

Flight

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2005

ISSUE 122



DUCKS UNLIMITED NEW ZEALAND INC.

For Wetlands and Waterfowl.



wetland care NEW ZEALAND

For further information, please contact:
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New Zealand, phone 04 478-4335.

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 in 1991 and has underwritten wetland development projects to a significant level. Extra 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 and organisations with similar aims. Alliances are being established with conservation groups like DOC, NZ Fish and Game, Forest and Bird and regional councils.

World Wetlands Day 2005 — 'There's wealth in wetland diversity - don't lose it'

The theme for World Wetlands Day 2005 is the cultural and biological diversity of wetlands.

The cultural and biological diversity of wetlands represents a natural wealth that sustains us both physically and emotionally. The diversity of wetland plant and animal life has provided sustenance as well as many other benefits for people. Unfortunately, people can misuse wetlands and cause loss and damage to the biological diversity - and at the same time to cultural diversity.

The day marks the date of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shore of the Caspian Sea. WWD was celebrated for the first time in 1997. Each year government agencies, non-governmental organisations and groups of citizens at all levels of the community have taken the opportunity to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits. From 1997 to 2004, the Ramsar

Convention's website has posted reports from more than 80 countries of WWD activities. These can include lectures and seminars, nature walks, children's art contests, sampan races and community clean-up days, radio and television interviews and newspaper reports, the launch of new wetland policies, new Ramsar sites and new programmes at a national level.

Please tell the Secretariat what you did on World Wetlands Day for the reports section of our WWD Web pages (www.ramsar.org). We would really appreciate all reports to be sent to us by May 2005. Photos, text and sample materials are all welcome (email to: ramsar@ramsar.org).

World Wetlands Day events in New Zealand will highlight some of the good practices and community initiatives happening around the country. A full list of events will be posted this month on the DOC website (www.doc.govt.nz).

From the Flight Desk

Where did 2004 go...does time whirr past so fast because we're overwhelmed with information, big and small news and too many urgent or terrible issues to think about, let alone deal with? 'Cultivate your garden,' said the French philosopher Voltaire. Maybe it's more satisfying, and ultimately more useful to the world, to look after our own small corners, spend time with family and friends, ask the questions and think for ourselves about the answers; trust our gut, follow our bliss and choose our causes. As a DU member you're doing that already. It's a small organisation, in conservation terms more like a terrier than a St Bernard...but guess the best ferret hunter!

Perhaps you know of a small corner where something good could happen to mark World Wetlands Day on 2 February. And please send us that brief report for Flight — of course you can do it by 13 February!

A happy, healthy, safe year to everyone.

Juliet Owen



INSIGHT

Ross Cottle
President

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz, we wonder where da boidies is?

Looking out on a tranquil pond full of the joys of spring's gifts, it's hard to imagine the unrelenting force and destruction the same water forced on members and their families during the last year.

Mother Nature at her worst and best!

Perhaps now is a time for reflection on not only the water but the utter joy that spring brings to our waterways. The anticipation of long-awaited cygnets, the continual checking of nest sites, the robbing of eggs to gently tuck under clucky bantams, the laying of predator traps and the hundreds of holes dug for tree planting are all part of the joy of developing our home pond.

While we sit with our morning coffee delighting in the arrival of another batch of ducklings gingerly brought out to feed, we count our blessings that our country is in relative peace. We truly do live in a paradise, a fact that among all our busy schedules and family demands, we must find time to secure for our future. As DU members we have made the commitment to do such. Your support by supporting our dinners, raffles and shoots allows us to look forward with the brightness spring brings.

A drive around the valley viewing DU sites gives a great sense of pride in members' vision and commitment to wetland care and development. May the vision continue, may the joy of spring be shared by you all. My thanks to the Board for their continued courage and integrity, their knowledge and guiding support.

The demands of copy deadlines require that I put pen to paper far earlier than your receipt of Flight, so looking forward, on behalf of Sharon and myself I hope that Christmas was good to you all and the New Year will include some resolutions including wetland care.

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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.

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Cover photograph: Grey duck, photo by Chris Thomas

DEADLINE for Flight 123: 13 February



OUR People

Rachael Mitchell – a new DU Board member

I moved to NZ from the UK seven years ago and two years later married Andrew. We are both fishing and hunting enthusiasts and Andrew has been a member of DU for nearly a decade. We are also both passionate deer farmers and Andrew is currently Chairman of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association.

We farm in partnership, on a 160ha property 20 minutes south of Rotorua. We are running an English Deer stud, with a velvet, breeding and finishing operation, selling stud stock to the industry and carrying a couple of hundred sheep to keep ragwort down. We have a very picturesque property, which was pretty run-down when we bought it a year ago. After re-fencing and building a sale shed we are now starting to focus on the less tangible aspects of the farm — like wetland development. The property had numerous dams on it which were all silted up when Ruapehu dumped four inches of ash over the farm in 1996. Despite this we regularly see shoveler, greys, parries and, of course, mallards. There have probably been over 30 ducklings successfully raised this year alone, so with the prospective developments we expect greater numbers.

I have had an interest in birds since I was very young — my grandmother bought me membership of the junior RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) in the UK and my love of birds has stemmed from that. With taking part in the duckshooting season and working on the land, my understanding of wetlands has increased 10-fold over the last seven years. We put in a small half-acre wetland at our previous property in Masterton, but the opportunities on our new property are immense.

For my contribution to DU, I hope to help spread the message about the organisation around the farming sector. Most farmers see DU (if they know about it at all) in the same light as Fish and Game or Forest and Bird. Many believe that any alliance with DU will end up with their wetlands being sequestered to the organisation,



and the cessation of shooting on them. Farmers have the land, and therefore the ability, to create, maintain and repair wetlands. From a farmer perspective, wetlands are coming into fashion now, with regional councils all developing their water and land plans. The value of large and small wetlands as filtration devices is being realised by those not formerly in the know. I would like to see DU there advising, helping — and thriving.

Dennis Handyside

Dennis farms in the South Wairarapa and has been a member since the late 1980s. He was born in Christchurch and grew up in North Canterbury, gaining University Entrance at college.

His career has always been farming and apart from that his interests include fishing, woodwork and travel. He and his artist wife Andrée have three sons, one of whom is now managing the farm.

In the 80s Dennis realised the importance of maintaining some original wetland when the surrounding area, on the eastern edge of Lake Wairarapa, was being drained in a group scheme. He undertook to return Home Lagoon to its original state. When work started the wetland was similar to the way it looks now, but part of a much wider wetland and lake area.

At a cost of about \$15,000 the development was funded by the Handysides, DU and Norman Marsh. Many DU members were involved, particularly Jim Campbell and Ted Hansen with their two bulldozers. Jim and Ted created two large islands in the shape of D and U, which look spectacular from the air (see cover photograph, last issue). The water source is the Ruamahanga River and the wetland covers some 30 acres in one pond, the depth varying from .6m in winter down to a summer level of .2m. The



wetland is stockproof with a three-wire electric fence but is strategically grazed.

