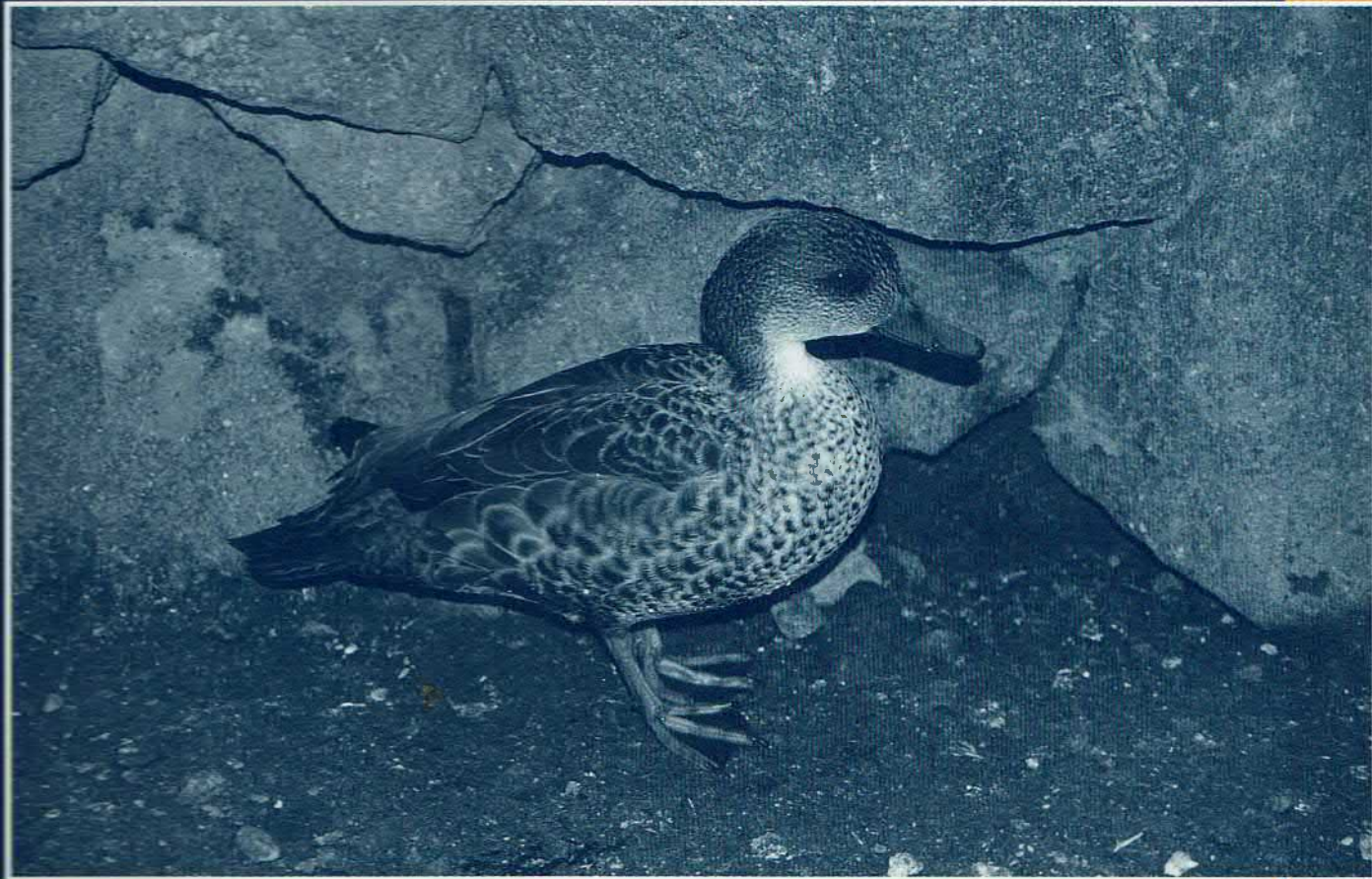


Flight

OCTOBER

2001

ISSUE 109



DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.

For Wetlands and Waterfowl.



Wines Fund Wetlands

DU members will be aware of the generous donation Wetland Care New Zealand received last year from Banrock Station - \$10,000 for the Karori Sanctuary in Wellington.

Recently DU received a copy of the labelling for Banrock's 2000 Cabernet Merlot which is being marketed in New Zealand.

BANROCK STATION

In the heart of South Australia's Barossa region, Banrock Station is a 1700 hectare property encompassing a floodplain, wetland lagoons, a protected mallee eco system, 250 hectares of vineyard and the Banrock Station Wine & Wetland Centre.

In addition to restoring the magnificent Banrock Station Wetland we are working to ensure environmental havens are preserved for future generations by donating part proceeds of sales of Banrock Station wines to wetland care New Zealand.

2000 Cabernet Merlot

This Cabernet Merlot has lovely rich flavours of plum and cherry with hints of cinnamon, subtle vanilla oak and soft fine tannins. Enjoy now or over the next 2-3 years.



The label features the Wetland Care New Zealand logo and advises that part of the proceeds from sales of the wine will come to Wetland Care New Zealand to further conservation work. Purchasing the wine means enjoying a quality product and helping wetland conservation in a tangible form.

From the Flight Kitchen

(Readers' contributions of recipes for fine food from environmentally sustainable sources are welcomed for this section.)

Foil Fish

Ingredients:

Fish fillets, lemon, pepper, fish seasoning, 2 to 3 tablespoons butter or margarine per fillet, sliced onion.

Method:

Place each fillet in the centre of a large piece of foil. Season with lemon, pepper and fish seasoning. Top with butter and onion. Bring ends of foil up to centre of fillet, and fold over twice to make a seam leaving enough foil for expansion. Fold end seams to seal. Bake at 180C. for 15 minutes or until foil expands.

[Recipe from DU Inc. Newsletter]

Trout Fillets in Wine Sauce

Ingredients:

Two sizeable fillets (4 servings), flour, 1 tbsp lemon juice, 30g butter, salt, pepper, ½ cup dry white wine, ½ cup dry sherry.

Method:

Cut the fillets in half and shake in seasoned flour. Fry in butter gently for 10 minutes, turning at 5 minutes.

When almost cooked, add the wine and sherry, simmer for 3 minutes and serve, spooning sauce from the pan over the fish.

[Reprinted with kind permission from Alex Gillett's Trout Cookbook. The Halcyon Press, Auckland, 2000. ISBN 1-877256-07-2. \$17.95. Available from good book shops.]

Fewer Magpies May Mean More Native Birds

Preliminary results from a major trial show that controlling magpie numbers may help build up numbers of native birds, particularly tui and kereru.

Landcare Research is co-ordinating a four-year study examining the effects of magpies on other birds in five rural areas: Northland/Auckland; Waikato; Bay of Plenty; Wellington and Southland. Each region has two study blocks covering several hundred hectares: one where magpies were killed, and another where they were not killed. All types of birds were counted in all blocks in late 1999 before magpie control started, then again in late 2000 after several months of magpie control.

Preliminary analyses show that numbers of the native pigeon or kereru and three introduced birds (blackbird, skylark and song thrush) increased in nearly all magpie-kill blocks. Tui, mynahs and spur-wing plovers also increased in most kill blocks, although more data is required to confidently attribute those increases to magpie control.

Landcare Research pest ecologist John Innes says two further annual counts are planned: "If the increases noted so far are real ecological effects due to fewer magpies, then even bigger differences between the kill blocks and the non-kill blocks should emerge.

"The interim results should not yet be taken as a scientific mandate for destroying magpies, but they do suggest that some benefits of magpie control are likely".

The research seems to confirm anecdotal evidence from landowners that kereru are seen more often after magpie control. Magpies harass any bird flying or feeding in the open in the magpies' territory. In the cases of tui and kereru at least, this seems to be independent of the diet of the persecuted birds since magpies eat mainly pasture insects, while tui and kereru eat nectar, fruits and foliage.

[Landcare Research Press Release. 6.9.01]

Wetlands are essential for Effective Land Management

Wetlands are increasingly being seen as productive additions to New Zealand farms.

- Fencing and planting wetland areas reduces erosion, run-off and stock loss.

