

# Flight

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1998

ISSUE 94



**DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.**

For Wetlands and Waterfowl.



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Ducks Unlimited is pleased to announce that  
it is now in a position to  
actively seek applications  
from members for subsidies to create, restore  
or develop wetlands.

These subsidies could provide digger hire,  
fencing or planting for a wetland project where  
the owner is also prepared  
to make a financial contribution,  
but all applications will be considered  
and funds allocated on merit.

In the first instance, contact:

Ken Cook, DU Operation Wetlands Supervisor,  
53 Waterloo Crescent, Palmerston North.

Ph. (06)357 5484 Fax (06)357 5704.



## 1998 24th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*3 - 5 July 1998*

### **The Coachman Palmerston North**

Full weekend programme  
Conference Registration \$45 per person  
Accommodation \$88 per night for two,  
\$13 a night per extra person.  
(\$50 deposit, balance on checking out)

Bus organised from Auckland/Hamilton Friday  
evening to pick up members at points along  
State Highway 1. Returning Sunday afternoon.

### **Send your registration to**

Ken Cook  
53 Waterloo Crescent,  
Palmerston North  
Ph (06) 357-5484



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*Alan Wilks*  
*President*

It seems no time at all since I penned my first Insight but much has happened since then, particularly during the past year. In February, as the accounts published in this issue show, we were facing a major deficit for the last financial year and things looked pretty bleak. Even though we no longer had to meet the cost of an Executive Director, we still had Flight publication, debt servicing, Pearce Wetlands rates and operating costs for the Sinclair Wetlands.

Then things started to look up. We received an offer for the Pearce Wetlands and a few months later an approach was made for the Sinclair. The Board decided to negotiate but was bound by the undisclosed purchaser to confidentiality and was unable to publicise the fact. We wanted to assure ourselves that the property would remain open to the public and our obligation to Horrie Sinclair would be met - that he remained as manager and was accommodated for his lifetime.

Delicate negotiations took place and finally, with our conditions met, we agreed to sell for \$320,000 plus GST, and David Smith went down and informed Horrie, who will receive from DU the \$36,000 which is still outstanding from the gifting process. The property has been bought by the Crown for Ngai Tahu Land Settlement.

Some members may not approve of the sale of our assets but we must face facts. Owning property is a liability. The rates on the Pearce Wetlands were \$1,800 and last year, without depreciation, the operating cost of the Sinclair was \$14,000 - nearly \$16,000 that had to be raised, plus servicing a large mortgage, to keep two wetlands which are fully protected by QEII Covenant.

Members raise money to create wetlands, not support existing ones. The situation now is that we are completely debt-free and have nearly \$300,000 in the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust which will provide in excess of \$25,000 annually for DU conservation projects. Add to that our fundraising efforts and I believe new members will join us to become part of a vibrant and active organisation.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge your directors' input and commitment during the past year and, more importantly, your support as members which has carried us through a difficult time. Now Ducks Unlimited will definitely be New Zealand's leading waterfowl and wetland conservation organisation.



## 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: Carolina or North American wood duck.*

*Photo: Rifleman Productions.*

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-patrons	Lady Isaac, QSM, Christchurch Norman Marsh, Reporoa
President	Alan Wilks, Greytown, (06) 304 9729
Chairman	David Smith, LLB, Auckland, (09) 298 4719
Vice-president/	
Secretary	Graham Gurr, Auckland, (09) 489 5337
Treasurer	Craig Worth, Box 5095, Hamilton, a/h (07) 847 7537 (07) 846 8719
Directors	William Abel, Wellington, (04) 586 2752
	Ken Cook, Palmerston North, (06) 357 5484
	David Johnston, Reporoa, (07) 333 8453
	Glenys Hansen, Masterton, (06) 378 9967
	Dale Stevens, Cambridge



# OUR People



## Ron Munro

A DU member since 1978, Ron Munro and his wife Gay and two teenage children farm sheep at Mokotua some 25 kilometres south-east of Invercargill.

Ron has been breeding brown teal since 1982, rearing over two hundred in that time. His efforts to rear blue duck since 1988 have not, he notes, met with the same success.

Near the Munro house is pond, with a population of waterfowl, and aviaries. The Munroes have put a QEII Open Space Covenant on 64 hectares of bush, swamp and peatland in which they have created several dams and ponds. The largest of these covers some four hectares, and the total water area is over ten hectares.



## Ken Hogg

DU member Ken Hogg's involvement with waterfowl began when he developed his 280 acre property at Waihi into a park-like area with five acres of gardens, eighty acres of native bush and two lakes. A familiar face at DU's annual conferences, Ken is keen to become involved with the breeding of native species of waterfowl.

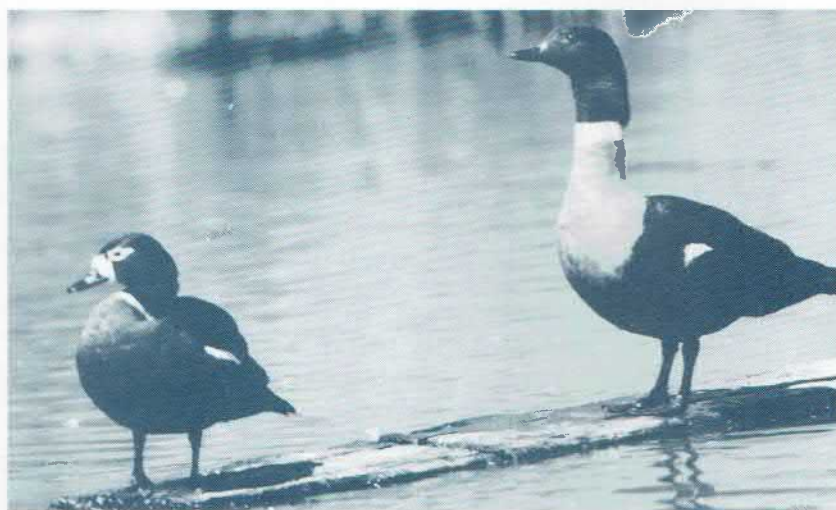
A lifelong involvement in the automotive industry as a manufacturer of electronic fuel pumps has led to a great interest in motor vehicles, and he has a collection of more than eighty classic British cars spanning the period from the 1930s to the 60s. One of his plans for the future involves developing a home hosting venture in which overseas visitors can enjoy the natural assets of the Woodland property and participate in local tours in the classic cars.