The area had no trees in its original state and Dennis hasn't planted any apart from encouraging cabbage trees.

Home Lagoon provides habitat for various duck, swan, Canada geese, dabchick, bittern and the occasional glossy ibis.

Dennis doesn't have a predator-control programme as the Wellington Regional Council is diligent in the area.

DU Business

At the October Board meeting Graham Gurr was nominated to the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board.

DU has offered to help with the Kapiti District Council's restoration of the Waikanae sewage ponds, which are being retired and transformed into wetlands again. It will be a longterm project but very worthwhile and interesting.

DU will also fund the purchase of a portable incubator for the Whio Recovery Group, and we can now report that the directors have accepted Jim Law's son Antony Griffin's offer to upgrade the DU website. Before very long you will have a smart new virtual webbed presence to promote the feathered kind!

DU Raffle results

- 1st: John Sayers
- 2nd: B. Eldridge
- 3rd: Wairarapa Diesel Services
- 4th: Ross and Alice Hood
- 5th: B.Conwell
- 6th: Max Voss
- 7th: David Smith
- 8th: R. Murray
- 9th G.Berry
- 10th: J.and L. Reed

Another winning ticket sold by Alan Wilks, and another medal to Joyce Brooks who sold 60 books of tickets this time — what a star!

Mainland News

Announcing the impending inaugural dinner for a Nelson Chapter, the first to be established in the South Island. We hope this exciting event will be held in late March or early April. Please contact the President if you are interested — suggestions welcomed (contact details on page 3).

DU welcomes these new members:

Steve Whittington, Wellington
 Anthony Griffin, Wellington
 William Biber, Martinborough
 John Maulder, Masterton
 Wayne Douglas, Auckland
 Joseph Staiger, Kaitaia

Chapter Reports

Auckland

The Auckland Chapter held a most rewarding field trip early in September. The day started with a visit to Bruce and Angela Spooner's Coatesville property the Mincher Estate (see cover photo, Flight 119). We viewed a young but extensive garden interspersed with a series of ponds. This tranquil property will only become more beautiful with time.

From here we moved down the road to Jim and Faye Nilssons' property Twin Lakes. Faye told us a little of its history before an excellent BBQ lunch. Jim later showed us around the spectacular property, which includes mature trees and gardens surrounding the lakes. We viewed an exciting array of exotic and native waterfowl plus other interesting birds and animals including some extremely inquisitive ostriches! We were very impressed with Jim and Faye's efforts to breed so many waterfowl species, some of which can be difficult, and it has called on innovation and experimentation. This is possibly the most extensive range of waterfowl species in one collection in the country. After the tour there was a talk by Greg Hoskins, Auckland Regional Council's bio-security officer for the South West Rodney area, on predator-control methods and techniques. Afternoon tea concluded this most rewarding day.

A month later on Saturday 2 October the Auckland Chapter held its dinner and auction at the Papatoetoe Cosmopolitan

Club. Auctioneer Shane Prince was in top form keeping the bidding keen and active and with good humour. A wide range of auction items unique to DU was available to the 50-plus people who attended. Next year's Auckland dinner-auction will be the National AGM and Conference in July 2005. We look forward to seeing you there.

— *Chris Bindon*

Manawatu

We will be hosting the Wairarapa Chapter on a wetland tour in early February in the Pohangina Valley area (Gordon Pilon country) with lunch at the Waterford Café.

The Chapter's annual sporting clay target shoot will be held on the second Sunday in March.

— *Neil Candy*

Wairarapa

The annual dinner was held at the Solway Park Motor Lodge on 11 September with 60 members and friends attending. Our local hero Alan Jury along with other local members had managed once again to procure for us a vast array of goods for the silent auction and bucket raffle.

Longtime local auctioneer Dermot Fitzgerald successfully extracted every last dollar from us. A great night was had by all, raising \$4500 for waterfowl.

The Sporting Clay Shoot was held on 31 October at Roger Smailes' Te Whiti property. A team led by Jim Campbell set

up the course on a very wet and windy Saturday but Sunday dawned a beautiful sunny day without a breath of wind. About 60 Shooters turned up and were presented with a variety of interesting targets to test all levels of ability. The winners on the day were:

High Gun: Jo Bannister

Ladies Section: Di Pritt

Junior Section: Phil Hooper

Once again the Chapter Challenge was fought with great gusto, resulting in an extremely tight finish, sadly, for the Wairarapa members! The final score was 412-411. Our sincere thanks to Roger for the generous use of his scenic property. Thanks also to the Blue Rock Gun Club for the use of their traps, to Gail Reid and Ngaire Morris for their secretarial work and master chef Geoff Reid who made a superb job of cooking Matt Paku's paua donation. The overwhelming amount of feedback reported a well-run, exciting shoot with a great atmosphere. We raised \$1600 and after that response the event will be repeated in 2005 — don't miss out!

— *Ross Cottle*



Projects

Wetland Care

There is only one application in the pipeline at present. Perhaps the weather problems of the past year have diverted thoughts of wetland development for a lot of people. We welcome your proposals at any time.

Royal swan

So far we have moved two pairs and several males. This season appears to have been a good breeding season with lots of reported eggs, let's hope for good results. A serious vote of thanks to Ross Cottle and Jim Campbell for moving some of these birds, and again to Anne who continues to do far more than we could hope for.

— *William Abel*

See page 9 for Ossie Latham's Banrock Wines/Wetland Care tour report — Ed.

Pateke

The five-year draft plan is completed and been circulated for comment.

The May 2004 release at Moehou/Port Charles remains promising, with 84% survival rate to date. This is probably better than most expected or hoped for. Three road kill and two predations are the reasons for the deaths.

Five nests hatched to date, a mix of this and last year's released and wild birds. At least two more nests to come. Slowly but surely another sustainable population is being established.

The breeding season at Mimiwhangata is fair. It was a relatively dry spring and the summer does not promise to be any better.

The Great Barrier (Aotea) breeding season is poor and duckling survival likely to be equally poor. It has been a dry and windy spring on the Barrier which seems to have affected overall results.

Kevin Evans reports that the captive-breeding season is looking good with clutches of eggs and ducklings on the go.

On 27 and 28 October a site visit was made to Okiwi, Great Barrier, by Nigel Millar (DOC Whangarei), Bruce Willoughby (Entomologist for MAF Ag Research) and Ossie Latham (DU), local DOC staff and farmers. Discussions covered best practice methods for grazing, fertiliser requirements and effects, wetland habitat enhancement and predator control to aid pateke populations in the Okiwi basin. Bruce Willoughby did invertebrate assessments in an effort to identify food sources and levels.

As part of the visit, a public meeting was held where DOC updated the Great Barrier community on the aims and aspirations for pateke in the area and how the community can contribute. DOC also canvassed residents' views on future priorities for pateke conservation.

Banrock Station Wines has committed to \$21,000 through Wetland Care New Zealand to support next year's release of pateke at the Moehou site.