- Wetlands reduce peak water levels during flooding
- Plantations can provide timber and firewood
- Wetlands provide recreation opportunities
- Wetlands improve the aesthetic appeal of the land

(from the NZ Fish and Game website)

More on this important issue on Page 11 in this issue of Flight

INSIGHT

Craig Worth
President

A special thanks to all those who attended our AGM and fundraising dinner in Masterton. Once again there was a great turnout. Ross Cottle and his team from the Wairarapa Chapter did most of the organising and I don't believe that they were adequately thanked at the conclusion of the event. Another special thanks must go to Glenys Hansen and her team for a magnificent lunch and the opportunity to sample her fine homemade jams and pickles. It was a pity the weather was not the best but it certainly didn't lessen members' enthusiasm.

At the AGM itself Murray Dench gave notice that at the 2002 Annual General Meeting, to be held in Hamilton, he intends moving that the name of our organisation be changed to Ducks Unlimited Wetland Care NZ Inc. This certainly has given us all something to think about. The board will be looking at this matter at its next meeting and we would welcome your thoughts.

In the Lake Waikare matter we have come to an agreement with Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game for both parties to make a joint appeal to the Environment Court regarding Environment Waikato's water right application. We have also held a meeting with Environment Waikato and, although it is still very early days, all parties are talking. Environment Waikato has agreed to restart negotiations with us and Fish and Game. It is very pleasing to have Doug Emmett and his team working with us on this matter as their considerable knowledge and skills complement ours. Both our organisations are looking to achieve an amicable settlement which will avert lengthy and expensive court proceedings.

It is still very disappointing that the Department of Conservation has not yet joined us in this matter. After all, they are responsible for the Whangamarino wetland which is receiving several thousand tonnes of silt annually from Lake Waikare. Damn it - it's a Ramsar site. You would think the Government would show some interest in what is going on.

While we continue to advocate vigorously for habitat, we're just as concerned for ensuring that it is populated. Recent correspondence to Flight regarding the supply of waterfowl has triggered a number of welcome offers and suggestions. People wishing to sell or trade wildfowl can easily place an advertisement in Flight. The cost is minimal - contact the Editor.



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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: Royal swan, Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park.
Photo: Gail Simons.*

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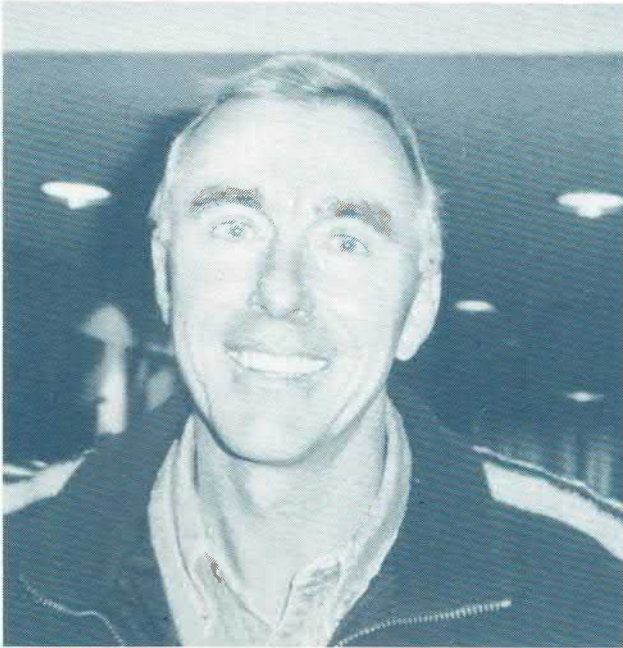
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OUR People



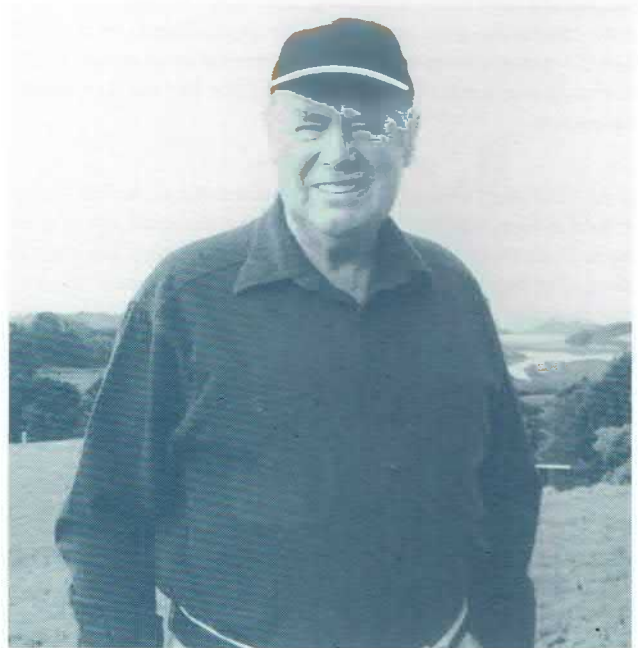
Steve Rice

Steve Rice has enjoyed a long association with similar conservation organisations, including the Eden Papakura Clevedon Miranda Acclimatisation Society. With the latter he served on the committee for a number of years and was actively involved in game and wetland development, tree planting and pheasant breeding. He arranged Canadian Airlines (a Sponsor Member since DU's establishment in New Zealand) support with display material at DU's first public exhibition at the Auckland Game Fair in 1975. More recently he has been a member in his own right of DU. His brother David was President of DU from 1992 to 1994.

Living in Auckland and married with three children, Steve was born in Papakura and educated at Sacred Heart College and Manurewa High School. He has had 27 years in the airline industry and is Regional Manager for Air Canada responsible for New Zealand and the South Pacific Islands.

The last time Steve achieved notoriety in the pages of Flight was when he was instrumental in facilitating Canadian Airlines' contribution to transporting blue duck to UK in 1997.

Steve Rice's interests include hunting, fishing, skiing, tennis and golf.



Guy Haughton

After 38 years farming 1600 ha on the Kaipara Harbour, Guy Haughton says he is now "keeping his hand in" on a 40 ha block at Warkworth.

Married to Briar with three adult children, Guy was born in England and has always been involved in farming. Apart from two years in the British SAS, he has lived and worked in Sweden, Canada and Australia.

Guy built many dams on his Kaipara property with habitat for waterfowl and pheasant. On his Warkworth block, which is on the Maharangi River where there are ducks, he has built a dam and planted around it to attract waterfowl.

As well as developing habitat, Guy's interests include trout and sea fishing, boating and "pottering on my 40 ha block". Guy has been a member of DU for six years.

The Bill Barrett Trophy

The Bill Barrett Trophy is awarded annually for an outstanding contribution to Ducks Unlimited.

Bill Barrett, an Australian who made an outstanding contribution to wildfowl and wetlands, was DU's first life member. He pioneered the use of nest boxes for chestnut teal in Australia and helped design boxes used in New Zealand. Although he never visited this country, Bill Barrett made a substantial donation to DU here and the trophy was instituted in his honour.

It was with great pleasure that the Board of DU presented Joyce Brooks with the Bill Barrett trophy recently.

The presentation was in recognition of Joyce as a worthy recipient for her outstanding efforts in raising funds for wetlands and waterfowl. Much of her contribution has come through selling raffle tickets for DU fundraising efforts since she has been a member. Over time she has sold over \$3,000 worth of tickets. Last year Joyce sold 40 books raising \$800. She is Wairarapa Chapter Treasurer.



DU Director Alan Wilks presents the Bill Barrett Trophy to Joyce Brooks. Photo: Di Wilks.



DU at National Fielddays 2001

Taupo Native Plant Nursery very kindly invited Ducks Unlimited to share their site at this year's National Field Days at Mystery Creek near Hamilton. The Board of DU decided this was a great opportunity to promote Wetland Care New Zealand and to publicise our stance on Lake Waikare to a possible audience of over 100,000 people.

Banrock Station Wines, a major sponsor of Wetland Care New Zealand, donated two cases of wine for tasting purposes and this met with a good response from interested people, especially on the rather warm Thursday which had many regular fielddays visitors shedding layers of thermal clothes.

- Neil Candy



Wetland Care New Zealand's presence at Mystery Creek.
Photo: Neil Candy.

Waikato Chapter Marks Successful First Year

Since being re-formed in September 2000, the Waikato chapter has emerged as one of the more active. Reviewing the past year's activities in his annual report to the Chapter AGM on 31 July, Chapter Chair Ray Hayward detailed the series of field trips, chapter functions and promotional activities the chapter had undertaken over the year. He also expressed his thanks to those who had contributed so much: "Without your enthusiasm and dedication this chapter would not have got off the ground and had such a successful first year."

