

# flight

ISSUE 123 - APRIL 2005

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**Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc**

## **2005 Annual General Meeting**

**29 — 31 July 2005.**

**Venue and accommodation: Airport Centra, corner of Kirkbridge & Ascot Roads, Mangere.**

### **Programme**

**Friday 29 July 4 - 6pm** — Registration and pre-dinner drinks

8pm — Dinner with Guest Speaker; Mr W. Alan Wentz, Tennessee. Topic: 'Wetlands and their importance to endangered waterfowl, an American perspective'.

**Saturday 30 July 9am** — AGM; 10am Morning Tea; 10.30am Field Trip. 7pm Drinks; 8pm Annual Dinner and Auction.

**Sunday 31 July 10.00am** — Predator Workshop with New Zealand Experts, Darren Peters, DOC National Predator Officer, and Scott Theobald, DOC National Predator Dog Handler and Trainer.

Darren and Scott are the experts in the latest and best predator control methods, including the training of predator-specific dogs. A display of the best equipment will be part of the presentation. 12.00 noon — Disperse!

The full AGM package and registration details will be mailed to you separately.

Book your flights or other travel arrangements now. The Airport Centra is just down the road from the airport terminals — we have block-booked accommodation there and yours will be part of your AGM registration.



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.

### **Caring for our most endangered ecosystem**

Our initiatives focus on matters as far-reaching as groundwater replenishment, flood control, nutrient and contaminant management and climate change. All are critical factors for the conservation of fresh and saltwater wetlands and marshes.

We want to preserve and encourage the fauna and flora of our most endangered ecosystem so that vibrant wetlands are our legacy to future generations.

Wetland Care as a partner with Banrock Station Wines has recently supported two important public wetland projects:

Travis Wetland Walk — Field Guide (page 6)

Manawatu River Estuary promotional pamphlet (page 6)

For further information, please contact:

William Abel - Director, Wetland Care  
New Zealand, phone 04 478-4335.

## **From the Flight Desk**

There is a lot to celebrate in this issue, especially the five-year Wairio Restoration Agreement which DU and DOC representatives signed on 20 January. This big project is only happening through the hard work of DU people and many others, has widespread and enthusiastic support and will be worth watching over the next five years. Good vibes for the future then, for Lake Wairarapa, the wetland's birds and DU!

Then there's the sight of that beautiful Wetland Care logo on the Travis Wetland Walk guidebook and Manawatu Estuary brochure — both recent initiatives of the Banrock Station Wines partnership, which will put your name in the public eye where it belongs. A third interesting project will be at Gladstone Vineyard's wetland in

the Wairarapa — read more about all these and pat yourselves on the back.

The next piece of news is that this is my last issue as Flight Editor. There are fresh fields to explore, and only one life to do that in. I started at the end of 2001 with three weeks to make this new thing, little material and less expertise. It has been an exhilarating and sometimes scary flight (what's the duck version of flying by the seat of the pants?) with good people. I've enjoyed making each issue out of nothing into something 'good enough to put on a coffee table', as one person said of the last one. It would have been impossible without Alan and Di Wilks, the ideas, material and feedback from members, and printer Bruce Lambert's helpful advice. I'll look forward to keeping in touch.



# INSIGHT

Ross Cottle  
President

*Greetings from the flight deck... which at least is in the house plans!*

*The anticipated cygnet count reached two and we are now enjoying the antics of young wildlife on the pond. My New Year resolution included a promise of wetland care. I do have to confess however some inside knowledge when making it... Jim Law being my right hand man made it all the more achievable.*

*As you are aware, last year we launched our Strategic Plan. This year is time for action and we have got off to a flying start. The big news is that just prior to Christmas we signed a Management Agreement with DOC on the restoration of the Wairio Wetland (pronounced 'wy reo') situated on the eastern shore of Lake Wairarapa. The first sod was turned last month. Yahoo!...it's been a big job to date!*

*We have had a first meeting with the Wairio restoration committee, comprising local iwi, Forest and Bird, Regional Council, DOC and local DU representatives. It was a most positive gathering of keen and enthusiastic people. To date, feedback from the Wairarapa community has been overwhelming. Many older people recalling the area in its original state have called to give their wholehearted support to the scheme.*

*The spin-off is increased membership in the area and genuine interest in the project from local communities and DU members.*

*This must be extremely heartening to the Board and all our members, in showing that we are progressing along the right track. Graham Gurr will be treating DU members who have worked on it to a celebratory dinner in the near future. Reading further, you will find a full article on this exciting development.*

*The year ahead looks busy and exciting and I invite all members to become involved in any local projects where the DU and Wetland Care name and philosophy can be promoted.*

Ross

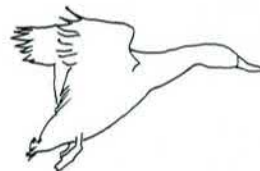
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## OUR MISSION

*To deliver effective wetland restoration, development, research, education and advocacy;*

*While supporting the preservation of threatened waterfowl and the ethical and sustainable use of wetlands*

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*Contributions from members and other readers, including photographs, are welcome.*