— *Ossie Latham*

Neil Hayes reports that the big pateke family at Gretel Lagoons (see Flight 120) are all well, except that one of the males has decided to 'pair' with his sister and is causing a bit of aggro. Neil planned to extract the 'pair' and place them in a vacant aviary. Their mother is currently sitting again.

Whio

So far we have 14 ducklings hatched around the country – five at Auckland Zoo, two with Jim Campbell; Peacock Springs has four and Orana Wildlife Park three. We still have a few clutches to go so the end total could be quite good. They will be released on to Egmont.

The Flora Stream release did not work out and all the birds left were brought back into captivity. The main problem was lack of food. This could be because of the floods in the last year, or there is not enough food in the stream to maintain them.

On Egmont the early release did not work out due to lack of food caused by the flooding, so they were brought back in, too. A few birds from the second release died from starvation and one was brought back in, but the others seem to be doing okay. We are hoping that we do not have floods for the next release.

The Recovery Group meeting was a busy four days, held at the Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre on the edge of Tongariro National Park. On the first day 10 extra people came to a stake-holders' meeting where we did an overview of whio around the country.

The Technical Review has taken place with four people travelling around the country talking to DOC staff and reading up on whio documents. A report and recommendations will follow, which the Recovery Group and review team will study.

From this we hope for more resources to help bring whio back from the brink of extinction.

— *Peter Russell*



Roundups:

Nic Peet, Wanganui

To date on the Manganui-a-te-ao we have 29 chicks on the river from eight pairs, one pair still sitting and a couple of failures. Duckling mortality is much reduced this year (so far). Outside the study area a further four to five pairs with eight ducklings have a bit more river to look at, and Nic Ethbridge is monitoring some pairs in Central North Island, to give a better picture of the region. Like others most birds are about a month behind on last year but expect first birds to fledge around Christmas. Caught our first ferret recently.

Andy Glaser, Opotiki

The season is about a month behind and the ducklings have just been hatching. We are monitoring 36 pairs and now have 39 ducklings from 10 of them in both our treatment and non-treatment areas. I hope you all have some success and Mother Nature treats you kind!

Nic Ethbridge Tongariro/Taupo

We have had a delayed season by two weeks. We are monitoring 32 pairs and keeping an eye on 21 singles. Have more than 25 ducklings on the water (it changes every day). We have lost one nest on the Whakapapa from suspected predation. The female has disappeared. Interestingly her male has adopted a paradise duckling. Genesis is monitoring the Tongariro and banding this season, which we'll be helping with. We already know of a pair with five ducklings. I am looking forward to spending some time on the Tongariro. We are surveying 54 rivers in the conservancy this summer using volunteers and businesses. It's a mammoth project but heaps of fun, lots of five-day survey trips into the Kaimanawas - I know where I'll be over the summer!

We hope you all had a good holiday over the Christmas period.

DU welcomes a distinguished visitor

On 14 November a group of DU personnel met retired CEO of DU Canada Stu Morrison and his wife Pat at the Wairio Wetlands in South Wairarapa, for an overview of the planned project. We then moved down the valley to Jim Law's farm for a brief meeting, where Stu presented a cheque to DU, from the Conservation Education Bahamas Ltd Trust of which he is a trustee. The trust's generous and unexpected donation is worth approximately NZ\$5000.

We took advantage of Stu's experience and made him answer some pertinent questions regarding wetland conservation, then had a trip up Palliser Ridge on Jim's farm for a view of Palliser Bay. The photograph shows one of the usual perfect, calm days the area enjoys...

Later in Masterton other local DU members joined the group for dinner.

— *William Abel*



A gentle breeze over Palliser Bay. LtoR Julie Candy, Pat Morrison, Ross Cottle, Stu Morrison, Chris Thomas, Jim Law, Neil Candy.



*The President receives a gift from Stu Morrison.
Photos: William Abel.*

Bill Barrett Award

This trophy was established in 1984 by Australian Life Member Bill Barrett, to be awarded annually to the DU member who, in the opinion of the DU Board of Directors, has done most during the year to promote the aims and objectives of Ducks Unlimited. It is in the form of a carved blue duck mounted on a kauri base and recipients' names have been engraved on the trophy. It was presented for the first time to Jack Worth at the 1984 annual meeting.

Peacock Springs curator of birds Anne Richardson was the 2004 recipient of this important award for her work in waterfowl conservation. As William Abel explains, 'From a DU perspective she has been a wonderful advocate, breeder and organiser for mute swan and is now actively involved with the pateke and blue duck breeding schemes. Her activities with swan went way beyond her paid activities at Peacock Springs and she has assisted in the raising of substantial funding for wetlands over the years.'

Here Anne describes her work, and her passion for the birds she cares for:

I have been in this industry for 13 years now, serving my apprenticeship at Orana Park for 10 years. Like all new gaga keepers, I thought big cats and smelly but cute primates was where it was at. It took me a few years to realise that the real challenge lay with birds and then with reptiles. It was hard enough to keep them alive, let alone get them to breed. Then I got the passion for designing the furniture in enclosures, making it look more like home, which made my success rate increase.

The disappointing side was the lack of general public interest in birds — that was when I saw the need to do more. Lady Isaac gave me the perfect opportunity and 13 years later we are still doing it and doing it well. Peacock Springs is a private institution with no public access, with excellent resources and a passionate crew where I can go mad and do what I love.

I do have one other love in my life — my dogs. I have bred, shown and raced Alaskan malamutes for about 20 years now and still have four. My 'kids' and I are in semi-retirement now and spend most of our time as couch potatoes in my little old cottage out at Hororata, 50km west of Christchurch.

— *Anne Richardson*



'Where's Christchurch again, Anne?'

(William adds: the information flow is not all one-sided — having now worked with DU for some years Anne has discovered that New Zealand actually has another large island, and she is now equipped with a map showing all the important parts of it. He called her one day but she was away getting a feed of mealworms... as he says, we would really like to know if they are best on toast, or if she prefers some other way of eating them. Very odd people, those South Islanders...)

A film-making odyssey

By Chris Thomas

Born in Derbyshire, Chris grew up in the UK, attended schools in England and Wales and completed his tertiary education in New Zealand. He has been a DU member for over 20 years.

His working life has been associated with the sea and wildlife, spanning commercial fishing, the Royal Navy and the Royal Research Ship Discovery II. An Outward Bound instructor in the UK and Australia, Chris also worked for the Fisheries and Wildlife divisions of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, and was a member of the Australian National Antarctic, British Museum and Harold Hall expeditions.

Chris has done fisheries research with the Marine Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and NIWA, and has made documentaries on science and wildlife subjects for the BBC, the CBC in Canada and the NZ National Film Unit.

His interests include sailing, gliding, duck and clay bird shooting, natural history books and, of course, photography.

We were sitting on the verandah of Di Pritt's house, enjoying a late breakfast on the opening day of the duck season when I decided that instead of thinking and talking about it, I should get on and do it — make a film about waterfowl, that is.