Ray Hayward says the chapter is aiming to increase its local membership which will in turn increase its ability to raise the funds needed for wetland preservation. Field trips and approaches to former DU members are part of this effort.

A major undertaking for the chapter will be the 2002 Annual Conference to be held in Hamilton. Ray Hayward says planning is already underway for this, with a field trip to Lake Waikare and the Whangamarino Swamp as part of the conference activities being planned.

Other events in the chapter calendar include the dinner and auction planned for 29 September at the Glenview Gun Club, and a "swamp party and barbecue" in March 2002. A suitable venue is being sought and competitions followed by a social barbecue and opportunity for members old and new to get together will be on the programme.

Ray Hayward has issued a warm invitation to those who would like to assist with projects or join the committee. He thanked members of the committee (Murray and Malcolm Dench, Jack and Claire Worth, Michelle Mackay, Fiona Stanaway and Maxine Hayward) and all those who had helped with projects over the year.

Manawatu Chapter Dinner

The Manawatu Dinner and Auction will be held on 13 October at The Coachman Hotel, Palmerston North, commencing at 6.30pm. The Chapter is fortunate to have Mr Robert Wood as auctioneer again this year so a very entertaining evening is anticipated.

In conjunction with the superb Coachman menu a variety of game dishes will be provided, including Canada goose, pheasant, duck, venison. Tickets are \$48.00 per person.

For more information, contact Neil Candy (06)353 6132.

National Raffle

The National Raffle is an important fundraiser for wetland conservation. By now all DU members will have received a raffle book to sell. While members like Joyce Brooks make a superb effort and manage to sell as many as 40 books, everyone can make a significant contribution by selling at least one.

A reminder: the raffle closes on 31 October. Please assist organiser Glenys Hansen by returning your raffle butts in the Freepost envelope provided in good time. It makes Glenys' job a lot harder if she has to chase unreturned books.

Wetland Care Contributes to Sparks Park Wetland



Melvin Pike (right) receives the cheque presented at this year's Annual Conference by DU President Craig Worth (left) for \$3,000 from Wetland Care New Zealand which is DU's contribution to a wetland being constructed as part of a new park in Carterton. Wairarapa Chapter Chair Ross Cottle looks on. A full report on the development will appear in the January 2002 issue of Flight.

The Grey Teal Issue

The following is the text of a letter from DU to Hon. Sandra Lee, Minister of Conservation, regarding reclassification of grey teal as a game bird:

Last year under changes to Section 3 of the Wildlife Act the penalties for shooting protected birds were increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000. While we as an organisation agree with the need to increase the protection and penalties for the deliberate shooting of species such as blue duck and brown teal, we question why the same protection has been afforded grey teal. In light of the almost total lack of consultation regarding this change, we fear you may have received some inaccurate advice. I might add that as an organisation we have been involved with blue duck and brown teal and have noted a similar lack of consultation by your department in matters pertaining to these birds.

Ducks Unlimited in New Zealand has been actively involved with grey teal for the past 25 years. As an organisation we have erected several thousand nest boxes as well as distributing them to members and other interested parties. As a result the population of grey teal has increased dramatically in those areas where our members have been active. Fish and Game has also been active in this regard. A bird that was once an occasional sighting is now in most parts of the country a common bird. Grey teal are neither threatened nor endangered. In fact, in many parts of the country they are the second most populous duck species according to our counts.

Many years ago the then Wildlife Service offered to place grey teal on the list of game birds. At that time the offer was declined as most informed sportsmen did not believe the grey teal population could sustain a harvest. As a result Ducks Unlimited undertook Operation Gretel to increase the teal population.

Our measure of success would be when the population reached a level that could sustain a harvest by game bird hunters. We believe that point was reached several years ago. In fact, last year (2000) in "Fish and Game" (the magazine) pre-game-bird season edition, Fish and Game (the organisation) proposed the grey teal as New Zealand's next game bird. A year later they are warning shooters that, thanks to the changes in the Wildlife Act, the accidental shooting of one could result in a fine of up to \$100,000. A dramatic and unnecessary tamaround.

May we suggest that the status of grey teal be changed to that of a game bird and that Fish and Game be given the task of managing the resource as they do with other game birds. This would allow bag limits to be set at levels local populations can sustain and in areas where only low populations exist the bag limit can be set at none as is done already with other game birds.

We would welcome your reply in this matter regarding your intentions. We can provide additional information if required.

Sincerely,

Graham Gurr

Chairman of the Board, Ducks Unlimited, New Zealand

[Nicola Scott, Private Secretary (Conservation), acknowledged receipt of the letter and advised that DU could expect a reply once the Minister had had the opportunity to consider the correspondence. - Ed.]

Plea for Fair Waterfowl Price Answered

Concerns about the price being asked for native waterfowl raised by a correspondent to Flight in the last issue have drawn a positive response from the Otorohanga Zoological Society Inc. Curator of the Otorohanga Kiwi House Eric Fox says his organisation can breed to order grey teal, New Zealand scaup and shoveler at a very reasonable price to individuals or organisations wanting to establish waterfowl.

Eric Fox says prices vary according to species, but grey teal can be supplied at around \$15 per head. Costs relate to artificial incubation and rearing. Scaup and shoveler are somewhat dearer due to the smaller numbers of breeding pairs held.

DU members interested in obtaining birds from Otorohanga Kiwi House, and who hold a valid DOC waterfowl permit, can contact Eric Fox at the address below and quote their permit number.

Additionally, Eric Fox says that his organisation is keen to procure some purebred grey duck, and would like to hear from anyone in New Zealand breeding Australian mountain shelduck, chestnut teal, Australian wood duck and grass whistling ducks.

Contact details: Eric Fox, Curator, Otorohanga Kiwi House, P.O. Box 222, Otorohanga. Email: otokivi@xtra.co.nz, or ph. (07) 873 7391, fax. (07) 873 7356.

Annual Conference 2001 Report

The Wairarapa really turned on the weather - it was cold, wet, windy and miserable but it certainly didn't dampen anyone's spirits. The hard work put in by event organiser Ross Cottle and his team and conference secretary Michelle MacKay ensured that the conference weekend ran smoothly and enjoyably.

The Copthorne Resort Solway Park in Masterton is an excellent venue for a conference weekend and on the Friday evening 40-plus members gathered in the Palliser room for drinks and a social get-together. This was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones and it was encouraging that there were quite a few new faces. It was also an opportunity for the trustees of the Waterfowl and Wetland Trust to hold their AGM quietly off to one side.

On Saturday morning 47 brave souls attended the AGM (see abridged minutes on page 7). The meeting heard some frank exchanges as members confronted some of the frustrations involved in moving forward a number of initiatives in which DU is involved. There were indications that DU as a voluntary organisation has to work smarter and harder in our advocacy for wetlands and wildfowl, and that the costs in financial terms are considerable.

It was a pleasure to welcome to the meeting Steve Oxenham, our Flight editor, and member Keith Levy who manages the Spicers investment portfolio for the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust.

The meeting finished in time for a coffee before the bus (ably driven by member Roy Dench from Te Awamutu) left for the field trip at 11 am. This saved quite a few dollars and we are grateful for his contribution.

The first call on the field trip was Glenys Hansen's beautiful property at Matahiwi just out of Masterton. The 60 members who braved the weather had hoped to walk round the

magnificent wetland adjacent to the house before lunch. Despite the impression conveyed by the *Midweek* front-page photograph of Glenys and President Craig Worth, the elements precluded this. Instead, we all gathered in the spacious garage where Glenys told us how she and her late husband Ted had developed the 4.2 hectare wetland nearly 10 years ago and subsequently built the house.

Then Lloyd and Elizabeth from Solstone Estate Winery described the wines we were to taste with the incredible lunch. Glenys excelled herself by providing three different piping hot soups, homemade breads, pikelets, cold meats and duck pate, followed by cake and coffee.

DU received plenty of publicity for the weekend in *Midweek*, a Wairarapa giveaway paper which is delivered to every household. We had front-page coverage on the lunch visit and in the following week's edition there were three separate items and photographs relating to the weekend and a full-page article about DU.