## FINDING THE MOUNTIES

*Bill Clinton-Baker has been involved in waterfowl and wetlands for many years. Flight readers will know of "The Sanctuary", the wetland on Bill Clinton-Baker's property at Gladstone in the Carterton District of Wairarapa where he has been breeding waterfowl since 1988. For some time he has been interested in the preservation of the Australian shelduck, or "mounties" as they are often known. There is a breeding pair at "The Sanctuary".*

The Australian shelduck has been self-introduced, mainly in the South Island. It is the Australian counterpart of the New Zealand paradise duck, which is the New Zealand shelduck. In 1983 it was thought that the population was some fifty-six birds, again mainly in the South Island. Ten years on, the number was probably some twenty. They are believed to have bred in Marlborough and have been seen at Lake Tekapo and in Central Otago.

In June this year, Bill Clinton-Baker sent a circular to people he believed still held the birds, also asking them to advise him of others who may have had an interest in mounties. The circular sought details as to numbers and sexes, and their breeding history. The circular included a plea for those with the birds to assist by hand rearing young, or to pass them on to someone who was interested in the birds and who would ensure their survival.



*An Australian shelduck pair (drake on right). Photo: Peter Reese.*

The response indicated a bleak outlook for the species. The population in captivity totalled twenty-one birds, with only six breeding pairs, five young females, and two old pairs judged unlikely to breed.

Bill Clinton-Baker is keen to hear from anyone who has Australian shelduck in captivity, or from people who know of others who have the birds. (Contact him at The Sanctuary, R.D.4, Masterton. Ph. (06)372 7801.)

## MANAWATU CHAPTER BANQUET

The Coachman in Palmerston North was once again the venue for the Manawatu Chapter banquet and auction. Over eighty people attended, many for the first time, and were entertained to the full by our auctioneer Bob Wood, of Levin. His outpouring of jokes and repartee had one or two complaining that their faces were hurting from all the laughing. We were fortunate once again to have trees donated by Murrays Nurseries, of Woodville. These brought in just over \$1000 in the auction and will enhance many areas of the Manawatu and Jim and Raana Campbell's place. Profit from the evening was over \$4500.

A presentation on behalf of DUNZ by President Alan Wilks was made to Mary and Maurice Murray at the dinner, and also to Andy Tannock's Hunting & Fishing in recognition of their continued generous support and sponsorship. Mike Bourke, of Rangiwhia, received a certificate of appreciation for his major contribution to wetlands.

The Coachman supplied a splendid meal, with additional game dishes created by willing members, which gave an extra dimension to the wetlands theme. Our host, Peter McPherson, also donated an accommodation and breakfast voucher for two at the Coachman which was added to our auction list.



*Mary and Maurice Murray receive their certificate of appreciation from Alan Wilks. Photo: Julie Candy.*

## EKETAHUNA CHAPTER

The Chapter held a very successful shoot at the Eketahuna Gun Club on 26 October. Sixty shooters from Wellington, Wairarapa and Manawatu participated and \$900 was raised. Manawatu won the Chapter Challenge yet again!

## BLUE DUCK UPDATE

What's become of the three blue ducks sent to UK earlier this year (see the April 97 Flight)?

The three birds arrived at their destination and were quarantined in the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust's Slimbridge village facility. They have all settled well (one at WWT Llanelli, two at WWT Slimbridge) and are successfully paired to their females. WWT Avicultural Director Tony Richardson is optimistic about the prospects of successful breeding in 1998. The ducks are the only ones held outside New Zealand and the species will be housed at the WWT's new Barn Elms centre being built on the Thames in the middle of London.

## MANAWATU CHAPTER SHOOT

This is to be held on Sunday 22 March, 1998, at Hickford Road, Foxton, at 9.00am. Once again, Hunting and Fishing and Miroku will be combining with us to run this popular event. After last year's debacle, when they anticipated 120 shooters and were overwhelmed by more than 180 attending, Neil and his helpers are designing two separate courses to try to cope with bigger numbers and speed things along. Mark the date of this event on your calendar.

## WELLINGTON CHAPTER

The Chapter has been short on activities this year. This was not helped by the venue for the annual luncheon being cancelled at the last minute by the owners. It became difficult to find a suitable venue and the year has drifted on with it not happening. This is usually a most enjoyable event and successful fundraiser for DU.

The Chapter did, however, have its annual fundraising shoot at Hutt Valley Gun Club, generously sponsored by Tisdalls. This event brings the biggest annual turnout of shooters for the gun club and raised \$1218 for DU.

With William Abel the only committee member, and Chapter Chairman, due to the drift of members over the hill to Wairarapa to live, 1998 is looming as a problem. The Chapter needs people able to help organise events - especially the annual luncheon, the shoot, and possibly some field days as well. The prescriptions for these events are well-known and the time involved not great. But if they are to continue, William will need some support, and soon. (William Abel, day (04)478 4335, a/h (04)586 2752 )

## DU IN NORTH AMERICA

In California, DU Inc is developing a partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Services to help restore up to 5,500 acres of wetlands in the Central Valley that have been enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Programme. DU Inc has also offered to contribute US\$220,700 towards the wetland restoration costs for these lands. (The NRCS is the primary conservation agency of the US Department of Agriculture. The agency provides technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers on more than 500 million acres of private land nationwide.)

In Canada, DU will be distributing a manual to farmers interested in producing native prairie grass seed to establish habitat for nesting waterfowl. The manual was co-operatively developed with the NRCS northern great plains Plant Material Center and University of Manitoba.

Ducks Unlimited is the world's leading waterfowl and wetlands conservation organisation with more than 900,000 contributors. Since 1973, DU has raised more than US\$1 billion to conserve nearly 8 million acres of wetland and waterfowl habitat in the US, Canada and Mexico.