I had had the idea in mind for a while, mainly because I felt that most duck hunters were, to a great extent, quite unaware of many interesting aspects concerning the natural history of the quarry that they so avidly pursued. Also there was no other film available concerning New Zealand's waterfowl.

The first idea was for a video identification guide of the various species. On reflection I decided that a more interesting and instructive story could be made about the association of each with a wetland or, at least, a particular part of it. By extension this led to the values of wetland, the different wetland types and details of this country's Ramsar sites.

My work with NIWA and various other scientific organisations had involved me in film-making and I already had a disparate collection of film footage - some of it concerning various bird species. However NIWA was not involved with waterfowl and so I had to produce this film on my own.

As with any project, time and money were the essential requirements and at the time these assets were accounted for by my glider-flying interest. So the next obvious step was to sell the glider. This I did, but not without some regrets. So there was now some money and more time for filming waterfowl, though by no means enough of either to complete the programme.

Wildlife film-making can be a frustrating business and there were many setbacks. The camera hide was lost in a wetland flood, precious footage was spoiled when my van went over a hidden drain in a paddock and the back flew off the 16mm camera exposing 400 feet of irreplaceable film to daylight. There were the inevitable times when sound recordings were interrupted by a chainsaw starting up or a farm bike audible in the distance.

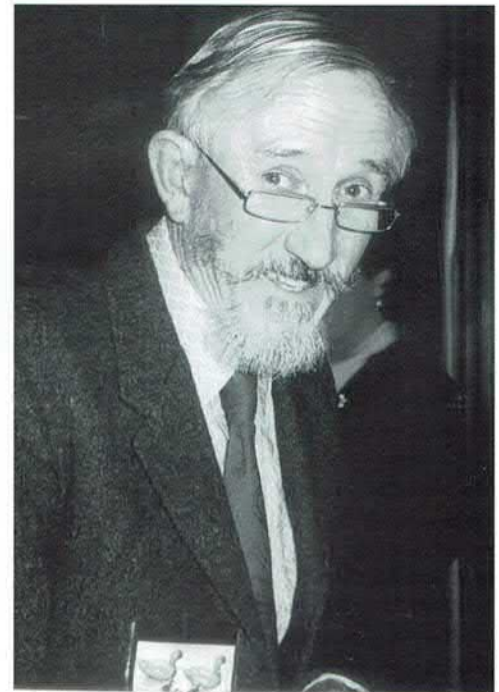
On an expedition to the Auckland Islands the huts containing all my camera equipment and field gear were totally destroyed by fire, leaving me with nothing but what I stood up in. This happened to be a set of khaki overalls and a pair of white gumboots. Fortunately the vessel bringing the relieving party to the island was anchored close by and a return to Bluff was organised without delay. At least I was appropriately dressed for the vessel's arrival at the wharf!

After a long delay I was able to replace the camera gear and continue filming.

At the same time I was making approaches to various organisations that might be interested in putting money into the production. This, I thought, would be an ideal advocacy programme for the Gamebird Habitat Trust which was set up to administer the funds collected through the habitat stamp attached to each hunting licence. Unfortunately, despite several approaches to the Fish and Game Council, no contribution was forthcoming.

However, a meeting with Alan Wilks, then President of Ducks Unlimited, met with a much more encouraging reception. Alan has a distinguished career in radio, film and television and could see what I was trying to do. 'Write a proposal,' he said, 'and I will present it at the next Board meeting'. I attended the meeting, showed some of the footage I had collected so far and was duly granted some very welcome funding. Now at least, I thought, someone besides myself has faith in the project.

Filming continued and I covered locations from Mimiwhangata in Northland for the brown teal footage to the southern tip of the South Island where I found myself back again at Bluff. I hoped that this time the circumstances of my visit would be happier - and so it proved. Near the Waituna wetlands which lie to the east of the Comalco aluminium smelter, I had a serendipitous meeting with a



bittern. This species had so far eluded me; but while travelling back from the alpine gardens, which are a feature of this Ramsar wetland site, one appeared on the track ahead. Seemingly unconcerned it was busy searching for the frogs and insects on which it feeds and I was able to capture some good footage.

I got the truck stuck in the braided rivers of the McKenzie Country while filming black fronted terns, was marooned over a high tide at Farewell Spit while filming waders and spent eight days trying to film a shooter bagging a mallard.

Without exception I received great help while filming and in the field, both from DOC and from individuals whose knowledge of waterfowl locations and behaviour was to prove invaluable.

Later, on the advice of Murray Williams, I approached the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust. Both they and the Eastern and Central Community Trust helped to meet some of the considerable expenses of the film.

The post-production of the programme is all the work that has to be done after the filming is complete and probably comprises two thirds of the work. It involves the editing, titling and composition of any graphics, recording the commentary, laying and mixing the soundtrack, composition of music and finally the transfer of the finished film to a master video tape. This last phase was delayed for almost a year while all the available technical expertise was

busy completing the last episode of 'Lord of the Rings'. Why they should have given priority to this production I cannot think! I will end with a brief quiz:

Which of our wetlands are Ramsar sites and where are they situated?

What is a string bog and where are most string bogs found?

How many years may a black swan live?

What is the difference between a stoat and a weasel? To say that a stoat is stoatally obvious and a weasel weasely distinguished is not the correct answer.

What bird exhibits busking behaviour?

If you wish to know the answer to these and other questions concerning waterfowl, you should buy the video. Send your order with a cheque for \$49 per copy, plus \$4 postage, to:

Scientific and Wildlife Films, 11 Hanover Street, Wadestown, Wellington.

Phone/Fax 04 472 8147, email: c.thomas@paradise.net.nz



Male shoveller. Photo: Chris Thomas.

Wetland Care New Zealand and Banrock Station Wines Tour 11-15 October 2004

By Ossie Latham

To start the week, Tony Sharley of Banrock Station Wines, Shona Myers and Tim Lovegrove of the Auckland Regional Council and Ossie Latham visited Shakespeare Park wetland on the Whangaparoa Peninsula, north of Auckland.

The wetland is about 10ha in area, at the end of the peninsula. It is close to the sea with saline conditions on the eastern fringe and substantial urban development on the southern and western edges.

The site was originally developed as farmland. Some development of the swampland has begun, however there is potential to expand this at low cost. The watertable is high.

Most of the feeder gullies to the farmland on the north-eastern boundary are fenced off and reforestation is well on the way. A community group has been established and they have started planting native species.

Smaller local strains of flax are planted with other low-profile natives along the wetland edges to provide shelter and some protection for wetland birds, and to allow visitors to view the birds with minimal disturbance. Larger strains are used in the centre for major shelter and narrow corridors radiate out in places to create vistas for visitors.

The next stop was the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary Wellington, which is a real credit to all who have made it happen. The Sanctuary is developing into a New Zealand leader in ecotourism. Nigel our guide was thoroughly professional and entertaining and his enthusiasm was infectious. It was great to see pateke thriving in Wellington and the wildlife is easily seen. The weta accommodation was interesting, made from a limb of cypress (it seems that wetas dislike *pinus radiata*) cut in half longitudinally, with little apartments routed out on one face with a small hole facing out in one corner. Clear plastic is attached to the face of the log, with the other portion hinged to close over it. The apartments were full, and fascinating.