After lunch, the party travelled to the Mt. Bruce

National Wildlife Centre, a half-hour drive north of Masterton, where we were given a conducted tour of the aviaries by team-leader and bird-manager Karen Barlow, watched the free-flight kaka being fed and heard Karen speak knowledgeably about each species.

The conference dinner in the evening enjoyed close to a record turnout of members and guests. During pre-dinner drinks, there was the opportunity to inspect the fantastic array of main and silent auction items which had been laid out during the afternoon by Ross Cottle and Michelle MacKay.

Following an excellent dinner, Graham Gurr presented the awards. The "Absolutely Quackers Award" went to a certain MP who has some association with conservation. The Chapter Challenge again went to Manawatu for raising the most funds. The Bill Barrett Trophy was awarded to Joyce Brooks (see page 4). A Wetland Care New Zealand cheque for \$3,000 was presented to member Melvin Pike, a Sparks Park Trust Board trustee, towards this wetland development in Carterton.



Part of the extensive wetland at Glenys Hansen's Masterton property seen during the field trip.

Then auctioneer and raconteur Bob Wood delivered a superb performance as he disposed of the 26 main auction items. For an hour he had members rolling in the aisles as he grossed over \$5,000.

With three bucket raffles and many silent auction items generously donated by businesses and individuals, the evening grossed a very satisfying \$11,300.

On the following Sunday morning a small group watched a video on Banrock Station Winery followed by another which Banrock Station Wines manager Tony Sharley and marketing manager Nina Stojnic had compiled specially for the conference. The videos featured the extensive Banrock Station wetland and Tony talked about the sponsorships they have to support wetland conservation wherever they sell their wine throughout the world. These include Banrock's support of Wetland Care New Zealand.

Such a personal message wishing us well was a great way to finish the weekend and members agreed it had been a huge success.

- Alan Wilks



Free-flight kaka under close scrutiny at Mt Bruce National Wildlife Centre.

The AGM Minutes

The following are the abridged minutes of the Ducks Unlimited NZ Inc. 27th Annual General Meeting held at Cophorne Resort Solway Park, Masterton, 21 July 2001.

The meeting was attended by Directors D.Smith, D.Wilks, A. Wilks, C. Worth, N.Candy, W. Abel, G.Gurr, R.Cottle and J.Law with minutes secretary F.Stanaway and 38 members.

Chairing the meeting, Craig Worth extended a warm welcome to those present. Apologies were accepted from O. Latham, J. Campbell, G. Hansen, G. Nightingale, M. & L. Tapp, J. Candy, K. & B. Hoggs.

The minutes of the previous AGM as published in Flight were confirmed (A.Wilks/D.Pritt).

Reports

The Financial Report was adopted (D.Smith/J.Law). The 2000-2001 Annual Accounts were

summarised in Flight with a full set available for members to sight at the AGM. Beattie Rickman of Hamilton were appointed as auditors (C.Worth/All in favour). D.Smith gave a brief overview of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. The results as at 1.7.01 showed a recovery from the payout to DU. This report was adopted (D.Rice/D.Pritt).

The President's Report as published in Flight was accepted (A.Wilks/D.Pritt), as were the project reports which had also been published in Flight. Also adopted were a report on Brown Teal by K.Evans and J.Worth's report on the Grey Teal project (see page 10).

D.Smith gave an update on Lake Waikare. Comments and questions followed from J. Law, D.West and R.Cottle.

Election of Directors

A.Wilks, R.Cottle and D.Wilks were reappointed to the Board. New Board member Steve Rice was appointed (D.Rice/D.Pritt).

Chatham Islands Teal

D.Smith gave a brief overview of the situation with DOC as it affects the release of brown teal

that had been planned. DOC is trying to force DU to screen the birds to the extreme. They did not apply the same rules to the birds that went to Kapiti and Mana Islands. Some of the screening requests are not even available in NZ. A. Wilks asked if the Millennium office wanted the money it had granted for this project returned. D. Smith replied that he was not sure.

D. Pritt asked if there was some way we could "embarrass" DOC through some form of publicity item. They should not be able to push us around just because we are a group of "amateurs" fighting against a government-supported body.

M. Dench moved that " This project is wound up and the money for this project (with Millennium approval) is transferred to some other project." (Seconded: D.Wilks. Carried unanimously.)

General Business

Items raised in general business included possible follow-up of brown teal establishment on Tiritiri Matangi Island, the possibility of distributing brown teal to overseas locations to ensure the preservation of the species' genes, and the question of removing harrier hawks from the protected species list. On the latter it was suggested that a letter be drafted and published for members to use as a sample to send to the Government.

Bill Clinton-Baker suggested that DU money should not be spent on raising endangered species. He noted that DU Inc. in the United States does not do this. The money should be spent on developing wetlands only. Dave Johnston agreed, saying too much of DU's money and time was being spent for little or no result.

Murray Dench gave notice that he intends to move at the next AGM that DU change its name from Ducks Unlimited NZ Inc. to Ducks Unlimited Wetland Care Inc.

Craig Worth reminded those present that next year's AGM is to be held in Hamilton.

The meeting closed at 10.40am.

(A full set of these minutes is available from P.O. Box 5095, Frankton, Hamilton.)



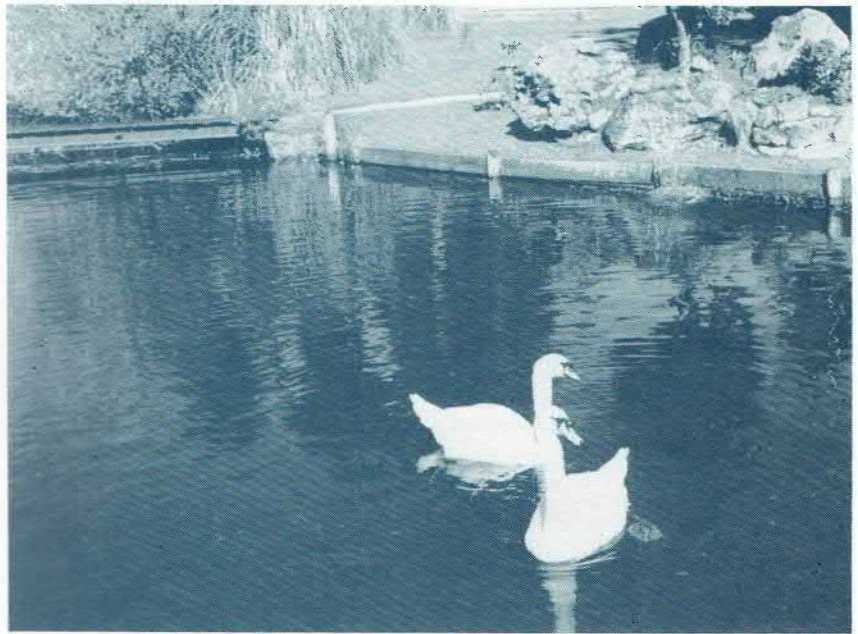
Auctioneer Bob Wood in action raising over \$5,000 at the conference dinner.

The Mute Swan of Te Pohue



Now semi-retired after a long career in earthmoving and agricultural contracting, DU member Trevor Hughes spends a lot of his time at Te Pohue developing his wildlife refuge, enjoying his observations of the varied bird life there and increasing his expertise as a successful breeder of rare mute swan.

Trevor Hughes bought the original 40 ha at Te Pohue nearly 50 years ago. The bare land, swamp and lake, he recalls, cost him what a new Holden car cost at the time. The property, situated nearly 50km from Napier on the Napier-Taupo road, included the 7 ha Lake Pohue and he has acquired a further 20 ha and created five more ponds with an area of more than 2 ha.



The original two mute swan at Trevor Hughes' Pohue Lake wetlands.

Trevor's experience of breeding swan has been a learning curve, not without setbacks and tragedies. "If I live long enough, I may become an expert," he says.

The first pair of swan came from the local acclimatisation society about 10 years ago, but failed to produce any progeny. About four years ago he heard of DU, through local farmer Donald Organ. His inquiries eventually led him to Jim Campbell. Jim, who has made a big contribution to Trevor's work, took the time to visit Te Pohue and quickly identified a problem with the swan breeding: Trevor had two females.

Once a male swan was obtained from Kevin Campbell of Masterton, the breeding pair hatched two cygnets. However, only one survived. Trevor put this down to a wet nest site. When the problem was corrected last year, the pair hatched five cygnets from five eggs.