Ducks Unlimited can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ducks.org>

**More DU NEWS on Page 12**



# 1996-97 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Note: The following is an abridged version of the audited Ducks Unlimited annual financial statements for the year to 31 March 1997. Members desiring a complete set of accounts should write to P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland.

## AUDIT REPORT

To the Members of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated  
We have audited the Financial Statements on pages 1 - 9.

The Financial Statements provide information about the past financial performance of the Society and its financial position as at 31 March 1997. This information is stated in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 11 and 12.

### Board Members' Responsibilities

The committee of Board Members is responsible for the preparation of Financial Statements which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Society as at 31 March 1997 and of the results of operations for the year ended 31 March 1997.

### Auditors' Responsibilities

It is our responsibility to express an independent opinion on the Financial Statements presented by the committee and report our opinion to you.

### Basic of Opinion

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements. It also includes assessing

the significant estimates and judgements made by the committee in the preparation of the Financial Statements; and whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Society's circumstances consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in New Zealand. We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurances that the Financial Statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the Financial Statements.

We have not audited the membership records.

### Qualified Opinion

The Society's activities included cash fund-raising. There is no system of control over which we can rely for the purpose of our audit and there are no satisfactory audit procedures that we could adopt to confirm independently that all cash fund-raising was properly recorded.

Other than in this respect we have received all the information and explanations that we required.

### In Our Opinion

- proper accounting records have been kept by the Society as far as appears from our examination of those records; and
- the financial statements on pages 1 - 10
- comply with generally accepted accounting practice;
- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Society as at 31 March 1997 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year ended on that date.

Our audit was completed on 30 September 1997 and our qualified opinion is expressed as at that date.

Masterlon Eastwood Bourke  
30 September 1997 Chartered Accountants

## DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INCORPORATED

### Accounting Policies & Notes To Accounts For The Year Ended 31 March 1997

#### 1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### 1.1 Reporting Entity

Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated is an incorporated society. These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Framework for Differential Reporting issued by the New Zealand Society of Accountants.

##### 1.2 Measurement Base

The measurement base adopted is historical cost. Accrual accounting is used to match expenses and revenues.

##### 1.3 Specific Accounting Policies

###### 1.3.1 Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is written off on a straight line basis over the estimated economic life of these assets.

The estimated economic lives are as follows:

Buildings	50 years
Equipment & Machinery	5 years
Furniture & Fittings	5 years

###### 1.3.2 Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are stated at expected realisable value.

###### 1.3.3 Stocks on Hand

Stock on hand for resale has been valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Cost has been calculated on a first in first out basis. Stock purchased for operations is expensed when purchased.

###### 1.3.4 GST

These financial statements have been prepared on a GST exclusive basis.

###### 1.3.5 Subscriptions

Subscriptions are accounted for on a cash basis as and when received.

###### 1.3.6 Differential Reporting

This business qualifies for differential reporting as it is not publicly accountable and there is no separation between the owners and the governing body. Advantage has been taken of all available reporting exemptions.

#### 1.4 Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no significant changes in accounting policies. Accounting Policies have been applied on bases consistent with those used in previous years.

## DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INCORPORATED Accounting Policies & Notes To Accounts Continued For The Year Ended 31 March 1997

### 2. NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

#### 2.1 Term Liabilities

H.A. Sinclair - \$36,000

Value of Sinclair Wetlands Property subject to gifts 90,000  
Less Gifts Made 54,000

Balance on Demand Interest Free 26,000

#### 2.2 N.Z. Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust - \$77,000

Advance on demand @ 10% p.a. represents the sum of the advances made to Ducks Unlimited from New Zealand Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust as part of external debt retirement programme.

#### 2.3 Duck Bonds - \$600

Advances from members interest free. Ducks Unlimited has a commitment to repay 20% of the bonds each year as drawn by ballot at the Annual General Meeting.

#### 2.4 BNZ Finance Limited - \$100,000

Credit facility up to \$100,000 at variable rate of interest (March 1997 10.75%). The facility is for an initial period of two years and is renewable subject to review at least 12 months prior to maturity. It is secured by way of mortgage on property.

#### 2.5 Property Valuations (latest Govt. Value)

Pearce Wetlands \$125,000  
Sinclair Wetlands \$360,000

#### 2.6 Event After Balance Date

The Pearce Wetlands property was sold 1 May 1997 - \$125,000. Possession and settlement is 31 October 1997.

## DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INCORPORATED Statement Of Financial Position as At 31 March 1997

Last Year \$		\$	\$
-	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
	Mosgiel - S/W No. 3 A/c	371	
3,715	National Bank of NZ Ltd - Mosgiel		
4,056	Development Account	9,114	
33,715	Operating Account	523	
2,236	Term Deposit	18,249	
218	Westpac Bank Eketahuna		
-	Westpac Imprest Newmarket		
135	Masterlon - Operating A/c	5,334	
1,830	Accounts Receivable	220	
7,364	Office Supplies on Hand	330	
7,497	Goods for Resale on Hand	5,781	
	GST Refund Due	6,011	
60,766			50,033
476,277	<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
	As Per Schedule		481,803
537,043	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		531,836
	<b>LESS LIABILITIES</b>		
8,476	<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
-	Accounts Payable	24,823	
	Prepayments	4,197	
8,476		29,020	
36,000	<b>TERM LIABILITIES</b>		
64,500	H.A. Sinclair Note 2.1	36,000	
84,000	N.Z. Waterfowl & Wetlands Trust Note 2.2	77,000	
600	BNZ Finance Ltd Note 2.4	100,000	
	Duck Bonds Note 2.3	600	
185,100		213,600	
193,576	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		242,620
343,467	<b>NET ASSETS</b>		289,216
	<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		
337,241	Represented By Accumulated Funds Account	279,192	
6,228	Swamp Reserve Funds	10,024	
343,469	<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		289,216

**DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INCORPORATED****Cash Expenditure Account  
for The Year Ended 31 March 1997**