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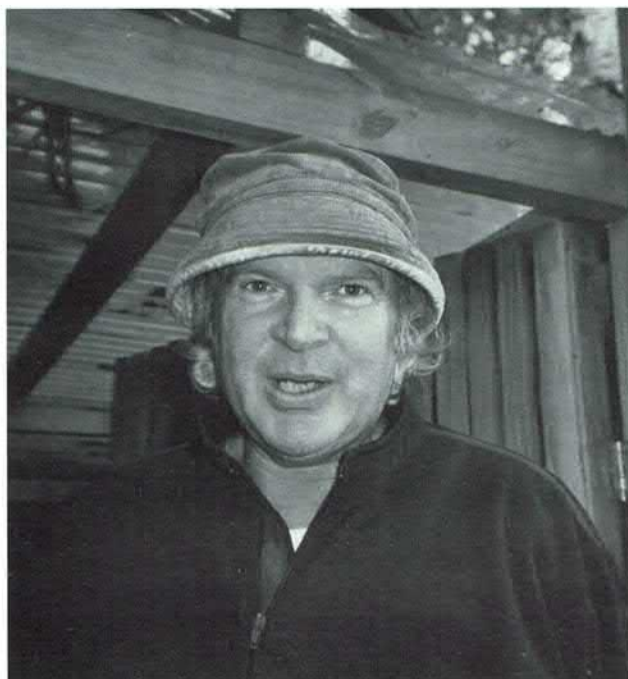
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*Cover photograph: A corner of the Wairio block, Lake Wairarapa, May 2004. Photo: Wairarapa Times Age.*





## Michael Connoles

A member for longer than he can remember, Mike was born in Upper Hutt and raised there and in the Wairarapa. His early education was in the Hutt, after which he attended the Central Institute of Technology in Petone, graduating as a registered craftsman plumber and gasfitter and safety supervisor. He now lives in Greytown.

He worked for NZ Rail for 15 years as a leading hand with five plumbers and three apprentices; then in the Wairarapa he was involved with heating, tiling and plumbing. For the last 14 years Mike has been self-employed plumbing, gasfitting, installing log fires and heating systems.

His interests include hunting, fishing, tramping and birds. He has several aviaries containing a wide range of birds and holds a DOC permit to keep and breed protected species. He is a member of the Auckland and Waikato Aviculture Societies. He also greatly enjoys landscaping his section.

His community involvement in the past has included service on the Board and as President of the Greytown Lions Club and St Mary's Parish Council. He was Chairman of the Home of Compassion Board where he organised works and maintenance for five years, and a member of the Sacred Heart Church Council and Building Committee.

## Wanted... your wetland for posterity!

Wetland Care seeks details, including photographs and stories if possible, from members who have received funding and other assistance for their wetland projects. These records, and your help in collecting them, will make up a register of the financial and practical help DU has provided to individuals and groups over the years. The material could be used as a 'DU CV' for sponsorship and grant applications and as a basis for a future DU history, and it needs to be gathered before land is either sold or modified and yet another slice of history forgotten. It will also be useful from the point of view of mistakes made, or alterations that could have been improved — time makes many of these things clear.

You may have had some assistance yourself — you may know of other wetlands and the people involved. Chapters, please pass the word around in your areas too.

Please contact William Abel (phone 04 586 2752, email [abelfam@xtra.co.nz](mailto:abelfam@xtra.co.nz)) or Ossie Latham (email [swansmead@xtra.co.nz](mailto:swansmead@xtra.co.nz)).

## Neil Hayes receives QSM

Long-standing DU member and Trustee of the Brown Teal Conservation Trust, Neil Hayes of Carterton has been awarded the Queen's Service Medal in the 2005 New Year's honours. He said on hearing the news that he hopes the award will have a positive impact on the future of brown teal, a species he first met in 1970. He was 'instantly smitten'. By coincidence, the day after he heard the news his best pair of brown teal produced a brood of five ducklings.

From 1976-91 Neil co-ordinated DU's brown teal captive-breeding programme which reared nearly 1500 birds and released 1200 of these into the wild over those years. Using the natural pairing technique Neil developed, in one year DU captive breeders reared a record 153 birds. Neil has written widely on the subject, and founded the Brown Teal Conservation Trust in 2002. He and his wife Sylvia live on their 30ac block Gretel Lagoons near Carterton in the Wairarapa. Congratulations from DU, Neil, on achieving this honour.



*Jim Campbell (left) and Neil Hayes (right) hosting Janet Keir and John Turner from the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust, UK, in 1995.*



### Wairio Wetlands are about to be restored!

Congratulations DUNZ — the tenacity and hard work of a small and determined group of DU movers and shakers have paid off superbly in the historic five-year management agreement signed on 20 January between DOC and DU representatives. The area is at the eastern edge of Lake Wairarapa, one of the largest and most important freshwater wetlands in Australasia, much-modified in size and quality by years of drainage for farming. The general response to the agreement from iwi and local communities, conservation groups and the agencies has been fantastic. Work at the site began in March. But wait — there's more on page 8!

### 2005 AGM

Auckland, 29 – 31 July (Details on page 2)

Be sure to book your place early, you won't want to miss this year's guest speaker...

#### Dr. W. Alan Wentz

Alan Wentz has been Senior Group Manager for Conservation Programmes for Ducks Unlimited Inc. since July 1994.

Alan received his PhD in Wildlife Management from the University of Michigan in 1976, MS in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University in 1971, and BS in Agriculture (major in Biological Conservation and minor in Economics) from Ohio State University in 1969. His previous employment includes Director of Operations at the Western Regional Office of Ducks Unlimited, Director for National/International Relations for Ducks Unlimited, and Assistant Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. He was Senior Director with the National Wildlife Federation in Washington DC; Associate Professor of Wildlife at South Dakota State University and Assistant Curator of the Ohio State Herbarium.