"The problem was, they moved into the main lake and four were lost to hawks," Trevor says. He intends to correct this problem with a fence. He's also learned the need to keep breeding pairs separated, and has noted how antagonistic the males are to the young swan when they're old enough to start fending for themselves.

A second pair hatched six young in 1999, and another four in 2000. The female was a wild bird which flew in and paired up with a male supplied by Kevin Hinz of New Plymouth.

A third breeding pair includes one of the original females and a male from Jim Campbell. None of their first six eggs hatched and Trevor is not sure why.

Despite these setbacks, Trevor has been able to supply mute swan to the DU breeding programme. Several birds have been kept from the successful broods to build the stock at Te Pohue. This year he hopes to have several pairs of mute swan nesting and, at the time of writing, one pair had begun to make a nest from the straw Trevor had provided, and another pair was showing every indication of preparing to breed.

With the 10 ha of native bush, through which he has built walking tracks, the whole area is teeming with birds and is indeed a wildlife refuge.

Besides swan, the wetlands carry a varied population of waterfowl, black swan, mandarins, wood duck, Canadas, grey teal, scaup, paradise, Australian coots and four different species of cormorant. The Canada geese are a pair from Jim Campbell which replaced a pair from Lake Ellesmere which Trevor was given 30 years ago and which failed to breed. Shoveler and dabchicks are frequent visitors and pied stilt and



The six cygnets which hatched in 1999.



Some of the wildfowl population on Lake Pohue. The enclosure at rear is used to keep newly introduced birds until they become acclimatised.

herons come to breed. The wetlands contain perch, trout and carp.

The bush is habitat for fantail, tui, bellbird, silvereye, kingfisher, shining cuckoo, grey

*“If I live long enough,
I may become an
expert...”*

warbler and native pigeon. Trevor says the bellbirds and tui come right to his house.

Trevor is justifiably proud of his wildlife refuge and speaks enthusiastically of how rewarding his work is. However, he’s quick to acknowledge the support he’s had from others, including Hanno Hasselman, of Pak ‘n Save Supermarket, Napier, whose supplying stale bread represents a significant saving in the cost of duck feed. Others, besides Jim Campbell, who have helped include John Cheyne and Hans Rook of DOC, Roly Bradshaw of Fish and Game, who stocks the lake with trout, and Steve Jolly of Central Surveys Ltd., Taupo, for general assistance including surveying.

Trevor Hughes welcomes visitors to his Pohue Lake Wildlife Refuge by appointment.

Ph: (06) 835 1232.

Photos courtesy of Trevor Hughes.



The black swan has been called “TM” (Trouble Maker). Trevor says he goes around stirring up the other residents, although he seems to be able to coexist with the young mute in this picture.



Wetland Care New Zealand

Wetland Care New Zealand’s mission is to: “harness community, business and government resources to restore and develop lost wetland areas within New Zealand.”

Funding

Funding for projects comes mainly from the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust which was established 12 years ago and has underwritten significant levels of wetland development projects. Additional resources have come through fundraising and corporate sponsorships like that from Banrock Station Wines. Wetland Care New Zealand actively

seeks funding from private and public sources for its work.

Partnerships

Central to Wetland Care New Zealand’s mission is forming partnerships with people with common aims. Alliances are being established with conservation groups like DOC, NZ Fish and Game, Forest & Bird and regional councils.

Taking Care of Wetlands

Wetland Care New Zealand’s current and completed solo and partnership projects include:
Ashhurst Domain Project - Manawatu

Camm Brown Teal Wetland Project - Northland

Home Lagoon - Wairarapa

Karori Sanctuary Wetland Development - Wellington

Magill wetland - SH1 Reporoa

Mana Island Brown Teal Wetland - Kapiti

Pearce Wetlands - Wairarapa

Sinclair Wetlands - Otago

Further Information

Please contact:

William Abel - Director Wetland Care New Zealand (04) 478 4335



OPERATION GRETEL

(Circumstances prevented publication of this and the following project report in the July issue of Flight along with other reports tabled at the recent Annual Conference.)

During the last twelve months we have been able to reawaken the interest in Gretel to some extent by making contact with people who manage nest boxes and others who were prepared to take part in our first teal census survey.

Altogether we have made contact with about thirty members and non members who service the Teal boxes but we realise that we need many more to make any survey meaningful - however to all those who are assisting Gretel and to those who are about to, we say a big Thanks (!) for your time and effort. To the Board of Directors: we acknowledge your continued support and financial budget contribution that we once again intend to under spend.

Census conducted April 1 2001

Twenty-seven people were asked to assist with our first teal census and from these, nineteen returns were received, which we consider a good result considering all the other engagements people have today.

A breakdown of the numbers show:

	Teal	Total	Average	
1	0	0	0	Ohaupo, Hamilton
2	2	2	1	Ohaupo, Hamilton
3	26	28	9.3	Hopu Hopu, Ngaruawahia
4	19	47	11.7	Galatea, Rotorua
5	14	61	12.2	Orini, Hamilton
6	0	61	10.1	Maramura
7	0	61	8.7	Te Awamutu
8	47	108	13.5	Opiki, Palmerston North
9	35	143	15.7	Piako
10	35	178	17.8	Piako
11	37	215	19.0	Piako
12	0	215	18.1	Huntly
13	0	215	16.3	Huntly
14	0	215	15.3	Te Awamutu
15	8	223	14.8	Huntly
16	7	230	14.3	Hamilton
17	17	247	14.5	Taupo
18	5	252	14.0	Burnside No 1
19	0	252	13.2	Burnside No 2

The returns were received from Maramura in the north to Palmerston North in the south, encompassing most of the Waikato lakes and the Piako swamps near Paeroa.

Nest Box Survey

From 322 boxes that we have on file, teal used 173 last breeding season,

which represents a little over 50% usage.

Some of the problems causing this include boxes not being cleaned and tidied up each year, or boxes on dry (and dried up) ground. Boxes which have been erected in unproven sites, boxes in need of major maintenance or scrapping, and boxes with lids missing also seem to deter the birds from using them.

However, all is not doom and gloom and, with a combined effort, we are confident that this project will turn out a winner.

- Jack Worth

Brown Teal

I need to start off by again thanking all my breeders who each year diligently do such a great job at producing and raising ducklings for us. It is a rather thankless job but an extremely rewarding one. I find it a privilege to work with like-minded people who have a real passion for conservation and doing their part. I take my hat off to this great bunch of dedicated people - they make my job a lot easier.

I am going to make this report an extremely positive one so I will not speak about how wild brown teal are in the worst state they have ever been in and are still declining rapidly, or the DOC bureaucracy that has plagued me over the last 12 months. Instead I will highlight some of the positives.

Last year we released 35 birds on to Mana and Kapiti Islands and into Karori Sanctuary. Stringent disease screening was undertaken at Hamilton Zoo, which gave all the teal clean bills of health. Due to the amount of organising and bureaucracy involved, birds were not out of quarantine and released until extremely late into the breeding season (September 2000). Even with such a late release Mana Island still managed to have some three breeding attempts only weeks after their release. One brood of three has reached independence. The others we are not quite sure of.

This year looks promising for those released birds. Most birds have stayed put and not gone on their big "fly". It is also worth noting that deaths have also been minimal, with harriers being the assumed cause of death, which goes to show that teal released into predator free environments can survive and breed quite successfully.

As for this year's breeding, 35 birds have been released (or are about to be): 7 Whananaki, 10 Karori Sanctuary and 18 Kapiti/Mana Islands (to have been released on 23 July 2001)

So far, the birds released at Whananaki have managed to hang in there. Even with intensive predator control a rogue stoat can still do some major damage in a short period of time. Three birds have been lost only recently (two from stoats, one from a harrier) so predator control has been stepped up another level in that area.

There are quite a number of issues still to be resolved for brown teal as a whole, including some quite serious captive issues. But I am hopeful that within the next six months we will be past most of them. Even though my head is rather sore at the moment, I believe I am starting to see some cracks appearing in the wall. So it looks like we are progressing, if only slowly.

All in all it has been more of a struggle and battle for the last 12 months, but these little glimmers of hope are looking extremely positive.