Last Year \$		\$	\$
	<b>MANAGEMENT SERVICES</b>		
2,482	Advertising & Publicity	378	
749	Bank Fees	760	
517	Chapter Expense	-	
-	Conference Fees	394	
140	Corporate Sponsors	4	
1,205	Freight & Duty	2,430	
15,769	Interest Payable	15,373	
37,256	Management Contract	52,759	
2,746	Postage & Tolls	2,797	
1,497	Printing & Stationery	1,402	
1,196	Professional Fees	1,100	
707	Storage	640	
131	Subscriptions	175	
1,867	Travel & Board Meetings	1,549	
126	Sundry	646	
<b>66,388</b>			<b>80,407</b>
	<b>MEMBERSHIP SERVICES</b>		
1,888	Awards	-	
19,152	Flight Production	14,193	
-	Recruitment Expenses	4,755	
429	Stationery & Postage	417	
<b>21,469</b>			<b>19,365</b>
	<b>CONSERVATION PROJECTS</b>		
1,106	Pateke	468	
700	Royal Swan	300	
-	Whio	1,822	
971	Wetlands	139	
3,329	Pearce Wetlands	1,872	
<b>6,106</b>			<b>4,601</b>
<b>93,963</b>	<b>TOTAL CASH EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>104,373</b>

**DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INCORPORATED****Revenue Account  
for The Year Ended 31 March 1997**

Last Year \$		\$	\$
	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>		
4,757	Life	1,778	
1,075	Gold Sponsor	1,290	
795	Silver Sponsor	630	
1,983	Bronze Sponsor	1,845	
-	Trade	1,622	
19,347	Contributor	15,111	
148	Junior	98	
<b>28,105</b>			<b>22,374</b>
	<b>DONATIONS &amp; FUNDRAISING</b>		
5,937	Annual Conference Fundraising	8,254	
(53)	Annual Conference Registrations Profit	27	
21,500	Chapter Receipts	17,706	
7,013	National Raffle Profit	7,998	
2,163	Sales Trading Profit	1,680	
1,849	Flight Advertising	1,749	
6,345	Sponsorship & Donations	4,847	
<b>44,754</b>			<b>42,261</b>
	<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
23	Interest Received	446	
1,100	Life Membership Capital Reserve	890	
<b>1,123</b>		<b>1,336</b>	
	<b>CONSERVATION DONATIONS</b>		
125	Pateke	222	
2,625	Royal Swan	750	
330	Whio	1,967	
2,689	Wetlands	200	
31	Pearce Wetlands	25	
<b>5,800</b>			<b>3,164</b>
<b>79,782</b>	<b>TOTAL REVENUES RECEIVED</b>		<b>69,135</b>

## THE AWAPUNI LAGOON DEVELOPMENT

by Manawatu Chapter Chairman Neil Candy and Secretary Dave West

**A project near Palmerston North shows that wetland developments don't necessarily mean DU providing all the finance...**

Just over a year ago, Ducks Unlimited's Manawatu Chapter applied for \$60,000 from the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust for three projects in Manawatu. With the efforts of Manawatu Chapter Committee member Alan Fielding, DU obtained a \$15,000 grant which the chapter has decided will be used to develop the Awapuni Lagoon.

The site on Palmerston North City Council land near the Awapuni racecourse was in the past a major lagoon, but has become very overgrown and now has very little open water. Some 20 acres in area, it includes about an acre of stagnant water surrounded by willows and other trees. The site is a designated flood area to hold surplus water during times of high rainfall.

Development of the lagoon would create a city amenity similar to but slightly smaller than Hokowhitu Lagoon. The concept involves removing the willows and excavating the site to create a lagoon of about 1500 metres long and 60-80



*Awapuni residents at the meeting where the proposed wetland development was outlined. Photo: Julie Candy.*

metres wide and containing islands. A second phase of the development could see the lagoon's length almost doubled.

The PNCC supports the proposal and has drawn up sketch plans. The council has indicated a willingness to co-operate and provide additional funds. An on-site meeting and barbecue for surrounding residents was held by the council, with DU Manawatu attending, at which the proposal was outlined. Despite some reservations over possible smell and insect problems, the response was favourable. A marae is adjacent to one end of the area, and local Maori are keen

to restore the lagoon to its original state with native vegetation, walkways and possibly viewing hides. Motion of the wheels of local government is now anticipated.

The Awapuni Lagoon development is a good example of how the concept and name of Ducks Unlimited can be used to common advantage to attract money for wetland projects from outside sources and, in this instance, build partnerships with local iwi and local government. As a result, Ducks Unlimited is still perceived to be enhancing a wetland without having to be the sole financier.





# FREEWAYS AND MIXED BAGS

**At last year's Annual Conference, DU members Graham Gurr and David Johnston bid for an eight day hunting trip in the US. In October, they arrived in the State of Washington, spirits willing. Graham Gurr reports . . .**

Two tired travellers arrived at Seattle airport on Wednesday 22 October after seventeen hours on planes and six hours waiting at airports for connections. Dave Johnston and I were met at the airport by Ed Goulette, the DU Inc Seattle Chapter Chairman and organiser of our itinerary.

Ed outlined our options: overnight in Seattle and drive the next day, or drive that day and hunt the following morning. Deciding that we could always catch up on our sleep on the flight home, we chose the latter. Ed had arranged a "Dollar" car hire and the almost new Subaru wagon was a joy to drive.

Ed gave us directions to Moses Lake, a contact number if we got lost, and led us out of town on the freeway. America's roading infrastructure will take you from A to B at speed, even if everyone drives on the wrong side of the road. Tightly gripping the wheel and ignoring other motorists we made it on to the freeway and eventually on to Interstate 90 leading up into the Cascade Mountains in all their autumn glory.

Emerging from the Cascades a couple of hours later we noticed what no one in New Zealand had pointed out before we left: on the other side of the mountains from Seattle it's a desert! So, loaded with polar fleece swandris and rain gear, two Kiwi hunters prepared to go hunting in the desert.