He served as President of the Wildlife Society in 1992-93, and is currently Chairman of the Natural Resources Council of America,

and a member of the Board of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, the Wildlife Habitat Council, American Wildlife Conservation Partners, and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partners. He has served on many other national and international boards and committees, and has authored numerous books, articles, and information bulletins. And with all this, as Graham Gurr says, Alan still has time to go hunting and fishing!

#### DU Website

Your website is up and running again and upgrading continues. Last year the Board accepted an offer from Jim Law's son Anthony Griffin to do the job and maintain the site. You will find it at [www.ducks.org.nz](http://www.ducks.org.nz). We need your comments and suggestions — what you like about it, or don't like for that matter, what you want to see added, etc. The Internet is a giant planetary shop window for DUNZ, so think about the websites you visit regularly. What makes you want to go in, browse further, find useful information and most importantly, enjoy the experience? Membership secretary Sandra Pipes has already had membership inquiries that she thinks came from the site. So please explore it and we will look forward to your letter (DUNZ, PO Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland), or email ([info@ducks.org.nz](mailto:info@ducks.org.nz)).

### DU Business

Notes from the February Board meeting:

The Board has budgeted \$30,000 for the coming financial year for wetland creation and enhancement.

The Board agreed that as DU, the Game Bird Habitat Trust and NZ Wetlands Trust were all planning to publish books on wetlands, a collaborative effort would be better. Graham Gurr will contact the other two organisations about this.

There was lively discussion on the place of waterfowl in DU's Strategic Plan, and on how the plan relates to forthcoming changes to the Wildlife Act.

A letter was tabled from Conservation Minister Chris Carter, acknowledging a DU request for grey teal to be included on the Gamebird Schedule — this will be included in a review process (see Bird Talk page 7).

### Subscriptions

You will soon receive the 2005/2006 invoice for DU subscriptions, due from 1 April. Please pay promptly if possible. We will also ask for your email address for inclusion

on the database. Thank you to those using the form in Flight or the DU email address to advise change of addresses.

— Sandra Pipes

### PLEASE NOTE — NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the October 2004 meeting the Board decided to increase the cost of DU subscriptions in order to cover DU administration and the production and distribution of Flight magazine.

#### DU welcomes these new members:

Ian Moffat — Masterton  
Andy Sutherland — Martinborough  
Blue Rock Gun Club — Martinborough  
James Martin — Martinborough  
Don McMillan — Wanganui.  
Murray Holt — Hamilton  
Steve Phillips — Auckland

### Chapter reports

#### Manawatu

The Chapter held a field trip on 6 March, and their annual sporting clay target shoot was held on 13 March at Foxton. Both events will be reported in the July issue.

— Neil Candy

#### Wairarapa

The big news is of course that the Wairio Wetland restoration is under way. The publicity DU has received has raised our profile and as a direct result we are seeing an increase in membership in the local chapter. The other very pleasing thing is the number of wetland developments happening in our area at the moment.

— Ross Cottle





# Historic agreement promises



## **'The Lake Wairarapa wetlands are clean, healthy, shining and alive.'**

**H**opes for the future couldn't be better or more simply expressed than this vision. Lake Wairarapa and its wetlands are the largest system in the southern North Island and recognised locally, nationally and internationally for their cultural, ecological and recreational importance. The area has always been a prime trade and travel route and source of mahinga kai (food and materials) for Maori; commercial eeling is a current use, and it has the largest game-bird population in the Wellington region. Its nomination as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance is likely. Achieving this would ensure regular monitoring, while current usage, including farming, would be protected — the Ramsar Convention recognises that public use and recognition of an area is essential to its protection.

Ducks Unlimited, in an exciting partnership with DOC, other agencies and the Wairarapa community, now has an opportunity to make that vision real, starting with the Wairio wetland's restoration. The Wairio agreement is one of the first of its kind in New Zealand, and is expected to reverse some of the environmental damage caused by the extensive land-drainage projects of past years.

Wairio is 1.6km long and roughly 100ac in extent, situated on the eastern shoreline of Lake Wairarapa. It has seasonal open pond and swamp areas and is currently grazed by livestock. When open water is present it attracts good numbers of duck, swan, goose, heron, other wading birds and bittern. The area was severely affected by the change in water levels after the construction of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme during the 1960s and early 1970s, which drained large areas and held water levels artificially with canals, channels, pumps and barrage gates. The scheme was supported by governments of the time, to create more land for pastoral farming. By the 1980s, though, government awareness of the environmental effects of land development was more acute. A polder scheme proposed for the eastern margin of the lake was cancelled, and the 1987 Conservation Act passed stewardship of certain areas, including the Wairio Block, to the Department of Conservation.

**'This is the first step in creating the Wairio Vision - to restore the wetland paradise of extended and connecting ponds, cloaked in sedges and trees, that existed before human intervention.'**

During this time DU and DOC tried to partially reflood the Wairio Block by constructing a channel and floodgate at one end and an earth dam at the other, but this was unsuccessful. The next development was the formation of the Lake Wairarapa Co-ordinating Committee, a consultation group involving iwi and hapu, statutory bodies, Fish and Game councils, DU and others with an interest in the management of the lake and its environs. This group produced the Lake Wairarapa Wetlands Action Plan 2000-2010, which recognises the range and complexity of the issues and states the need for restoration of wetland areas including the Wairio block. DU members have worked on proposals for this project since 2002.

The restoration will build on the intent of earlier work by making sure lake water will be retained in the wetland. The project will re-create the original natural link in the chain of eastern lakeshore bird, fish and plant habitats. Water quality and retention methods will be key factors, and planting will target existing and earlier species in the area. Flax, for example, has disappeared. Other species will include carex, manuka, mingimingi, ti kouka, kahikatea, kowhai and houhere. As ponds are formed birds will introduce other plants.