- Kevin Evans



Fluffy Ducks at STONEY OAKS



...And at the end of all the planning, surveying, noise of diggers and dozers, resource consents, bureaucracy, raffles, research, court hearings, predator control, meetings, correspondence to officialdom, there's these little guys...

Photo: Gail Simons.

Farming & Conservation

Much of the 19th Century New Zealand landscape was rapidly altered to sustain pastoral and other forms of agriculture. We are still reaping the consequences of this in terms of loss of biodiversity and extinction of species.

At the dawn of the 21st Century, there's realisation that how the land is used need not conflict with conservation values and that the

land can sustain people as well as wildlife in ways which as well as being eco-friendly, can enhance overall quality of life.

Ironically, where much destruction of the environment was market driven, strong pressures to consolidate New Zealand's clean and green image are also coming from the market.

In other parts of the world there are chilling lessons that the earth's resources are not infinite and that there are practical limits and

consequences to many forms of development. The evidence for climate change is compelling, even if measures to lessen its social, economic and political consequences are slow to be adopted. Intense controversy over genetic engineering is turning the spotlight on to agriculture and farming practices. Farmers may be more successful than ever in feeding the population and earning export dollars but how they manage the environment behind the farm gate is under increasing scrutiny...

Dams, Ducks and Dollars

"Dollars I understand, but how do the dams and ducks fit in?" you might ask. Well, it all relates to the marketing statement you all support when supplying lambs to Lean Meats Limited (LML). That statement, "Naturally Grown, Range Reared, Lean Lamb", plus the supporting snapshots of pristine farmland in New Zealand all help to make the sale to the end consumer in the USA.

What the consumer is buying into is an environmentally sustainable and friendly production process which produces high quality lamb. They won't pay good dollars for feed lot product but they will pay for lamb that comes from environmentally friendly "ranches". Dams and ducks help make ranches environmentally friendly. Thus they help capture those dollars.

"A bit tenuous!" you might say. Well, not really. Our major customer in the USA recently adopted a strong environmental philosophy as the corner stone of all their marketing efforts. They also plan to conduct audits in the future to ensure all their suppliers have similar policies. So, when these environmental auditors arrive, don't forget to show them your dams and ducks, along with all the other environmentally friendly things you do about your farm.

That's the marketing side, and if LML is anything it's a niche marketer of the finest lamb in the world. However, there are more dollars. Eroding gullies have little grazing value and can cause mustering problems and stock losses. It's much better to fence such gullies off, put in a few dams and plant the surrounds in native trees... and wait for the ducks to arrive and breed. You then have a sustainable source of wild game.

So, you cut your mustering time and stock losses, create a picturesque wetland and provide for the table. Not bad, really, especially as you will have also raised the capital value of your property.

But forget the dollars, do it for the sheer pleasure it will bring you and the generations to follow... Not to mention the ducks. Well, the ones that get away!

[Adapted from Lean Meats Limited newsletter, July 2001, to which grateful acknowledgement is made.]

Dirty Dairying

Coinciding with the annual conference of Federated Farmers in Rotorua in July, Forest and Bird challenged Federated Farmers to actively work towards making New Zealand's Clean Green image a reality.

"Farming is having a major impact on the environment, especially on streams and rivers, in many parts of the country," said Eric Pyle, Conservation Manager of Forest and Bird, in mid-July. "In particular the dairy industry needs to improve its performance. Cows should not be allowed to wander through streams as they currently do in many areas of the country."

In some areas, the farming industry was jeopardising the New Zealand economy's "clean green" image, Eric Pyle said. He called on Federated Farmers to change its attitude to the Resource Management Act, something he said was a key environmental statute, and work positively to improve the environment. "The RMA is a key part of making New Zealand's clean green image a reality. Rather than fighting the RMA, Federated Farmers should commit to making the clean green image a reality".

"In the short term other industries, such as tourism, may be at risk from poor environmental management by the farming sector. In the long term even the farming sector may be at risk as overseas markets seek verification for "clean, green" claims," Eric Pyle said.

The Forest and Bird media release noted that water management is an area that the dairy industry in particular needs to improve to protect New Zealand's clean green image. Forest and Bird says that many of New Zealand's lowland streams are degraded by farm runoff and dairy shed discharges.

Forest and Bird is advocating fencing off of streams on dairy farms to keep cows away from them.

In early September, Environment Bay of Plenty announced that compliance levels for dairy effluent discharges for the 2000/2001 dairying season in the Bay of Plenty were below expectation at only 79% overall compliance. Although this level of compliance was slightly higher than previous years, Environment BOP compliance officers were anticipating greater compliance levels in the future. During the compliance-monitoring programme carried out by Environment BOP during the 2000/2001 dairying season a new monitoring programme approved in February 2000 was used. Farms were visited on a frequency based on their compliance history. Depending on their disposal system and recent history of compliance they might be inspected on a one, two or three yearly cycle.

Environment BOP is trying to encourage farmers to discharge effluent on to their land through soak ponds or pasture spraying rather than discharging

Economic benefits of dairying do not have to be at the expense of our waterways and environment.

effluent to surface waters. Monitoring will continue in the future as will education, advice and enforcement programmes where necessary. Although the dairy industry has released guidelines for environmental management (see box on next page), Forest and Bird says the industry needs to do more to clean up its act.

While noting that the environmental management guidelines are a step in the right direction, Eric Pyle said the industry needs to provide better information more quickly and provide better incentives to encourage farmers to improve environmental practice.

In areas like Southland where increasing areas of land are being converted to dairy farming, groups like Southland Fish and Game have expressed concern at environmental impacts.

In late August this year Green Agriculture Spokesperson Ian Ewen-Street MP said he agreed with Southland Fish and Game that simple and effective measures such as fencing waterways to keep out stock could be implemented immediately.

"High levels of run-off - of both fertiliser and effluent - have seriously degraded waterways in the North Island and now the problem is spreading south," Ian Ewen-Street said. "We all understand the phenomenal growth of dairying, particularly in Southland, and we understand what this means for both the regional and national economy."

"However, these economic benefits are currently coming, in part, at the expense of our environment and our waterways and this is unacceptable. It does not have to be this way." He quoted a Ministry for the Environment report showing that losses of up to \$570 million for the dairy industry and losses of nearly \$1 billion for tourism could result if New Zealand's clean green image was tainted.

Forest and Bird called for a delay to further consideration of a dairy conversion in Canterbury until after decisions had been made on the proposed Rangitata Water Conservation Order. Rangitata Dairies had applied for resource consents to abstract 19,440 cubic metres of water a day from groundwater near the Rangitata River and dispose of dairy shed effluent. The proposed farm would have over 2,000 cows.

Forest and Bird had lodged a submission opposing the proposed Rangitata Dairies megafarm because of the environmental risks to groundwater and the Rangitata River. It expressed fears that Environment Canterbury might grant consent for major conversions to dairying near rivers without a proper planning framework



Dairying & Environment

A New Zealand Dairy Industry Board publication, Dairy Industry Environmental & Animal Welfare Policies, traverses a number of policies and guidelines which the Chairman of the New Zealand Dairy Board, John Roadley, characterises as "a proactive initiative by the industry to ensure these issues are not allowed to undermine our marketing strategies. We recognise that some of the policies will require changes to the way some things are carried out. Changes over time are necessary."

Following are excerpts from the policies and guidelines relating to environmental issues:

Access to Wetlands

All existing significant natural wetlands

should be preserved in accordance with regional and district plans.

Stock access to such wetlands must be controlled to avoid destruction of native flora and fauna. There is extreme pressure from the community to preserve wetlands as they maintain and improve biodiversity. They also provide treatment for nutrient runoff from agricultural land and assist in the achievement of sustainable farming practices.

Farm Dairy Effluent

The disposal of farm dairy effluent should be undertaken in a manner that does not present significant risks to human health or aquatic systems.

The disposal of such effluent must meet the requirements of the Resource Management Act and regional plans.

Water Quality

Water quality is a significant international and

domestic issue. The industry's goal is to maintain and enhance water quality in dairy catchments.

Stock access to streams is a major contributor to excessive algal growths, high turbidity and "bad bugs" in rivers from animal effluent and erosion of stream banks.

Water quality should be significantly improved in many areas by preventing stock access to waterways and the planting of stream banks.