We found our way to Moses Lake and got lost. Acting like ignorant tourists, we threw ourselves on the mercy of a local storekeeper. He phoned our contact who rescued us and drove slowly enough for us to follow him to his home where we properly met hosts Wally and Rita Hoch.

Being awake for two days doesn't help you win prizes for conversation, but Wally and Rita made us welcome, poured us beers and fed us what Rita described as a typical Middle American meal. After airline food and no lunch, we ate everything she provided and it was



*Ducks at Cresant Bar, Columbia River.*

delicious. The cherry pie will never be forgotten as long as I've got tastebuds.

Bright and early at 8.00am next morning, Wally loaded up the hunting gear and we went down to the Game Department to get licences. Including state duck stamp, eastern pheasant stamp, and a federal duck stamp, which we picked up at the Post Office later, the licences cost US\$175 each. But the Game Department is there to help hunters and they gave us a copy of the previous day's aerial survey showing where the ducks were in the area.

One thing we were to hear repeatedly on our trip was: "You should stay an extra ten days until the northern ducks arrive." This year's El Nino has extended the summer and delayed the migration, so we only saw about twenty percent of the waterfowl usually in the area.

Twenty minutes from town we set up on Moses Lake for a duck hunt. Out went about sixty decoys and Wally drove his 18 foot boat into the reeds on the edge of the lake as our blind. Just hunker down and wait for the ducks. The ducks co-operated, and we took a mixed bag of mallard, gadwall and widgeon. We quit at lunchtime and, after a Big Mac and some shopping, we took our leave of Wally and Rita to travel down to Richlands in the Tri-cities area.

Following the detailed instructions provided by Wally, we checked into the hotel and waited for our host who was also driving down from Seattle.

Harold Olson is a lawyer (he claims he retired at 77 but he still goes to the office most days), a sportsman who visits NZ every year for the fishing, and president of the syndicate which owns the Baker Ranch. His charming wife Jennie, daughter Maggie, who was the dog



*Graham Gurr (left) and Dave Johnston with the first morning's bag from Moses Lake.*



handler, and Kelly, her husband, made us welcome. The two thousand acre Baker Ranch is prime hunting country and some of the best pheasant and quail hunting in the state about twenty minutes from downtown Richlands. The ranch is permitted to draw water from the Yakiema River to flood areas for the ducks.

We hunted with Harold and family on the Friday from his favourite bird blind. You will recall the comment about being ten days early. Well, this time the action was slow and the birds flew few and far between, but it did give us the opportunity to get to know our host. The duck hunting was replaced with a couple of hours' pheasant hunting in the afternoon and, while we saw pheasants, the bag was lighter than the morning's at the end of the day.

That evening, towards the end of a bottle of twelve year old scotch, we discovered that Harold had actually met Dave Johnston and visited his farm. It's a small world.

Ron, Harold's son, looked after us the next day and we hunted the Baker Ranch

to an ice hockey game, which was about as easy to understand as baseball, but at least there was more action.

The following day began at 3.30am with an hour's drive to meet the guides. Then followed another hour travelling across country to a corn field, the location of which was so secret that even the guides did not know. After setting out about fifty full-body taxidermist-mounted geese as decoys, we took cover in a blind the guides had dug the day before. Three different flocks of geese were using the field and our guides expected us to have at least three chances at the different flocks. In the event we had but one chance, and five hunters and two guides managed to bring down one goose. As the guides are professionals and expect to get paid one goose or twenty (a limit bag for five hunters) when we called it quits at about 10am, we watched amazed as several hundred dollars changed hands for our morning hunt.

Sorry to leave Richlands, Dave and I elected to return to Ephrata for more hunting with Wally and the company (and cooking) of his wife Rita. For the next three days we hunted hard at such

chapters for which he is responsible organise their banquets. This means driving several thousand miles each week to sit in on the chapter meetings and attend almost all of the banquets. He did remark that he sometimes has three on the same day. He also donated to DUNZ about forty art prints which will be turning up at our dinners over the next year. Wally and Rita have promised to visit us in New Zealand when we look forward to repaying the hospitality and many kindnesses they showed us.

Our final day of the official trip saw us returning to Seattle after a morning hunt, once more through the autumn colour of the Cascade Mountains to the madness of the Seattle freeways. We dined very pleasantly with Ed Goulette at a restaurant in town where both Dave and I chose the buffalo steak for our meal, along with local wines. The next morning we met up with David Smith (past President and current Chairman of the DUNZ Board) who had travelled to Seattle via DU Inc headquarters in Memphis to visit with the Sullivans for a couple of days before returning home. But that is another story.

I would like to add a word of thanks to Steve Rice of Canadian Airlines, who are major sponsors of DUNZ, for the help on sorting out our ticketing problems when our return trip started to look decidedly shaky after the code share agreement with Air New Zealand fell apart. We travelled with Canadian Airlines and recommend them to anyone travelling to Canada or the northern United States.

*Photos courtesy of Graham Gurr*



*Jennie and the \$1000 goose.*

again. From a different blind we took a bag of mainly mallards with widgeon, teal and pigtail. That afternoon, while pheasant hunting, we saw the first of the northern birds start to arrive. From so high that you had to look twice to be sure of what you were seeing, the birds would spiral down to the fresh water. We put up literally a couple of thousand mallard from one small area while hunting for some fast running pheasants. They flocked on unmolested and promised a great shoot for the morning. We were booked to hunt geese that evening and later met up with Paul and Suzanne Sullivan who DUNZ had hosted earlier in the year. They took us to dinner and then

places as Cresant Bar on the Columbia River, Winchester Wasteway, and finally again on Moses Lake. The hunting was hard and the ducks just not there. The locals had moved on and the main migration was still in Canada and Alaska.

It did give us the chance, though, to get to know Wally and Rita better. They are both ex-US Navy. Wally, being the Eastern Regional Director for DU Inc for Washington, assists fifty chapters in his region with their dinners and fundraising. We were privileged to meet with and sit in on the local chapter meeting in Pullman, a mere 200 miles each way from Ephrata. Wally does this about four times a week as he helps each of the

## EL NINO

The experts are telling us not to panic. Reported advice from scientists of the National Institute of Water and Atmosphere and Crop and Food Research is that the indicated strength of El Nino does not necessarily mean there will be widespread droughts or flooding.