The agreement envisages a five-year, step-by-step work programme, starting with the restoration of stop-banks surrounding the original wetland and assessing water levels resulting from this.

'This is the first step in creating the Wairio Vision - to restore the wetland paradise of extended and connecting ponds, cloaked in sedges and trees, that existed before human intervention,' DU President Ross Cottle said.

Ducks Unlimited will contribute an initial \$10,000 to begin the work, and will make additional direct contributions over the next five years towards the total project cost, estimated at around \$130,000. This would cover reforestation, the creation of raised islands and walkways, fencing and predator control. Further contributions will also be sought from like-minded organisations and individuals.

But as Ross Cottle says, it's not just a question of cash. 'Volunteer help and contributions in kind, like trees, and later the monitoring



# Wairio Wetland restoration

of predator traps, will also be critical. That's why we will be looking to involve the wider community.' DU will also convene and chair a Wairio Management Committee, including members from the existing Lake Wairarapa Co-ordinating Committee and a DOC representative to direct and participate in the recovery project.

Lake Wairarapa Co-ordinating Committee member Sonny te Maari says, 'I was born at Kohunui, adjacent to Lake Wairarapa and can remember the original wetlands, abundant with coastal and wetland birds and freshwater fish. With the restoration of the Wairio Wetland, bird and fish numbers will surely increase. It will also enhance the habitat for eels, always a prized food resource of the local Maori. I'm all for the restoration.'

At a national level, the Department of Conservation is seeing an increase in community groups taking a lead in restoring natural areas and is encouraging these initiatives. Wairarapa Area Manager Derrick Field said, 'I'm rapt that Ducks Unlimited has taken the initiative to restore the Wairio Block. I believe that the restoration of Lake Wairarapa wetlands can only be enhanced with the direct involvement and ownership of the community... One of our goals is to encourage the community to contribute towards the protection and enhancement of natural areas and be aware of how they can do this. We will be supporting Ducks Unlimited wholeheartedly with the project.'

*With grateful thanks to Jim Law and Howard Egan for providing background information —Ed.*



*L to R Jim Law, William Abel, Ross Cottle, Jim Campbell, Diane Pritt, Neil Candy and David Smith, Wairio block inspection, May 2004.*



*Derrick Field (DOC, Masterton) and Ross Cottle at Wairio, 20 January 2005. Photo: Wairarapa Times Age.*



*Is this what Wairio might look like one day? Jim Law sent this photograph of the August 2004 South Wairarapa flooding.*



... Continued from page 7

## Calling ducks

Come in you chattering feeders, delectable dabblers, stop all that quirky quacking, cease your prissy preening for a major May moment... Listen up ye wetland-livers — misty morns and devilish decoys are coming! To your pond yes! Soon! Camofolk with sneaky callous callers and hellish hounds are gathering gumboots, caulking kayaks and polishing their booming blunderbusses as you puddle and play so pleasantly! So start practising you feathery high flyers those long-range lookouts and abrupt aborted landings NOW.... you have everything to lose including your tantalising tail feathers! And send for a map of peaceful ponds in tiny towns if you can't be doing with all that exercise — or weedy waterways and crafty creeks for camping quietly in. Over and out and power to your pinions then — and remember — if you do end up

hoisted on a happy table, you will be a culinary champion, a majestic meaty bite of delectable delicious delirium — hunter heaven even, with oranges and good red wine... So brandish your brave braised breasts and be remembered, ye birds of air and wetland waters!

## People power rules, OK?

New Zealand's territorial authorities are gradually recognising conservation values, and the fast-growing interest, involvement and action seen in many local communities — often led by their schools — is an encouraging sign for the future. You might have heard an excellent National Radio programme on Saturday 19 February, about the local environment group and their pest control programmes at Moehau, Coromandel. One woman said 'We all live and breathe it'. A DOC officer commented that it would be good to see the work of

private landowners who work for a public good recognised in some way — he suggested that local authorities could reduce rates for example... do we hear a chorus of DU agreement? Could there be a new political movement in the wings?

Copies of National radio programmes such as this are available from Replay Radio, Box 123 Wellington, or send an email to [replayradio@radionz.co.nz](mailto:replayradio@radionz.co.nz) for information and a catalogue — Ed.

*DOC has produced a useful publication, 'Developing Partnerships Between the Department of Conservation and Community Groups'. This is full of user-friendly suggestions for achieving both success and satisfaction from collaborative projects.*

*Go to [www.doc.govt.nz/publications](http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications) and look under the Science link, or ask your local DOC office.*

**Mike Britton** of Fish and Game New Zealand's National Office has been appointed General Manager of Forest and Bird, and took up this position in early March. He has been a positive influence at Fish and Game and his new post should give him a wider opportunity to continue the good work.

## Campbell Island teal at Pukaha Mt Bruce

Ten ducklings have been hand-raised this season and the females are sitting on their second clutch of eggs which they will raise themselves. There are 10 adults in all, and staff hope that a further 20 offspring will be transferred to Campbell Island in September or October.

*From the National Wildlife Centre's email newsletter.*

## Endangered Fiordland whio facing the future

A total of 15 young endangered whio in the Clinton, Arthur and Cleddau valleys have really shown their mettle this summer season in surviving the ravages of November flooding. Trapping has decreased stoat numbers significantly since DOC began its research in these valleys, which are now part of the Operation Ark funding initiative.