Fertiliser Usage

Fertiliser runoff into waterways has raised concerns. Mitigation of the impact of this issue would be assisted if farmers undertook annual nutrient budgets to determine fertiliser levels (ensuring appropriate usage). This goal minimises nutrient losses to groundwater and rivers and ensures leaching of soils is avoided.



An Uncertain Future: Australian Shelduck in New Zealand

Wildfowl breeder Bill Clinton-Baker has kept a watching brief over Australian shelduck in New Zealand for some years. What may be one of the last opportunities to ensure survival of a very small population in this country has presented itself, as he writes...

This handsome duck (*Tadorna tadornoides*), pictured above, is the Australian counterpart of the New Zealand shelduck, better known as the paradise. Its colouring is black and orange with a white neck band in the male and white around the eye and at the base of the beak in the female.

In the January 1998 issue of *Flight* I reported as to the numbers of Australian shelduck in captivity in New Zealand. There were then only six breeding pairs, plus a few odd birds.

The situation is now worse with, as far as I know, only four pairs - one pair of juveniles, plus one juvenile female.

However, the brighter side is that two pairs (on different properties) are sitting on eggs. Potentially we may have some young birds available. It is important that these go to people who are really interested in increasing the numbers of this species and who have the facilities to do so.

The criteria are:

- * a reasonable size pond with, if possible, nesting cover like pampas or flax and some short grazing grass. Nesting burrows could be installed.
- * the boundaries must be netted.
- * predator control at a high level.
- * rearing facilities, either bantams and/or an incubator or brooder.

It may seem to be counting chickens before they are hatched, but any DU members who are interested and who can comply with the criteria above, should contact me.

It would be sad if these birds are allowed to die out as no more can be imported.

Contact:

Bill Clinton-Baker
The Sanctuary.
RD 4
Masterton (06)372 7801

Photo courtesy of Bill Clinton-Baker.

The Australian Shelduck in Flight

DU has had an interest in Australian shelduck over time and Alan Wilks' research in the *Flight* archives has brought the following items to light:

Self Introduction of Australian Mountain Ducks

(*Flight*, March 1983)

The recent sightings of the Australian shelduck, more commonly known as the Australian mountain duck, in the wilds of New Zealand has created great excitement among ornithologists. No doubt feeling the urge to get away from a very dry Australia, and assisted by some very strong winds, the mountain ducks have been seen at several localities in the South Island during January and February. DU checked to ensure that the birds were not escapees from New Zealand collections, but no captive birds have been left full winged and the sightings have been confirmed as a self introduction - and as the first official recording of the species in the New Zealand wild. If any members are fortunate to spot any in the wild we would certainly like to hear about it.

Invasion of the Australian Mountain Duck

(*Flight*, June 1983)

The Ornithological Society of New Zealand has been receiving many reports of sightings of Australian mountain ducks since a female bird was seen at Lake Ellesmere in December last year. This Australian species associates readily with our paradise shelduck but is easily distinguished, with the male having a broad chestnut band across his breast and the female a band of white around each eye and at the base of the bill. Males and females may also display a white neck band.

In Australia the mountain duck, contrary to its common name, prefers coastal lagoons and estuaries and this seems to be the trend here also, but some inland sightings have also been recorded. Initial reports came mainly from the South Island, but many reports are now coming in of birds being sighted at North Island lagoons. These reports have all indicated that only a few birds have been seen. The largest number recorded at any one area has so far been eight. It is very likely that the Australian shelduck will move around considerably during the New Zealand game season and if any of our hunting members, and others, happen to sight any DU would very much like to hear about it.

**Conservation on the
NET**

The Internet provides a vast amount of material on practically every aspect of the environment and conservation issues. It's a major source of sharing of concerns, research and education about the world and national environments.

Below are web sites covering topics like wetland planting and restoration, urban wetlands, and successful wetland projects. Readers are invited to submit details of sites they find useful. Email to: artscape@xtra.co.nz.

www.ew.govt.nz/ourenvironment

This is the web site of Environment Waikato. The site contains a wealth of information, not only about Environment Waikato's policies and programmes but also pages dealing with wetland restoration and planting. Click on the icon at the top of the page and under "Wetlands" you'll find topics like Maori and Wetlands, Restoring a Wetland, Threats to Wetlands, Types of Wetland, Wetland Case Studies, Wetland Plants and Animals, and What Wetlands Have We Got?

www.melbwater.com.au

Melbourne Water manages Melbourne's water supply catchments, removes and treats most of the city's sewage and trade waste and manages waterways and major drainage systems. As concern grows in New Zealand over how our water resources are used, the Melbourne Water web site gives a comprehensive overview of one city's water management. The web site includes information about Melbourne Water's plans to develop a system of wetlands to help manage storm water in an environmentally safe way.

www.sanctuary.org.nz

"A secret valley only 2 km from the city centre: 252 hectares of native forest ringing with the songs of our rare native birds.... This is the 500-year vision for the Karori Sanctuary." The full story of the development of this inner city refuge, including a wetland restoration project, is detailed on this site.



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BLUE DUCK

Artificial Insemination May Hold The Key

With less than 2,500 blue duck worldwide, the species is seriously endangered. Added to the efforts to save the species being undertaken by DOC and DU, through measures like captive breeding and release, is the programme at Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust facilities at Slimbridge and Arundel in UK. In 1986 two pairs supplied by DUNZ Inc. were flown to UK. Between 1986 and 1999, a total of 147 eggs were laid at Arundel and Slimbridge, but only 27 young were produced.

One explanation for the poor breeding record of the captive blue duck may be their excessive territoriality and aggression within pairs, frequently resulting in the male being driven off.

WWT is attempting to develop an artificial breeding programme - a world first for a threatened wildfowl species.

If the artificial insemination programme succeeds, it may be possible for the same techniques to be used in New Zealand, and for more birds to be released into rivers where there were previously blue duck populations.

Following Flight's inquiries to WWT, Nigel Jarrett, Threatened Species Officer based at WWT Slimbridge, has provided the following update on the programme:

In New Zealand and the UK, egg infertility is the cause of low productivity in ex situ blue duck populations. In 2000, WWT began a three-year programme to investigate the feasibility of increasing egg fertility using artificial insemination (AI) techniques. In 2000, two human imprinted male birds were selected as semen donors. Between 15 March and 15 July 2000, attempts were made to collect semen by inducing the males to copulate with a dummy blue duck (the cooperative technique) and by carefully stripping semen from the birds (the massage technique). Small quantities of semen were obtained using

the massage technique but as females were not laying eggs at the time, AI was not attempted.

In 2000, three female blue duck at WWT Arundel produced a total of 38 eggs in seven clutches. Two nine-year-old females (paired to ten and eleven-year-old males) produced a total of 22 infertile eggs in four clutches. A ten-year-old female paired to a 16-year-old male produced 16 eggs in three clutches of which eight were fertile. For four eggs, embryonic death occurred by the end of one week of parental incubation. For three eggs, embryonic death occurred after approximately four weeks of incubation. One egg hatched but the duckling was brain damaged and, consequently, was destroyed when aged 36 hours.

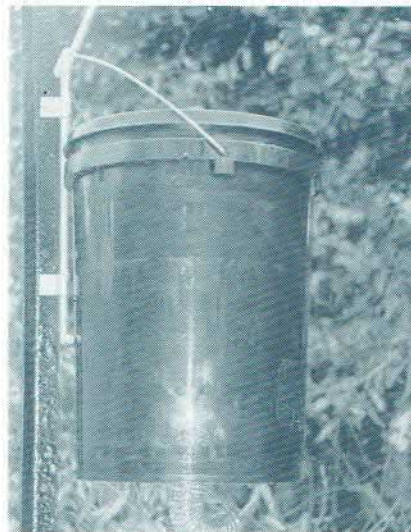
In 2001 mixed success was recorded - with overall bad news. All three pairs at WWT Arundel and one of two pairs at WWT Slimbridge laid a total of 42 eggs in eight clutches. Infertility was high (only 7 eggs were fertile) and none hatched (all 7 eggs died within the first week of bantam incubation).

On a positive note, all seven eggs resulted after AI of a ten-year-old female laying a second clutch. This female, paired to a sibling mate since 1995 (a male of 11 years) had been producing infertile clutches annually since 1996. Just two AI treatments (of three conducted in 2001) resulted in fertile eggs being laid in 2001. Semen for AI was collected from her mate using the massage technique. The 17-year-old male who has fathered almost all stock held at WWT, failed to fertilise any eggs from two clutches laid in 2001.