Increased probabilities of less rain than normal are predicted in the north and northeast of the North Island and in Marlborough, but more rain in the south and west of the South Island.

The message is to be aware of El Nino, but not to panic. If we see our wetlands drying out, there's not much we can do about it apart from retaining our belief that wetlands work as buffers in times of drought or flood.



# BROWN TEAL RETURN TO OKAIHAU

by Ian Wilson

**Re-establishing brown teal in an area of Northland where they hadn't been seen for many years was difficult. But perseverance has had its reward...**

We bought our dairy farm at Okaihau in 1980. It is situated on a plateau half way between the Kerikeri Inlet and the Hokianga Harbour. The northern boundary backs on to the Puketi Forest.

As part of a pasture improvement programme we did a lot of subdivision with many of the fences being erected along one side of a stream. Where the stream had steep banks and the cattle could no longer graze, we were amazed at how quickly the stream banks revegetated. We decided that a stream running through bush was aesthetically and environmentally better than a stream with grassy banks and so we began a programme of fencing both sides of our streams, oxbows and wet areas. Two of the wet areas we excavated to a depth of 600mm to give an area of open water to encourage ducks.

In 1994 I was the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society representative at a Brown Teal Recovery Group meeting. I observed brown teal living in areas very similar to those on our farm - small streams with vegetation growing out over the water surrounded by open paddocks with wet areas.

Thirty years ago brown teal were abundant in this area but during the last twenty years have not been seen. After an inspection by the Department of Conservation, we were delighted when it was decided to release brown teal, bred by DU, on our property.

The first release of twelve birds occurred in November 1995. Although traps were set to control mustelids and cats, the seven birds carrying transmitters were all predated over a period of four weeks. This was very disappointing but as there was an extensive predator control regime in place, it was decided to continue with trapping and make another release in the autumn. During the summer, nine stoats and five cats were caught. In June 1996, nine brown teal were released. Two months later, as they were all alive and doing well, seven more were released.

Predator control consists of fifty Fenn traps (for mustelids), baited weekly with



*"It has been very rewarding seeing degraded streams regenerating..."*

a piece of rabbit and set in a ring around the release area and along each side of the stream. Up to thirty leg-hold traps are set for cats. During the last twelve months we have trapped forty-three stoats, two weasels and fourteen cats. The majority of stoats were caught during the months of December and January.

All the effort was rewarded when, on 16 November 1996, one of the ducks was discovered with six ducklings. She proved to be a good mother and successfully reared the complete brood.

At the time of writing five pairs have well-established territories and two are sitting.

It has been very rewarding seeing degraded streams regenerating and once again supporting brown teal. It would seem that captive reared birds can be successfully returned to the wild if a predator control regime is in place.

*Photos courtesy of Ian Wilson.*



*Brown teal on the Wilsons' Okaihau property.*



**How could they avoid muddy feet, wet socks, and the horror of the holes when observing waterfowl in the tranquillity of "The Swamp"? It wasn't easy, as Graham Gurr tells in the saga of . . .**

## THE GREAT DUCK WALK

In the wetland owned by myself and other like-minded individuals, we have two lakes surrounded by almost one hundred acres of willows, tea tree, coprosmas, willows, flax and other assorted swamp plants, not to mention a few thousand willows. For those who remember my article in *Flight* 79, 1994, I might mention that the swamp is still without a name and referred to by all as "The Swamp". Some may remember the problems we had moving about in the swamp. Great care was needed due to the boggy nature of the ground and the odd hole that developed on the tracks leading to the two lakes. A twenty foot pole was too short to find bottom in some of the holes. When the water arrives, usually in June, the whole area is covered with water to anywhere between an inch to a foot.

The hole problem was compounded by the fact that, in the early hours of the morning, even with a torch, they were hard to see until you stepped into them. Those who have stepped into a bottomless hole will know the feeling of one foot suddenly descending into the deep while the other stays firm on hard ground. Something had to be done.

After almost five minutes' discussion, it was decided to bridge the worst holes with timber supports. The problem - where to get enough timber to make the bridges. One of the members had a kiwi fruit orchard going out of production. We were welcome to all the timber we could salvage. Our first mistake was buying a wetland. This may have been our second.

A kiwi fruit frame is a polygon, made from a combination of half round and a lot of four by one (100 x 25 for those who can think in metrics) with two long protruding arms. The structure is set on a pole, securely fixed together with extra long nails bent over to give additional strength, and miles of number 12 wire to support the growth of the vines.

Once the vines were removed and the wire unstrung, we were faced with acres of frames waiting to be salvaged. Initially, we tried dismantling one frame at a time. Elapsed time, twenty minutes per frame. After some experimentation it

became obvious that specialisation was required. "Nail lifting", "upright banging", "unbolting" and "thumping"



*A section of the 1.6 kilometres of the Great Duck Walk. Photo: Graham Gurr.*

were added to our vocabulary. As the property went on the market and was sold, the salvage effort became frantic. In the end, it took over two years of weekends and holidays to take it all apart. But the result was worth it. Heaps of 1.8 metre half rounds and miles of 100 x 25 tanalised timber in assorted lengths, complete with nails - all of which had to be removed before each piece of timber could be used again.

We started building the great duck walk the first year, while we were disassembling the kiwi fruit frames. The worst of the worst holes were bridged. We developed by trial and error a simple structure: half rounds spaced two metres apart, to spread the weight of the frame of 100 x 25 timber on top, with two long two metre runners with pairs of short pieces nailed across as treads one pace apart to walk on.

Unfortunately, those nailing the treads spaced them according to their own stride length. Traversing the duck walk involved constantly changing stride to match that of the nailer of particular sections. The terror of stepping into a bottomless hole was replaced by the danger of stepping between the treads and breaking a leg. After a while, it became second nature to walk along the walkway and be able to identify who had nailed each section by the space between the treads. But three years of hard work meant being able to walk out to either lake

in carpet slippers to sit in the maimais and watch the ducks, swans and geese constantly come and go in front of you. A joy at any time of year.