DOC Biodiversity ranger Kerri-Anne Edge said that this was 'fantastic' progress for whio populations in these Fiordland valleys. 'It's been pretty clear to us since 2000 when we began this work, that stoats are the major problem in this area for whio breeding success. Now that we've got the stoat numbers down, we're seeing new pairs forming and nesting and the young ones coming through — without being killed by stoats,' she said.

Kerri-Anne Edge is especially pleased with one finding: 'Our transmitter tracking revealed that we even had one of the young from last year pair up, nest and successfully rear four ducklings. It is excellent to see results like this — we know we're on the right track'.

The contrast of the results is especially evident in the results from the Arthur and Cleddau Valleys, where video cameras revealed that prior to stoat control the monitored ducks produced no ducklings (barring one family that lasted a few days), owing to predation by stoats. DOC staff, with the help of a dedicated community group in the Cleddau, began stoat trapping in these valleys prior to the 2003/4 season, leading to a dramatic reduction in predation and disturbances of nests by stoats. Flying out of that first protected

season were a grand nine ducklings from the Arthur Valley, and five ducklings from the Cleddau, and then similar numbers this year. Great results!

So what now? We know that we can control stoats to quite low levels in these steep-sided Fiordland valleys. But is this enough to protect the population and even help it grow?

Kerri-Anne Edge says, 'After this second very good breeding season we can now say confidently that this level of stoat control has turned around the fortunes of whio at this site. From now on, as well as doing stoat control we're also planning to re-establish whio populations in valleys now protected by stoat trapping, by releasing captive-reared whio there. Pairs will generally re-nest in the same season, so effectively we are doubling the productivity of that pair.

'We expect that results from this work will become even more evident in the next few years as the whio populations expand in each valley'.

The investment of Operation Ark funding has been an essential part of this season's stoat control and transmitter monitoring work. The Operation Ark initiative, announced in 2003, aims to mitigate the risk of increased predation of particular species (in this case whio) associated with heavy mast year seeding in beech forests. In addition, a local tour company Real Journeys is supporting work on whio in Fiordland with a sponsorship arrangement channelling a portion of their Milford Sound Scenic Cruise proceeds (see Flight 121 page 10).

Similarly, continued community involvement has been an important part of the project. Members of the Milford Sound community have been maintaining stoat lines in the Cleddau Valley, and a number of other groups had expressed interest in helping the Department with such work. Kerri-Anne Edge was very pleased with the support: 'The more people we have looking out for these birds the better — DOC can't do it all alone, and without stoat control their populations can't survive. It would be incredibly sad to face a future without whio'.

For more information please contact Murray Willans at DOC's Te Anau Area Office, Lakefront Drive, Te Anau. Phone 03 249 7921. Email: [mwillans@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mwillans@doc.govt.nz)

*From [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)*



## Innovative stoat trap wins award

The Department of Conservation showed that analogue technology can knock 'em dead at this year's BearingPoint Innovation Awards. New stoat traps beat computer power to snap up one of the business consultancy's hotly-contested prizes. BearingPoint (formerly KPMG) encourages public sector organisations each year to enter examples of innovation for awards in a range of categories. Last year DOC won an award for rat eradication on Campbell Island.

'We won the Innovation in Technology section, sponsored by Microsoft,' says Carl McGuinness, acting-manager of DOC's Biodiversity Recovery Unit. 'Which is somewhat ironic as the other finalists utilised computer-based technology, whereas DOC had a good old trusty mechanical trap.'

At issue is that the Fenn traps (Mark IV and Mark VI) that have been used till now are likely to fail new ISO humane standards - they fail to achieve an outright kill of 10 out of 10 stoats. That means that we would only be able to use them if traps were checked daily, which would cause pest control costs to skyrocket.

Production has been contracted out to a New Zealand manufacturer who has so far made 10,000 of the new traps. Demand, including from QE II Trust and territorial authorities, is expected to exceed supply for some time.

The annual awards aim to recognise and promote world-class innovation and service to the public and in organisational management in the public sector. They are jointly sponsored by BearingPoint and the Institute of Public Administration New Zealand (IPANZ). The winners in six categories and the Supreme Award winner — the Ministry for the Environment's projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions — were announced in Wellington last October. Judges convenor Ross Tanner said that the quality of entries was high... 'winners were great examples of innovative practice in action, several of which provided "neat fixes" to difficult problems, such as the development of new trap technology from the Department of Conservation.'

IPANZ President Christine Goodman said it was exciting to see the range of public sector organisations represented in the finals. She said it was also impressive to see so many of them working together in creative collaboration — an innovation in itself.



*LtoR Carl McGuinness with award winners Phil Waddington and Darren Peters accompanied by Hugh Logan. Photo: Mark Coote.*



*The DOC 200 in action. Photo: Darren Peters*

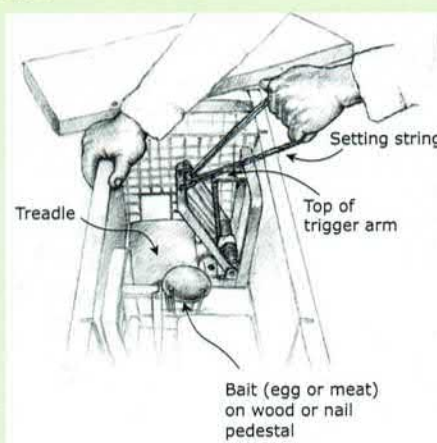
(See item on page 14, Flight 116. Darren Peters will be a guest speaker at the Sunday morning workshop on predators during the July AGM – Ed.)