Currently five pairs of blue duck are held by WWT. All four laying females are now aged over ten years. The youngest female, paired to her sibling and held at WWT Slimbridge, was hatched in 1998. Six unpaired males are also held. Clearly egg fertility must improve if WWT is to maintain its population of New Zealand blue duck. To this end, WWT staff will again use AI techniques in 2002.

Shopping

NOSLOC FEEDERS



The Nosloc feeding system has been developed in New Zealand by Dennis Colson of Te Kuiti. The feeders are suitable for duck feeding and free range feeding. Of most interest to DU members will be the duck and pheasant feeders. Different nozzles are available for feeding grains such as wheat and barley or for feeding maize. Other sizes of nozzle are available for feeding pellets to ostrich and emu. The nozzles are made of galvanised steel and will not rust or break from use.

Each feeder requires a waratah and bucket (20 litre) which you supply. Larger drums can be used for the system but require additional brackets and waratahs.

The nozzle, either parallel for maize or spiral for wheat and barley, and a waratah mounting bracket are supplied.

Nozzles are \$26.25 each (please advise spiral or parallel) and brackets \$26.95 each. A full report will be published in the next issue of Flight.

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

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

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

Orders to:

Ducks Unlimited
P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland.

&c.

An Apocryphal Tale...

A group of goose biologists were meeting to put together an application for a \$100,000 Government grant to investigate the "V" formation of goose flight and answer the question of why one side of the "V" is always longer than the other side.

Alan, the consulting firm biologist, suggested: "I say we ask for \$200,000, and attempt to model the wind drag coefficients, record and map the ground topography and then predict potential updraft currents. Our internal CAD department can then produce 3D drawings of the predicted wing tip vortices. Then, our in-house publications department could produce a nice thick report full of charts and graphs."

Graham, the senior research biologist, cleared his throat and responded, "No, no! We only need \$150,000. We can train domesticated geese to fly in formations of equal length and then compare their relative fitness to wild geese. We can then publish the results in the Journal of Wildlife Management."

About then, Craig, the hardworking field

biologist stood up and headed for the door. "Where are you going?" the others asked. "I'm leaving" he replied, "I've heard enough. No one has to give me \$100,000 to find out that the reason one side of the "V" is longer is simply because there are more damn geese on that side!"

Wanted

Scaup & Shoveler

Contact:
Neil Hayes
P.O. Box 188
Carterton
(06)379 6692

Can You Help?

Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park would like to obtain pairs of the following for their new wetland: white swan, shoveler, scaup, grey or brown teal or any other native species of waterfowl.

Contact Gail (06)756 7624,
at Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park,
Inglewood.





The Rook

Introduced to New Zealand in 1862 the rook (*Corvus frugilegus frugilegus*) has slowly spread but is still confined to areas of Hawke's Bay, South Wairarapa and Canterbury. The main population of some 25,000 birds is found in the Bay and the remaining isolated groups would bring the total number to less than 30,000.

Large birds measuring 450 mm from beak to tail-tip, they are much larger than the magpie. Apart from featherless greyish skin around the face, rooks are totally black and both sexes are alike.

Rooks nest in the tops of tall trees in colonies containing hundreds of pairs and these are known as rookeries. (The rookeries are only used as nest sites and are deserted for winter roosts known as parishes.) The female builds the large untidy nest of twigs lined with grass, pine needles and mud from material supplied by her mate and the nest is used from year to year. Between one to seven pale bluish-green eggs covered with greyish-brown blotches are laid. After incubation the mortality rate is high with only one or two chicks from a clutch reaching fledgling stage.

Rooks prefer cultivated land and grazed pasture and feed on a wide range of insects and vegetable material. They are disliked by farmers because they eat newly sown seeds.

In 1971 rooks were the first bird in New Zealand to be declared Pests of Local Importance and Pest Destruction Boards poisoned more than 35,000 between 1971 and 1977.

Flight ECOFILE

THE TWELVE MOST DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

The UN Stockholm conference in May 2001 to sign the international Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants saw officials from 120 countries and a host of environmental and civil society groups gathered to celebrate the adoption of a treaty that will restrict a group of chemicals the United Nations has labelled the most dangerous. The convention will enter into force once ratified by 50 countries.

The chemicals, regarded as persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are:

Aldrin: A pesticide applied to kill pests in soil, aldrin can also kill birds, fish, and humans. The fatal dose for an adult human male is about five grams. Human's exposure to aldrin is mainly through dairy products and meat. Banned or severely restricted in many countries.

Chlordane: This broad-spectrum agricultural insecticide has a reported soil half-life of one year. Chlordane can kill mallard ducks, bobwhite quail, and pink shrimp. It may affect the human immune system and is classified as a possible human carcinogen. It is believed that human exposure occurs mainly through the air. Banned or severely restricted in dozens of countries.

DDT: Perhaps the most infamous of the POPs, after World War II, DDT continued to be used to control insects and disease, and is still used to control malaria. Up to 50 percent can remain in the soil 10-15 years after application. Because it has been used widely, DDT residues can be found everywhere, including the Arctic. Its best known toxic effect is eggshell thinning among birds. Food-borne DDT remains the greatest source of exposure for people. Long-term exposures in humans have been associated

with chronic health effects. DDT has been detected in breast milk, raising serious concerns about infant health. Banned or severely restricted in 68 countries.

Dieldrin: Used principally to control termites and textile pests as well as insect-borne diseases and agricultural pests. Its half-life in soil is approximately five years. The pesticide aldrin rapidly converts to dieldrin, so concentrations of dieldrin in the environment are higher than dieldrin use alone would indicate. Highly toxic to fish and other aquatic animals, dieldrin residues have been found in air, water, soil, fish, birds, and mammals, including humans. Food represents the primary source of exposure to the general population. It was the second most common pesticide detected in a US survey of pasteurised milk.

Dioxins: Produced through incomplete combustion, as well as during the manufacture of pesticides and other chlorinated substances, they are emitted mostly from the burning of hospital, municipal and hazardous waste, and also from automobile emissions, peat, coal, and wood. Of 75 different dioxins, seven are considered to be of concern. Food, particularly from animals, is the major source of exposure for humans.

Endrin: An agricultural insecticide and rodenticide persisting in the soil for up to 12 years. Highly toxic to fish. The primary route of exposure for the general human population is through food, although current dietary intake estimates are below the limits deemed safe by world health authorities.

Furans: Produced similarly to dioxins, and also during the production of PCBs, they have been detected in emissions from waste incinerators and automobiles. There are 135 different types of varying toxicity. Furans persist in the environment for long periods, and are classified as possible human carcinogens. Food, particularly animal products, is the major source of exposure for humans.

Heptachlor: Primarily used to kill soil insects and termites, heptachlor has also been used

more widely to kill crop pests and malaria mosquitoes. Believed to be responsible for the decline of wild bird populations like Canadian geese and American kestrels in the Columbia River Basin in the US. Heptachlor is a possible human carcinogen. Food is the major source of exposure for humans. Banned or severely restricted in 24 countries.

Hexachlorobenzene (HCB): Largely a fungicide and also a byproduct of the manufacture of certain industrial chemicals and as an impurity in several pesticides. In high doses, HCB is lethal to some animals and, at lower levels, adversely affects their reproductive success. HCB has been found in food of all types.

Mirex: An insecticide and fire retardant in plastics, rubber, and electrical goods. A possible human carcinogen and toxic to several plant species and to fish and crustaceans. One of the most stable and persistent pesticides, with a half-life of up to 10 years. Food is the main route of human exposure, particularly meat, fish and wild game.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs): Used in industry as heat exchange fluids, in electric transformers and capacitors, and as additives in paint, carbonless copy paper and plastics. Of the 209 different types of PCBs, 13 exhibit a dioxin-like toxicity. PCBs also suppress the human immune system and are probable human carcinogens.

Toxaphene: The most widely used pesticide in the US in 1975, up to 50 percent of a toxaphene release can persist in the soil for up to 12 years. For humans, the most likely source of toxaphene exposure is food. While the toxicity to humans of direct exposure is not high, toxaphene has been listed as a possible human carcinogen. Highly toxic to fish. Banned or severely restricted in 48 countries.

[Adapted from a UN Environment Programme Fact Sheet.]



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