The development and sale of Karori Sanctuary products in their shop is the best I have seen, and they are well-advanced in developing and managing predator fencing. Photographer John Shorland has developed technology that captures incredibly fast movement, with stunning results.

Day three started at the Travis Wetland in Christchurch. This is a wonderful, relatively undeveloped 120ha site near the city. What an asset! Our hosts were Chrissie

Williams and Eric Banks of the Travis Wetland Trust and Christchurch City Ranger John Skilton.

The Travis Wetland was originally farmland. It was saved from urban development when the City Council bought some of the site in 1994 and 1997. It is ideal swampland with acres of opportunity to create wonderful areas for wetland birds.

The Travis Trust has erected a stylish building where they display the history and future plans for the wetland. They have developed an excellent brochure, the Travis Field Guide, soon to be published.

Our discussions ranged over the killing of unwanted and noxious plants, predator control and future development. The 'Travis method' of handling unwanted willows is worth considering. In the spring they identify and mark female trees which they poison later in the season. Male trees are left as shelter and shade for the new natives underplanted. It is a longterm, less labour-intensive system, which has the benefit of nursing native plants and reducing the spread of noxious weeds into open areas.

As the wetland is bounded by housing, the control of feral and domestic cats has to be considered — feral cats are considered to be more of a problem.

Later we visited Peacock Springs where it was a privilege to be shown around by Anne Richardson. Peacock Springs is unique in that they are successfully captive-breeding seven of New Zealand's most endangered species. The lakes are wonderful, the water copious and pure, the birdlife and fish (trout and salmon) contented. The aviaries are tidy and large. Anne's knowledge and commitment is an asset to Peacock Springs and the various captive-breeding programmes.

On day four we were hosted in Dunedin by Rebecca Reid of the QELL Trust. Rebecca took us to Brent and Robyn Gardner's property out of Balclutha on the way to Owaka. Brent and Robyn took time

out from tailing their lambs to show us some of their covenanted wetlands. They are typical South Otago style, flax-dominated wetlands with high quality water and surrounded by rich farmland. Nearby, several large wetland areas were infested by willows and waiting for clearance and fencing, some owned by Brent and some by DOC. The magnitude of riparian fencing was well illustrated here with 6km of stream to fence. Brent is willing, but time and money is a constant pressure.

Continued on page 14...



Lake Waikare - progress of sorts

On 23 November the Lake Waikare Care group, of which DUNZ is a member, heard two interesting research presentations. Scott Stephens and Mary de Winton, both of NIWA [the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research], presented a paper entitled 'Rehabilitation of Lake Waikare: Experimental investigations of the potential benefits of water level drawdown'. The question their research sought to answer was whether, if the water level was dropped, the exposed lake bed would have an aquatic plant seedbank which would germinate and re-establish aquatic plants that would survive after the level was returned to its usual level. The difficulty is the light climate in the water. If it remains as turbid as it is now, would the plants be able to cope once established?

Lake drawdown has been used successfully overseas to restore the light climate and submerged vegetation in shallow lakes. Environment Waikato contacted NIWA to assess the potential effectiveness of this process.

Lakebed sediment was transferred to concrete troughs, where it was drained and exposed for periods of up to six months over summer. The troughs were re-wetted after exposure and the resistance of the sediment to re-suspension was measured. The 38-page report's summary stated that:

'Our conclusion based on the present study and that of Reeves et al (2002) is that lake drawdown does not provide the sole answer for the rehabilitation of Lake Waikare. The study has demonstrated that drawdown does hold some benefits for the lake, and could form part of the rehabilitation process. But it is our opinion that the number and scale of the problems the lake suffers (eg koi carp, large wind/wave fetch, hyper-eutropic) make it a poor candidate for rehabilitation.'

In the presentation it was clear that the plant that could most likely be re-established was *egeria densa*, an oxygen weed which does not produce seed but which excludes seed-producing native plants. It is transferred by wildfowl and could defeat any attempt to stabilise the lake bed unless the water clarity is very much improved. Unless an

effective flushing of the lake can be achieved, that is a very remote possibility.

Dr Nick Kim, an environmental chemist with Environment Waikato, presented the second paper. What he and his team have discovered is that there are high levels of mercury occurring naturally in the lake. This appears to be coming from a volcanic vent near Sulphur Island and has been building up in the lake bed since its creation. The levels appearing in eels and fish are not of concern as they are well below recommended levels, but the levels in the lake bed may now be inhibiting plant growth as mercury interferes with photosynthesis.

The third factor of interest is that the turbidity of the lake may be more due to the lake bed than the effect of the silt in the Matahura Stream. There is some anecdotal evidence to support this theory and the scientists will now conduct tests to establish this one way or the other.

In summary then, our knowledge of the lake is growing as is our appreciation of the size of the problem. The only thing clear is that any solution to the problems at Lake Waikare will have to be radical and unique.

— David Smith

Terrible truth about the disappearing birds

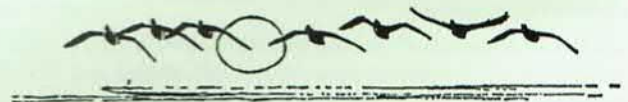
Richard Kingsford recalls surveying Australia by air in the 1980s for waterbirds, flying over flocks of ducks, swans and pelicans so thick they were like clouds below the Cessna.

But nearly a quarter of a century since the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service embarked on its annual waterbird count, Dr Kingsford has discovered a terrible truth: the birds are disappearing.

Dr Kingsford, principal research scientist with the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, said they had not gone elsewhere. They were dead. Annually for the past 22 years the National Parks and Wildlife Service has surveyed nearly 2000 wetlands across four states and almost half the continent, ranging from alpine swamps, coastal estuaries and ephemeral desert lakes.

The survey involves 100 hours of flying at heights of as low as 50 metres above the waterways, counting as many as a million birds representing 50 different species. It is one of the largest and longest-running wildlife surveys in the world.

Between 1982 and 1990, following one of the worst droughts in the nation's history, the survey team averaged 850,000 birds during each survey. In the 1990s the average fell to 400,000. Now it is half that. 'The five lowest years we have had for waterbirds have all occurred since 1998,' Dr Kingsford said. Drought alone did not account for such a big collapse in the nation's waterbird numbers. 'What we are doing is imposing more and more artificial droughts on our rivers,' he said.



Of particular concern to Dr Kingsford is that the Macquarie Marshes, one the country's icon wetlands, located north of Dubbo, has been starved because water that would naturally flow into the swamp is now mostly stored for irrigation. The annual aerial survey covers 30-40% of the Macquarie Marshes. In the 1980s the study counted an average of 30,000 birds and up to 26 species in this northern part of the wetland. This fell to 7000 in the 1990s. Since 2000 it has averaged 1000 birds. And, this year the team counted fewer than 20 waterbirds of only six species.