For trap development contacts, predator control advice and comments:

Darren Peters, Department of Conservation National Predator Control, Science and Technical Centre, PO Box 10 420, Wellington. Phone 04 471 0726, fax 04 471 3279, email [dpeters@doc.govt.nz](mailto:dpeters@doc.govt.nz)

Phil Waddington, Trap Development, 5 Collins Street, Petone. Phone 04 934 5201

*From a report by Bernie Napp, BearingPoint media release and DOC, 11 October 2004*



*Drawing by Phil Waddington.*

Orders: Traps are sold in packs of 10 units. Please order them direct from the manufacturer:

Curtis Metal Products Ltd., PO Box 22 131, Otahuhu.

Phone 09 270 3335, fax 09 270 3338, email [sales@curtissprings.com](mailto:sales@curtissprings.com)



## The Living Rivers coalition

It was announced last September that four long-established environmental and outdoor recreational organisations have joined together to save New Zealand's rivers from growing threats caused by irrigation, hydro schemes, pollution and increasing limitations on access.

Representatives of Fish and Game New Zealand, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Federated Mountain Clubs and the New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association launched the coalition in Hamilton.

Fish and Game Chairman Sandy Lawrie said, '2004 has been an extraordinary year for New Zealand's finite and precious waterways. The number of threats that have emerged this year against their survival is unprecedented.'

Reports from a range of Government agencies have identified rivers suitable for more hydro dams, revealed high levels of waterway pollution, and signalled proposals to weaken the environmental protection function of the Resource Management Act. Private enterprise has more proposals to channel rivers into hydro-electric developments.

'We are very concerned at moves to weaken the Water Conservation Order provisions of the Resource Management Act,' Mr Lawrie said. 'Water Conservation Orders have saved many important rivers from degradation — for example the Buller, Rakaia, Rangitata, Mohaka, Motueka rivers and many others. They give rivers virtual National Park status and yet there is a move to weaken and perhaps abolish them.'

'We are campaigning for the protection and enhancement of our rivers. This means waterways ranging from the small streams flowing through backyards of inner city houses to the great braided rivers of the South Island,' he said.

Fish and Game was so concerned at the evidence from a seminar the organisation held last September that it joined with the other organisations to alert the public and politicians to the threats New Zealand's rivers face and the need for urgent action.

Mr Lawrie cited evidence from reports produced by the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric (NIWA), the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment and the Ministry of Economic Development. 'If there is one report which sums up the threats to our water it is the critically important report from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Dr Morgan Williams: "Growing for Good? The sustainability of intensive farming in New Zealand".'

The report says the rapid expansion in the use of nitrogen fertilisers, increased stocking rates and increased irrigation were threatening New Zealand's soils and fresh water. Dr Williams' report concludes that there is strong evidence that New Zealand waterways are becoming nutrient enriched and degraded. 'In an election year we believe that the state of our rivers needs to be put firmly on the political agenda,' Mr Lawrie said.

For further information contact Sandy Lawrie phone 07 922 3334 (a/h 07 308 8297) mobile 021 923 334

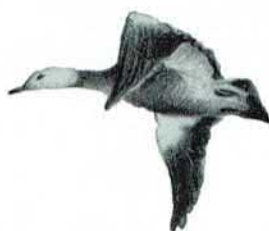
## World Wetlands Day 2005

A nationwide series of events took place in early February to mark World Wetlands Day (WWD), held internationally on 2 February. Fish and Game New Zealand is the agency co-ordinating New Zealand's World Wetlands Day.

'Wetlands are a key part of our environment and biodiversity,' spokesman Graham Ford says, 'yet our record at preserving our wetlands as a nation is appalling. We have slashed and burned them, regarded them as waste land to be drained and sown with grass seed, ignoring their ecological biodiversity.'

'Dozens of groups are getting together around the country to raise recognition of this "Cinderella of the environment". Wetlands are part of river systems,' Mr Ford said. 'They store flood water, filter out contaminants and are often created by rivers as they change course.'

The Living Rivers Coalition was formed in 2004 by Fish and Game, Forest and Bird, Federated Mountain Clubs and the Association of Recreational Canoeists, to protest at the pollution and abstraction of our rivers. The coalition adds wetlands to the list of waterways in urgent need of protection and enhancement.



According to the United Nations, last century 50% of the world's remaining wetlands were destroyed. Other wetlands have been significantly modified to fragment and alter water flow in 60% of the world's largest rivers, compromising many valuable ecosystems.

Between 1954 and 1976, about 12,000ha of New Zealand wetlands were lost each year. Until the mid-1980s farmers were still being subsidised to drain wetlands.

Agencies participating in WWD activities this year included Fish and Game NZ, DOC, Forest and Bird, iwi, regional and district councils and the National Wetlands Trust.

Some events held this year include:

Northland — tour of the Kawakawa Wetlands which have recently benefited from \$13,000 from Pub Charities grants.

Nelson — a talk on 'Making wetlands work for you', and a bus tour to wetlands in the Motueka area targeting local district councillors, council staff and gravel contractors, to explain wetland creation in relation to gravel extraction.

Central South Island — Travis Wetland Walk field guide launched in Christchurch, and a 'Plant-a-thon' on a tributary to the Opihi River, a significant salmon fishery. The riparian margin has been retired and fenced by the landowner.

West Coast — Chris Thomas's film 'Waterfowl and Wetlands - A New Zealand Odyssey' (see Flight 122 page 8) was shown at the Revell St theatre. The Take Note bookshop held a display on the theme of water and wetlands, to highlight the recent publication of 'Wetland types in New Zealand', by Landcare Research ecologist Peter Johnson and local DOC wetland expert Philippe Gerbeaux.

