deadly on ferrets, stoats, weasels and rats, these all metal traps are easy to set and are the ultimate quick kill tunnel trap. **\$30.00 each or \$50.00 pair**

FENN TRAP TUNNEL

These heavy duty moulded fenn trap tunnels are perfect for safely setting your Fenn Traps. Each tunnel can be used to house either one or two traps, depending on your set. As used by the Department of Conservation, they actually increase your catch rate. **\$35.00**



TIMMS TRAP

We now stock the well known and effective Timms Trap to complement the Fenn Trap. The Timms Trap is perfect for larger animals, such as possums and cats. Bait with either fruit or meat depending on your trapping target. **\$40.00**

BAIT STATION

This waterproof heavy duty plastic bait station is ideal for around your captive pond or aviary. It has a huge bait reservoir and can be used against possums, rabbits and rats. It really is a "set and forget"

predator control weapon to add to your trapping programme. **\$25.00**



GREY TEAL NEST BOX

As featured in "Flight" magazine, these Grey Teal nest boxes come in a prefabricated form ready to assemble and erect on your pond. They come complete with mounts ready to fit to your own post. **\$25.00**

ESSENTIAL READING

NEW ZEALAND WETLANDS: A MANAGEMENT GUIDE

Far and away the most comprehensive New Zealand guide to managing wetlands. This has a load of answers to your questions about how to build a wetland, what to plant, what lives in a wetland, what legal controls apply and where to go for further information. This book is required reading for anybody who is serious about looking after wetlands. **\$25.00**

ERIC HOSKING'S WILDFOWL

A must for anybody interested in wildfowl this book is full of magnificent photographs by one of the world's foremost wildlife photographers. **\$20.00**



PONDS AND LAKES FOR WATERFOWL

Published in Britain by the Game



Conservancy, this book covers the development and improvement of waterfowl habitat with many interesting ideas. **\$54.00**

WETLANDS - DISCOVERING N.Z.'S SHY PLACES

An excellent book in which the author, a former QEII National Trust Regional Representative, visits wetlands of varying types throughout New Zealand. **\$15.00**

THE DU ART GALLERY

LIMITED EDITION ART PRINTS

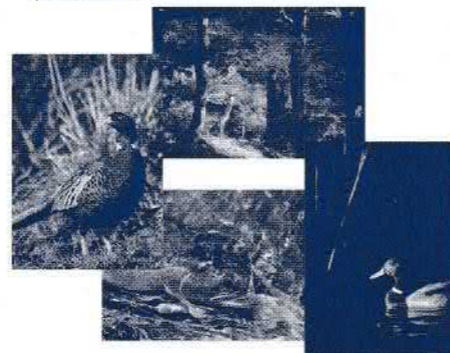
There are five fine art prints by five New Zealand artists in this exclusive DU art series. All prints are signed and numbered limited editions. They come to you unmounted so you can match your choice of frame to your decor. The prints are:

Brown Teal	Pauline Morse
Grey Teal	Lex Hedley
Blue Duck	Paul Martinson
Shoveler	Russell Jackson
Mallards	Janet Marshall

\$45.00 each

NEW ZEALAND WILDLIFE CARDS

These beautiful greeting cards feature stunning photo's of our best known sporting wildlife. They are blank inside for you to personalise with your own message, and come with their own envelope. There are four cards in the series including Mallard, Pheasant, Sika Deer, and Rainbow Trout. **\$3.00 each**



WEAR YOUR SUPPORT FOR WETLANDS



DU SILK TIES

Our very attractive imported 100% silk ties all feature the DU duck head in gold. **\$40.00**

DU MONOGRAMMED POLO SHIRT

Our hard wearing white polo shirts are great casual wear. They feature an embroidered DU logo and come in sizes of small, medium, large and extra large. **\$30.00**

DU CAPS

These baseball style hats are one size fits all and are in a range of colours including black, red and blue. Keep the weather out of your eyes, whatever the weather. **\$15.00**

DU MONOGRAMMED CLOTH PATCH

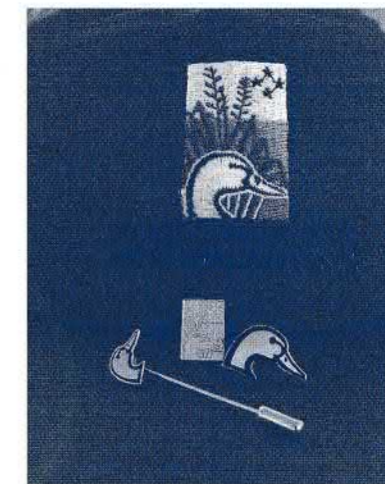
Our monogrammed cloth jacket patches

are available in navy and white. They have overlapped edges and can easily be sewn onto your jacket. **\$10.00**



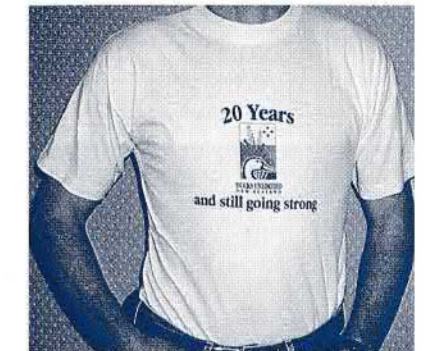
DU LAPEL PINS

These look great on your jacket lapel. Styles include the DUNZ logo lapel pin, a duck head stick pin, a small duck head



lapel pin, and the large duck head lapel pin. Specify your choice. **\$4.00**

DU 20TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRT
These cotton, unbleached T-shirts proudly display a silkscreened DU logo and come in sizes of medium, large and extra large. Great summer T-shirt, or wear it under your winter shirts for extra warmth. **Reduced to clear \$15.00**



DU DECAL

Show your membership with pride with our colourful logo in permanent vinyl suitable for cars, boats, bags, anywhere. **\$1.00**

PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

Name: _____	ITEM	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
Address: _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Phone: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
PAYMENT DETAILS				
I enclose my cheque for _____				
\$ _____ as payment.				
Please charge my credit card				
VISA/MASTERCARD				
Card No. _____	Prices include GST and Postage & Packing		TOTAL \$ _____	
Expires: _____	Tax Invoice Required <input type="checkbox"/> Tick			
Signature: _____	Send your completed order form and payment details to, Graham Gurr, P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland. Ph: 09 489 5337 Please allow three weeks for delivery.			