'It wouldn't just be waterbirds that are collapsing,' Dr Kingsford said. 'We know red gums are dying. If people were actually monitoring changes in native fish species, other floodplain eucalypts and frogs I am quite sure the same changes would be happening across the ecological spectrum and over a vast area of our continent. Our past is catching up with us in a big way.'

The good news is that coastal wetlands seem to be faring better than some inland ones. 'They still seem to be going through their boom-and-bust periods,' Dr Kingsford said. But many of the birds seen near the ocean, such as black swans and pelicans, began their lives in the desert, and eventually, he fears, waterbird populations will fall in coastal areas as well.

Sydney Morning Herald, 6 November 2004

From www.wetlandcare.com.au 30 November 2004

The Peter Scott Medal — a New Zealander recognised

Christchurch botanist David Given is the first New Zealand recipient of the Peter Scott Medal for conservation merit. Named after Sir Peter Scott, the International Conservation Union medals have been presented since 1988.

David Given is the Christchurch City Council's botanical services curator and associate professor at Lincoln University's Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation. He has spent about 30 years working on international plant conservation and has also worked on three threatened species recovery teams for DOC. He has also helped formulate a global strategy on biodiversity. So far, 186 countries have agreed to contribute to 16 worldwide conservation targets by 2010.

Given said it was important to involve people who did not think they had a contribution to make to conservation. For example, he was working with a local farmer with a piece of land he called a 'bad bog' because his stock got mired in it. After Given identified a very rare plant species in it, the farmer started referring to it as 'the good bog'.



'If we're very quiet we might see Peter Scott!'
Cartoon by the late Norman Thelwell.

'It's exciting to see people changing,' Given said. People had to face the reality of endangered biodiversity, but if the message was too stark they could end up 'shrugging their shoulders and saying "I can't do anything about it"', he said. 'People react to a thing they call hope.'

From the Christchurch Press, 25 November 2005.

2004 Red List of endangered species released

The World Conservation Union released its annual Red List of endangered species at its November conference in Bangkok. The list adds five species to the 'extinct' category and names 200 more as 'possibly extinct'. A further 3000 are 'critically endangered' and almost 16,000 are listed as 'threatened'. The list is compiled by 8000 scientists from around the world and is regarded as the most authoritative statement of the Earth's biodiversity.

The IUCN World Conservation Union billed the eight-day Bangkok convention as one of the biggest environmental meetings in history.

'This sends a very powerful message that conservation is not a marginal issue in the year 2004,' said Achim Steiner, Director-General of the Geneva-based organisation. 'Despite all our efforts in the conservation community and in governments, we have not really succeeded in stemming the loss of species, Steiner said. 'And the list is just the number we have been able to assess so far.'

The prognosis is not good.

Threats to the environment from rapid economic and population growth — a major issue in Asia, home to half of humanity — also featured prominently at the forum, which included big business. Multinationals such as oil giants BP and Royal Dutch/Shell, mining conglomerate Rio Tinto and insurer Swiss Re were present, reflecting the growing prominence of green issues in the boardroom.

'There has definitely been a shift in the big corporations, who now realise the importance of biodiversity,' said an IUCN spokesman. 'Most big business now incorporates this as part of strategic planning.'

The theme of the Bangkok meeting was 'People and Nature — only one world', to emphasise that conservation and the environment should not be at the expense of human development, and vice versa. Founded in 1948, the IUCN is the world's largest conservation organisation, bringing together more than 80 governments, over 800 non-governmental organisations and 10,000 scientists and experts from 180 countries.

From The Melbourne Age, 27 November 2004 and www.planetark.org 17 November 2004

World living beyond its environmental means

The world is consuming some 20 percent more natural resources a year than the planet can produce, says the World Wildlife Fund. The Swiss-based organisation called on governments to move rapidly to restore the ecological balance.

'We are running up an ecological debt which we will not be able to pay off,' Dr Claude Martin, Director-General of WWF International, said in a statement. In its 'Living Planet Report 2004', the fifth in a series, the WWF said that between 1970 and 2000, populations of marine and terrestrial species fell 30%. That of freshwater species declined 50%.

'This is a direct consequence of increasing human demand for food, fibre, energy and water,' it said. '...humans consume 20% more natural resources than the earth can produce.'

What WWF calls the 'ecological footprint' — the amount of productive land needed on average worldwide to sustain one person — currently stood at 5.43 acres.

But the earth had only 4.45 acres per head - based on the planet's estimated 11.3 billion hectares or 27.9 billion acres of productive land and sea space, divided between its 6.1 billion people.

The fastest-growing component of the footprint was energy use, which had risen by 700% between 1961 and 2001. North Americans were consuming resources at a particularly fast rate, with an ecological footprint that was twice as big as that of Europeans and seven times that of the average Asian or African, WWF said.

From www.planetark.com 22 October 2004



(Waterfowl)/People Management

A report by Wairarapa member Howard Egan, who says of this heading, 'It is people who need to be influenced or managed to retain and replace habitat.'

It has been my habit (see Flight 93 and 104) following trips abroad, to write of those experiences from the viewpoint of a wetlands enthusiast. I would like to add to Neil Hayes' interesting description of some UK wetland centres (see Flight 120) after our two-week tour to Northern Italy via London and Singapore.

A staunch Anglophile, I have always admired the 'green' of London – the commons and the parks. Centuries of town planning. Our hotel was at Sussex Gardens, right beside Hyde Park in the centre of London. Continual streams of cars, people everywhere -- but a mute swan flying overhead en route to the Thames. The ambience was such that the swan did not seem out of place. Similarly, during the same taxi wait, a group of three Canada geese flew over well in range. A protected and managed environment.

The superb London Wetland Centre at Barnes. Surely the ultimate for a wetland/waterfowl lover. It was there that we noticed the quality of the European mallard as compared to what we have at home. Bright, clear-cut colours in both sexes, prominent white collars in the drakes. It was springtime, so we were looking at best breeding plumage — but I don't think that accounted for the difference. Possibly in New Zealand we have inbreeding from an originally limited gene pool. Alternatively, a result of grey duck hybridising?

My strong interest in the waterfowl species made the Wetland Centre visits to Barnes and Slimbridge very important to me. Several sightings of scarce or early endangered and now recovered species drove home to me the absolutely vital role in education and advocacy performed by a well-run wetland centre. For the same reason I am a strong supporter of the modern zoo park, and in the New Zealand context, the recent game preserves. Our trip to Brescia, in northern Italy, was to spend several days at the Italian Gun Show – the second biggest in the world. I kept returning to the Hunting Tourism stand, watching videos and leafing through photograph albums. The good wildfowling appears to be in northern Europe, but I was disturbed at the apparently large bags being taken.

In fact, in New Zealand we talk loosely about 'game management' but it is people who need to be managed. In the waterfowl context, it is not the ducks who drain swamps for farming, or who poison



Mute swan at Lake Garda, Italy, Photo: Howard Egan.

lakes through mis-use. It is people who shoot way past the limits that nature can replace. Not 'waterfowl' management that we need, but 'people' management. By regulation, enforced with policing and significant penalties. And always, education.