*From Fish and Game press release 1 February 2005, and [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)*



# Let's Keep Ducks

*The Sanctuary, a picturesque wetland created by Wairarapa DU member Bill Clinton-Baker, has featured in past issues of Flight. Bill shares his love of wildfowl and experience in creating habitats...*

Nothing enhances a garden more than water - be it pond or stream or a combination of the two. Not only can attractive water-loving trees and plants be grown, but a collection of interesting waterfowl will add a further dimension.

What are the requirements?

## Soil Type

It is important to check your soil type. Maybe you have a good sticky clay or loam. Equally, you may have stoney or light soil which will not hold water. It is possible to use a polythene liner for your pond, though again, cost is a factor.

## Pond Size

Pond size will be governed by the area available. A small pond is quite suitable. One half the size of a tennis court will hold two or three pairs of ducks. Depth is important and even a small pond should be about two metres deep in the middle, and larger ponds as deep as possible. This is so the colder water at the bottom of the pond and the warmer water at the surface will set up convection or water movement. It is equally important for the water to shelve up to the banks, as the majority of ducks feed by up-ending to reach the bottom.

## Siting and Landscaping

It makes a difference if your pond is in view of the house because much of the joy of a pond comes from watching the daily activities, not only of ducks themselves, but of other visiting birds - kingfishers, herons, stilts and swallows.

If the pond is large enough, have an island or two, and also some rafts anchored to the bottom. The birds enjoy loafing on these, and they look nice and will be safe from predators. An inverted tray mounted on a post about a metre above the water will almost certainly be used as a nest site by swallows.

## Predators

Dealing with predators is the second of the two "musts". Cats are the worst, especially wild cats. Have a drop trap (i.e., the cage type possum trap) baited with meat. The Timms yellow possum traps, baited with meat, are also effective (but not if you have a house cat).

Several tunnels with Fenn traps should look after stoats and ferrets (see *In Flight Shopping*, page 14). Rogue hawks can

cause trouble, and the decision to dissuade these must be yours.

## Water

An adequate supply of water is essential for establishing a pond. For seven months of the year, water may be no problem. But come the hot weather from November through to March, an attractive pond can become a muddy puddle.

Ensuring your summer water supply is one of the two "musts". Perhaps a spring can be harnessed or a stream diverted. Although a considerable cost might be incurred, a bore could be sunk and water pumped for garden and pond.

## Planting

Plant clumps of common rushes at intervals around the banks, as well as trees for shade and appearance, depending on the size of your pond. Remember that trees suck up a lot of water during summer.

Long and tussocky grass on part of the surrounds is good for nesting. Flax is better than pampas, which harbours vermin. A small patch of raupo is good cover, looks attractive and harbours aquatic life for food for waterfowl. Control it by spraying the outside flags with Roundup - a cooling job on a hot summer's day.



*The pond at The Sanctuary which illustrates advice given in this article.*

## Species

*When you turn to stocking your pond, consider some of the following, noting the special requirements and disadvantages of some:*

**Scaup or black teal** - an indigenous NZ diving duck which is, I feel, number one for any collection. As bottom feeders, they do not compete with other ducks for food. They will nest in any thick cover.

**Grey teal** - self-introduced from Australia, these are neat little brown ducks with a distinctive wing bar. They will probably attract wild ones, and are great aerobatic fliers. Use nest boxes, available from DU and also suitable for carolina and mandarin duck.

**Grey duck** - an indigenous dabbling duck which nests in low cover. The remarks about mallard below apply to a lesser degree.

**Shoveler** - the male is the most highly coloured NZ duck. Shovelers have a broad beak for surface feeding and nest in tussocky grass.

**NZ shelduck or paradise** - grazers more suited to larger ponds.

**Black swan** - introduced from Australia and suited to larger ponds.

**White or mute swan** - introduced and more powerful than, and incompatible with, black swan. For large ponds only.

**Mallard** - not to be considered because a pair will call in their wild relations - which may come anyway - and inundate your pond to the detriment of other species and your grain bill.

**Exotics** - including Carolina or North American wood duck and mandarin (native of China). The males are highly coloured and most suitable for small ponds or aviaries. Use nest boxes.

## Care and Feeding

Ensure that all birds you order have been pioniioned when young, otherwise they will simply fly away. Nest boxes will also need to have ramps.

Feeding will depend on the size of your pond and the natural food supply. Some grain - about a handful a day - is usually necessary. Use wheat or barley, although wheat is probably higher in protein. Feeding in shallow water near the bank stops sparrows getting the grain.



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## YHA Young Conservationist Awards

Entries for the 2005 Awards close on Friday 2 September 2005. Winners will be announced on 15 September 2005.

The YHA Young Conservationist Awards are an annual environmental award programme for individuals or groups under the age of 18, administered as a joint programme between Youth Hostels Association New Zealand and the Department of Conservation.

YHA NZ and DOC look for innovative projects that include a hands-on component relating to conservation. The awards are a great opportunity to showcase projects or research young people may be doing for environmental education, in a range of areas including science, technology, social studies, biology, geography, the arts and English.

Projects can be independent of schoolwork, focusing on a personal interest and/or involvement in conservation. Not only that, they can be located anywhere – at school, on a marae, by a river, on the coast, in a reserve, or in entrants' backyards.