No one knows exactly how long the duck walk is. But by stepping it out we've estimated we have 1.6 kilometres. Every single piece physically carried out and nailed in place. All visitors to the swamp comment favourably on the walkway - that is, until they step between the treads and give their shins an almighty

whack. Our task for this and the next couple of summers is to eliminate this danger by filling in the spaces between the treads with additional timber to create a continuous walkway.

But even as I write, the inexorable march of the swamp continues. Moss, grasses and reeds (not to mention those damned willows) are reclaiming the walkway as part of a living swamp. I suspect we now have an annual chore of clearing the growing vegetation from around and on top of the walkway, if we are to continue to enjoy the bliss of a walk out to the lakes without wet or muddy feet.



### RCD

With the introduction of RCD and the imminent widespread release throughout the country, and on the assumption that it will be effective in reducing the rabbit population, we could see predators which depend on rabbits as their main prey turn their attention more to waterfowl.

These predators are feral cats, stoats and ferrets. If RCD is working effectively in your area, it will be worthwhile stepping up your predator control programme around wetlands.

We would be interested in hearing from members if increased catches of predators are experienced.



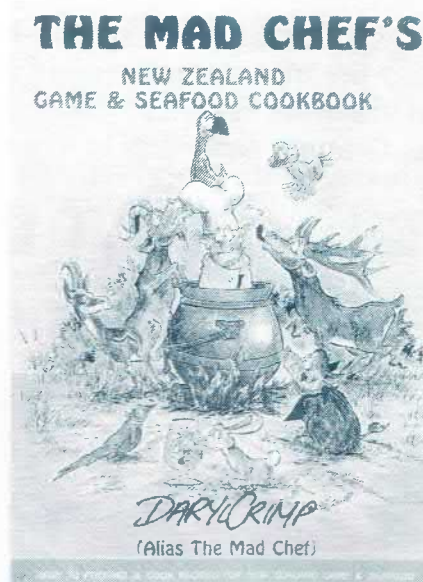
Daryl Crimp. **The Mad Chef's New Zealand Game and Seafood Cookbook.** The Halcyon Press. 1997. 168 pages + illustrations. ISBN 0 908685 12 2. \$29.95 inc G.S.T.

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the kitchen, he's back. The Mad Chef's New Zealand Game and Seafood Cookbook has been reprinted to meet popular demand. Since writing this book, Daryl Crimp has found a whole new audience, and he now features as a regular columnist in two outdoor magazines as well as supplying cartoons for ten daily newspapers and many monthly magazines. He is regularly on radio where his views are sort of on any subject - especially those about which he knows nothing. As well, he has a regular cooking programme on local radio in Nelson.

One reviewer of the book when it was first published declared it "The only cookbook I've ever laughed all the way through".

But seriously, this is a damned good book. It's got lots of recipes for things that turn up unexpectedly to be cooked, like pukeko, or how to turn a bunch of mussels "into a mouthwatering meal". If it can be gathered or harvested from the outdoors, it's in Crimp's book just waiting for you to do your thing. This book rates six stars on a five star scale.

Available from DU for \$29.95 inc GST.



## DU NEWS *(Continued from page 5)*

### OPERATION WHIO

DU received an offer from Manawatu Chapter member Peter Russell to co-ordinate the blue duck captive breeding programme which has been the responsibility of past president David Smith. Peter Russell is a recognised ornithologist, aviary keeper at Palmerston North Esplanade gardens and a member of the New Zealand Conservation Management Group.

At the November meeting, the Board unanimously accepted Peter's kind offer. This has relieved a busy director of part of his workload and for that we are grateful.

Is there anyone out there who would be interested in brown teal supervision?

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

DU wishes to acknowledge our long association with Brian Bourke of Eastwood Bourke, Masterton, who has been our auditor for the past number of years. Now that our new Treasurer is based in Hamilton, we have appointed Coopers Pascoe of Hamilton as auditors. Thank you, Brian, for your involvement over the years.

### NATIONAL RAFFLE RESULTS

The 1997 National raffle was drawn under police supervision on 31 October. (The first ticket drawn was from a book returned unsold by a DU member.)

1st, (Gold to the value of \$3500 or \$3000 in cash) ticket 2341, D. Handyside, Featherston; 2nd, 4043, Smith, Papakura; 3rd, 2874, A. Longuet, Wellington; 4th, 5067, B. Williams, Foxton; 5th, 3575, P. Pirani, Albany; 6th, 3134, L. McKinnon, Katikati; 7th, 5125, J. Wong Nam, Lower Hutt; 8th, 1891, H. McGregor, Great Barrier Island; 9th, 1028, D & C Allan, Foxton; 10th, 2156, D. Gibbs, Palmerston North. Special congratulations to Joyce Brooks of Greytown who, with sales of 44 books, was for the second year running our winning raffle book seller.

### RAFFLE RUINS RAUPO

Particular congratulations to DU member Dennis Handyside who won first prize with a ticket from a book he had been sent to sell.

Dennis farms Te Hopai in South Wairarapa and DU has been involved in the establishment of Home Lagoon on his property, first in the '80s with a pipeline to take high water from the Ruamahunga River to flood the lagoon, and more recently

funding an extensive deep drain to join up with an existing larger pipe from the river to increase water flow when the river is high.

Dennis took the cash prize instead of the gold and intends to spend part of it using a helicopter to spray raupo. What better use of a DU raffle prize? (He also said he'd buy something special for his wife and mentioned that perhaps he would get her a new chainsaw.)