Neil guided us to a wonderful day at Lake Garda, under the Swiss Alps. We cruised the lake by paddle steamer and the waterfowl species again were a personal highlight. The multitude of mute swan around the quays of small lakeside towns; the wild pochard — diving ducks are scarce in our hemisphere.

Singapore was anticlimactic. We did find one largish lake at the Bird Park, presumably on a suburban boundary. There was not a duck, goose or swan in sight. We would have been better off at the hotel's glamorous pool garden bar. Beautiful orchids, though!

Reading

Our Islands, Our Selves — A History of Conservation in New Zealand

by David Young

ISBN 1 877276 94 4

RRP \$59.95

In *Our Islands, Our Selves: A History of Conservation in New Zealand*, writer David Young explores the evolution of a conservation ethic in this country. The book is published by University of Otago Press in association with the Department of Conservation and Ministry for Culture and Heritage, which initially approached DOC about writing a departmental history. They quickly realised that a gap in published material about conservation in New Zealand

meant there was a need to tell the bigger story. Joris de Bres, former General Manager of External Relations at DOC, took the initiative and arranged the collaboration on a larger history of conservation in New Zealand.

Hugh Logan, Director-General of Conservation, says the department valued the opportunity to support the writing of this history. 'Pulling all the information together was a daunting task and David Young has done a thorough and insightful job. I congratulate him on his achievement. The history of conservation is one of the big stories of building and defining this nation.'

In *Our Islands, Our Selves*, Young identifies the issues, personalities and organisations

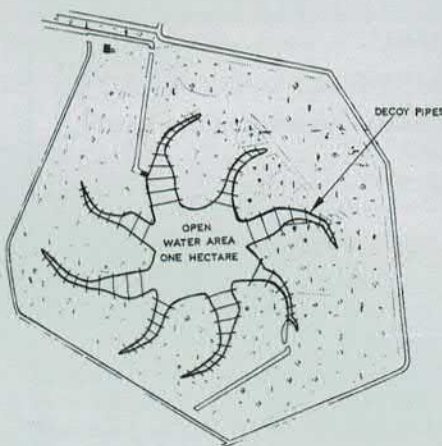
surrounding conservation over the past 200 years. He includes significant discussion on the cultural influences of Māori and European views of nature. The work illustrates how far our perceptions and actions have come, how often the country got it wrong, and what might still need to be done to protect New Zealand's natural environment.

David Young is the author of *Faces of the River and Woven by Water*: histories from the Whanganui River, as well as several other books and essays. As a journalist, he has published many articles on the theme of people and the land, history, and the environment. It has been a dream of his for some years to write a book such as this.

DECOYING DUCKS

The following article outlines the procedures used in Europe to capture waterfowl. We have never heard of this method being used in New Zealand, but it is a capture technique which has proved very successful for many centuries. We are indebted to the publishers of the book "Ducks of Britain and Europe" by N.A. Ogilvie (of the Wildfowl Trust), Messrs T & A.D. Poyser of Berkhamstead, U.K. for permission to publish this article, which is an extract from their very excellent book. We are also indebted to Dr M.J. Taylor for sending us the article.

Several hundred years ago the duck decoy was evolved in the Netherlands. This ingenious method of catching large numbers of ducks for food requires a quiet, secluded pond of about one hectare (two acres), usually placed in the middle of a small wood. Leading away from the pond are a number of curved arms of water. Each arm might be four or five metres across at the mouth, decreasing in size as it curves away from the pond, narrowing to less than a metre, when twenty or thirty metres away. These arms are covered by netting carried on wooden (or metal) hoops. At the end of each pipe, as it is called, a detachable keep net is placed. Ducks are attracted to the pond by means of tame decoys and baiting. Once on the pond they are enticed up the pipes by a variety of means. Some food is placed on the banks of the pipes and the ducks learn to feed there. Sometimes the tame ducks are trained to feed in the pipes, hopefully bringing wild ones in with them. Areas are kept clear on the banks of the pipes to act as 'loafing places' where the birds can sit and roost. Finally a dog may be trained to run along the side of the pipe, appearing and disappearing behind vertical reed screens placed by the edge of the water. The ducks on the pond, being inquisitive animals, will swim into the pipe and follow the dog, partly to see what it is, and partly, perhaps, to try to chase it off. Traditionally the dog should look a little like a fox, so perhaps this last theory is correct.



A plan view of a Duck Decoy pool



DECOY PIPE ENTRANCE

Whatever means is used to get the ducks into the pipe, the decoyman, when satisfied that enough birds are under the hoops of netting, shows himself at the mouth of the pipe, effectively blocking escape to the pond. Thus trapped, the ducks have no option but to fly or splash up the pipe until it narrows so much that they have to swim the last few yards. Finally they find themselves trapped inside the keep net. The decoyman follows hard on their heels, running along the bank, detaches the net and extracts the ducks. Throughout, the decoyman remains hidden from the pond by the reed screens, so that any ducks that are still on the pond are not frightened by him. All that has happened as far as they are concerned is that some of their number have flown away. Thus, they still consider the pond a safe place and may well return to be caught another day. Skill in operating a duck decoy lies not so much in the flushing of the birds up the pipe, though it is essential to know the correct moment to do this, but the catching of them in such a way that the 'lead' of ducks coming to the pond for food or to roost is not disturbed. By this means successive catches can be made over a period of weeks or months. If the 'lead' is disturbed it may be several days before the birds return.

Several pipes are necessary in a duck decoy so that the wind can be used to advantage. A catch will go much better if it is made in a pipe that points windwards. When flushed the ducks prefer to take off into wind and so fly up the pipe, not back towards the pond, where they might escape and scare other birds still there. There are usually four or eight arms, occasionally five or six. A four-arm pond has pairs of pipes at each end curving towards each other like the 'mermaid's purse' of the seashore, while an eight pipe decoy has them arranged more like a starfish, though with bent arms.

This catching technique was so successful that at one time there were several hundred decoys operating in the Netherlands. The design soon spread to England. It was probably brought over by Dutchmen who came to drain the low-lying marshes of East Anglia. Borough Fen Decoy in Northamptonshire, which is now run as a ringing station by the Wildfowl Trust, was probably built between 1630 and 1640. Decoys flourished in England, too, and there were once more than 30 in Essex alone. But gradually they declined, falling into disuse as the price that ducks fetched on the market no longer covered the expense of keeping a decoyman, and the not inconsiderable costs of maintaining the decoy wood and pipes. By the end of the nineteenth century only a small number were still operating and though the First World War brought about a recovery because of higher meat prices, their use declined again thereafter.

Duck catching for the market, or the decoy owner's table, has virtually ceased, but a number of decoys are still in operation in the Netherlands and England, catching ducks for ringing and release. The Wildfowl Trust operates three, and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation has recently restored another though so far catching has been limited. In the Netherlands a number of decoys began ringing soon after the Second World War, and were paid a sum for every duck ringed and released instead of killed.

The commonest duck caught in decoys is the Mallard, but lesser numbers of Teal, Pintail and Wigeon are also caught. In good season, over 2,000 birds will be ringed. A season starts at the end of the summer, usually 1st August, when the ducks begin to gather on the decoy pool, and carries on until the end of March. But the records show that some decoys in the past have easily exceeded present day levels. Most of the English decoys were owned by large estates and full details of catches and sales were kept. An examination of the catches at Nacton Decoy, Suffolk, showed that in the fifty winters from 1919 to 1968, no less than 195,000 ducks were caught. About one third each were Mallard and Teal, with slightly fewer Wigeon, and smaller numbers of Pintail. This gives an average of 3,900 a season, with the best year topping 9,000.

Thanks to Alan Wilks who suggested this article as the first reprint from earlier issues of *Flight*. From page 9, Issue 33, September 1982.

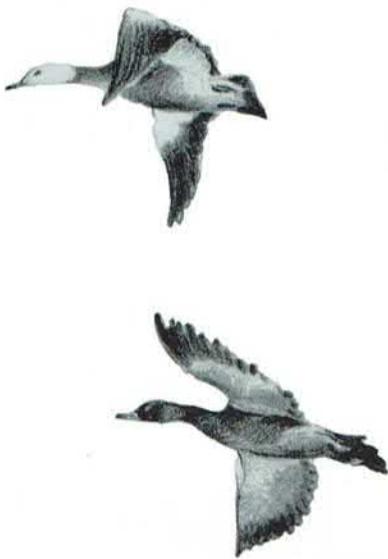


Obituaries

We are sad to note the death of Peter Harvey. Pete had been a very active and generous supporter of our shoots and a keen member of the organisation. The passing of such a young man is always a shock. We will miss his dry humour and challenging sporting clay fields. Our condolences to his family and friends.

Tony Nooyen from Putaruru died on 22 September after a short illness, which prevented him from attending the last AGM. Tony had been a keen member from the early days of Ducks Unlimited. Our condolences to his wife Ann and family.

We also note the death of Clark Springer. He was a life member, joining DU in 1990. Condolences and good wishes to his wife Barbara in her new home in the USA. Barbara still wants to receive Flight and news of DUNZ.



Graphite drawing by Paul Martinson.

Coalition of fishing and hunting sectors formed

The emerging influence of the outdoor recreation lobby took a giant step in early July with the announcement by the big three fishing and hunting sector organisations, representing the interests of over a million New Zealanders, that they were to form a strategic coalition.

Fish and Game New Zealand, the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council and the Game and Forest Foundation of New Zealand have agreed to co-operate closely on issues of common interest.

'This coalition will be a very powerful lobby with the combined strength of many organisations in the three sectors – marine, large game animals, freshwater sports fish and game birds,' said Fish and Game Director Bryce Johnson.

Mr Johnston said, 'We are collectively charged with advocating to protect the interests of our constituents as fishers and hunters. Fishing and hunting are part of the heritage of all New Zealanders and we want to secure the continuance of that heritage.'

Three current issues of collective concern are the review of Conservation General Policy by the Department of Conservation, continued access to the outdoors for fishing and hunting, and the foreshore and seabed issue.

Ross Gildon of the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council said, 'The New Zealand model of anglers and hunters managing fishing and hunting resources and caring for the environment is regarded very highly internationally. Conservation by the very people who passionately enjoy our outdoors is a far better situation for the environment and our country. Protecting the future of fishing and hunting provides no better motivation to get it right.'

Garry Ottmann, Executive Director of the Game and Forest Foundation, said, 'A common bond for anglers and hunters involves conservation for sustainable use. Internationally this is increasingly being shown as the way of the future and we intend to actively promote that it is the most sensible and logical form of conservation protection for New Zealand.'

For further information contact:

Bryce Johnson: 021 397 897

Ross Gildon: 025 989 363

Garry Ottmann: 027 221 8337

From page 9...

Later we visited the Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust, meeting Sue Murray, David Blair, Peter Simpkin and other enthusiastic trustees. A very professional and successful organisation. Sue attributes their success to thorough planning and excellent implementation strategies, which attracts good funding and promotion.

Day five had another 5am start, me to the airport, Tony and others to see the yellow-eyed penguins leave their nests to go out for a good day's fishing!

Later I met up with Ian Unsworth, Account Manager for the Nobilo Wine

Group (Banrock's NZ distributor) at Pack 'N Save Pukekohe. It was the supermarket's third birthday celebration, and we met staff and customers, extolling the virtues of buying Banrock wines and thereby contributing to Wetland Care. It was a delightful way to finish a very busy week.

Summary

I think Wetland Care New Zealand and Ducks Unlimited people can bring practical knowledge to many regional councils and community groups in terms of developing suitable wetlands. We have a wealth of institutional and individual experience to base our advice on. When we see new ideas

and initiatives, we are able to recognise them and communicate what we have seen and learnt to a wider audience.

The Wetland Care New Zealand brand has a powerful symbol that could easily be recognised by many. With hard work and tenacity, Wetland Care New Zealand could be developed into a valuable partner brand for both profit and not-for-profit organisations that wish to embrace sustainable business or organisational values.

Thank you to Carpet Court and the Nobilo Wine Group who funded the travel and accommodation costs of the trip.

— Ossie Latham

In Flight

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. The newly designed nozzles feed both wheat and barley, or you can feed whole maize by using the special end cap provided. 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.

FENN TRAP MK 6

Deadly to ferrets, stoats, weasels and rats, these all-metal traps are easy to set and are the ultimate quick-kill tunnel trap.

\$35.00 each.

THE THUMPER

A lightweight tunnel trap designed to kill rats and stoats. The tunnel incorporates the spring mechanism on the same principle as the Timms trap. Available as single with a closed end or double, which is a run-through with two traps. The traps are set from the outside by pulling a cord. Easy and safe to use.

Single \$35, double \$49.

The Mitredale Duck Club Cookbook

By Di Pritt, published by Halcyon Press. \$19.95 including GST, postage and packing.

Quoting...

'You boys don't seem to catch on, son. It ain't so important that I get money out of God's little acre to give to the church and the preacher, it's just the fact that I set it up in His name. All you boys seem to think about is what you can see and touch — that ain't living. It's the things you can feel inside of you — that's what living is made for. True, as you say, God ain't got a penny of money out of that piece of ground, but it's the fact that I set God's little acre aside out there that matters.... What tickles Him is the fact that I set aside a part of my land for Him just to show that I have got some of Him inside me.'

From 'God's Little Acre', by Erskine Caldwell (born 18 December 1903) At this point near the end, the patriarch Ty Ty is trying to explain that there's more to life than women and poverty:

Change of Address - are you moving? Please send us your new details.



Name.....
 Old address..... New address.....
 Phone..... Email.....

For membership and general inquiries, Ducks Unlimited, PO Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland, or email: info@ducks.org.nz]

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



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