*DU President Alan Wilks presents raffle winner Dennis Handyside with his prize. Photo: Di Wilks.*

**Thunder is good, thunder is impressive, but it is the lightning that does the work.**

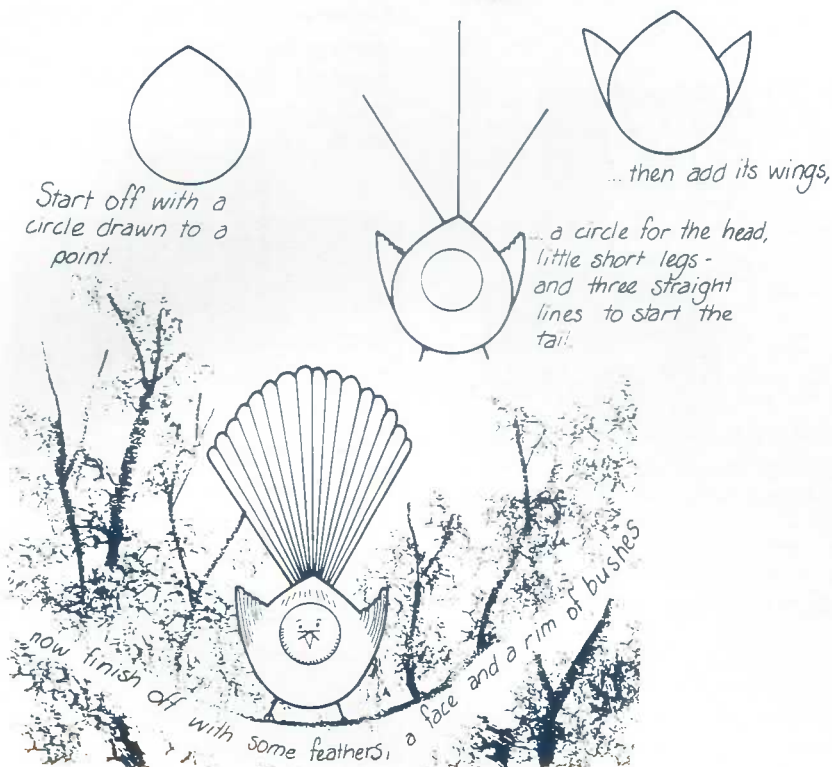
**- Mark Twain**

### CANADA GOOSE BAND RECOVERY

We have received copies of certification of bands recovered during the last hunting season in the Wairarapa and Ohakune areas from birds which had been banded by DU. One banded at Jim Campbell's north of Masterton in 1991 was recovered at Lake Wairarapa. Two banded at Diane Pritt's at Ohakune in 1991 and 1993 were recovered in the same area, as were five banded at Karioi in 1993, with one recovered in the Whangaehu area.



## DRAWING: The Fantail



...A regular feature introducing a simple drawing technique for budding wildlife artists.

The fantail is endemic, meaning that it is found naturally only in New Zealand. We have the North Island, South Island and Chatham Island fantails which are also known as piwakawaka, pied, and black fantail.

The fantail is recognised by its distinctive long tail, frequently fanned as the bird moves along a perch, and its erratic swooping flight when feeding, taking insects mostly on the wing.

Fond of water, the fantail enjoys bathing in shallow pools or the spray from a garden hose. The fantail begins breeding in its first year and raises three or four broods from three or four eggs each sitting. Both sexes build the nest, incubate the eggs and feed the young.

The friendly fantail is one of the best-known of all indigenous birds and is welcomed by man because it feeds only on insects. Feeding from dawn to dusk, it will enter houses after insects, and posture in front of its reflection in mirrors and window panes.

Illustration republished courtesy of Alan Fielding.



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# Shopping

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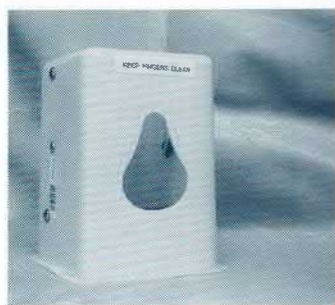


### FENN TRAP MK 6

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**

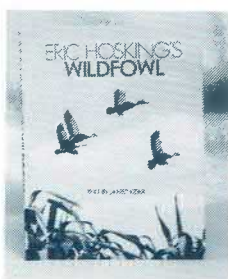
## ESSENTIAL READING

### 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**

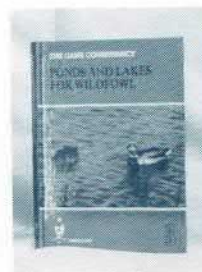
### ERIC HOSKING'S WILDFOWL

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**



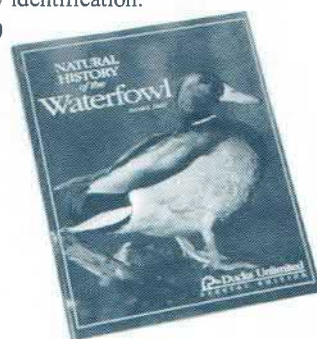
## PONDS AND LAKES FOR WATERFOWL

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



## NATURAL HISTORY OF THE WATERFOWL

A superbly illustrated large format book. It covers 160 members of the duck, goose and swan families from around the world. The text deals with all aspects of biology, feeding habits, courtship and migration. Coloured maps show the distribution of each species and large photographs simplify identification. **\$195.00**



## THE FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NEW ZEALAND

Every bird species of New Zealand (including rare and recently extinct species) is illustrated in this definitive guide by renowned bird experts Barrie Heather and Hugh Robertson.

Fully up to date, it features the latest research available on new species, changing habitats and populations. Contains paintings of each species, both native and exotic, and brief descriptions and location maps. A Viking hardback. **\$49.95**





## THE DU ART GALLERY

### WILDLIFE CARDS

These cards feature attractive photos of mute swan and brown teal. Each pack contains 10 cards of each (total 20 cards).  
**\$10.00 per pack**



### WEAR YOUR SUPPORT FOR WETLANDS

#### DU MONOGRAMMED CLOTH PATCH

Our monogrammed cloth jacket patches are available in navy and white. They

have overlocked 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

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*Okaihau Wetland, Northland. Photo: I. Wilson.*

**Proud to support Ducks Unlimited  
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in their efforts to conserve  
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*3rd floor. Jan. 1980. 40-50. Thick reeds etc.*