For more information and full terms and conditions you can download the 2005 YHA Young Conservationist Awards entry brief from [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

You can also contact:

Mardi (YHA New Zealand) phone 0800 278299, email: [mardi.neumann@yha.co.nz](mailto:mardi.neumann@yha.co.nz) or Pam (DOC) phone 04 471 3116 email: [pdcrisp@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pdcrisp@doc.govt.nz)

## Remember the brown teal girl?

We reprinted a beautiful photograph on the back cover of Flight 120, July 2004, of a pupil at Russell Primary School in Northland about to release a brown teal. The image had originally been on the cover of Flight in January 1995. We sent a copy of it to Russell Primary School, who contacted her later last year. Here is an extract from the letter she has written to DU: 'My name is Hannah Newcombe and I have just completed my third year at Lincoln University studying landscape architecture...but I have decided to cross-credit my papers to a degree in zoology, studying at Massey University. Although it will take me extra time I feel that I need to study a subject that I am passionate about. I hope to graduate in two years' time and go on to work in this field, using my skills in this subject and my background in design.'

You never know what will happen when you find an old photo in a dusty carton...



## From the Far Side Duck!

Builders have been warned to take care using slang when they have colleagues from overseas.

The Construction and Industry Training Board issued the guidance after finding that up to 20% of builders in the UK speak English as a second language.

The advice, described as 'common sense aimed at keeping workers safe', gives particular emphasis to avoiding irony, and explaining common safety warnings. A building consultant quoted in the Scotsman newspaper said, 'At the moment, if you shout "Duck!" on a building site in London, half of the workers would throw themselves to the floor and the other half would look up at the sky.'

*From [www.plainenglish.co.uk](http://www.plainenglish.co.uk)*



# Quoting...

...I myself don't know how to be in this world without expecting a confident future and getting up every morning to do what I can to bring it about. I confess to having always been an optimist. Now, however, I remember my friend on Wall Street whom I once asked: 'What do you think of the market?' 'I'm optimistic,' he answered. 'Then why do you look so worried?' And he said, 'Because I am not sure my optimism is justified.'

I'm not, either. Once upon a time I believed that people will protect the natural environment when they realise its importance to their health and to the health and lives of their children. Now I am not so sure. It's not that I don't want to believe this — it's just that as a journalist I have been trained to read the news and connect the dots.

I read that the administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency has declared the election a mandate for President Bush on the environment. This for an administration:

— that wants to rewrite the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act protecting rare plant and animal species and their habitats, as well as the national Environmental Policy Act that requires the government to judge beforehand if actions might damage natural resources;

— that wants to relax pollution limits for ozone, eliminate vehicle tailpipe inspections, and ease pollution standards for cars, sport utility vehicles, and diesel-powered big trucks and heavy equipment;

— that wants a new international audit law to allow corporations to keep certain information about environmental problems secret from the public;

— that wants to drop all its New-Source Review suits against polluting coal-fired power plants and weaken consent decrees reached earlier with coal companies;

— that wants to open the Arctic Wildlife Refuge to drilling and increase drilling in Padre Island National Seashore, the longest stretch of undeveloped barrier island in the world and the last great coastal wild land in America;

— that is radically changing the management of our national forests to eliminate critical environmental reviews, open them to new roads, and give the timber companies a green light to cut as they please.

...The news is not good these days. But as a journalist I know the news is never the end of the story. The news can be the truth that sets us free not only to feel but to fight for the future we want. The will to fight is the antidote to despair, the cure for cynicism, and the answer to those faces looking back at me from the family photographs on my desk. We must match the science of human health to what the ancient Israelites called *hochma*—the science of the heart, the capacity to see and feel and then to act as if the future depended on us.

Believe me, it does.

*From the article 'Welcome to Doomsday' by Bill Moyers, in the New York Review of Books. (www.nybooks.com/articles/17852).*

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# P r o j e c t s

## Wetland Care

We have gone from almost no applications to a frenzied attack on our available funds — two applications have arrived. A particularly interesting project is at Gladstone Vineyard near Carterton, where the Kernohans plan to extend a natural wetland and enhance the existing area. This adjoins the Carter Reserve, a DOC bush reserve of good quality, and is also very close to John McKinstry's oxbow wetland (see Flight 119, April 2004, pages 4 and 9). The project will create between three and five hectares of habitat, along with the bonus of adding to the area's ecosystem. David and Christine Kernohan were recognised last year in winning the Wellington Region's Ballance ANZ Grow Award, for their commitment to the environment, sustainability and the community.

As Jim Campbell said when he assessed their wetland proposal, 'This is another fine example of how business and conservation can stand alongside each other.' Jim is supervising the job, which will create another good promotional chance for Wetland Care. That the vineyard, reserve and lagoon are so close together is an unusual opportunity, as our projects so often exist in isolation.

We also know of a few more applications to come.

## Royal swan

The year's transfers have all been made, with donations of \$4600 collected for the season. We have few cygnets down south — it could be a lean year coming. We must wait and see.

— William Abel

## Pateke

Pateke is trucking along, with plenty going on behind the scenes evaluating new release sites. Ray Pearce, Shaun O'Connor and I met with members of the Mangatautari Trust earlier this month to evaluate opportunities there. (Maungatautari mountain is behind Karapiro in South Waikato, and the site of a big new mainland island project.)

Over the next month or two all potential sites will be visited and re-evaluated along with some new sites. As Kevin Evans reports, the captive-breeding programme is gradually cranking up, which gives potential for future large scale and smaller releases elsewhere.

The success at Port Charles has given the Pateke Recovery Group some confidence in the future.

The Port Charles releases over the last two years have tested the theories, established some best practice and are fulfilling a base requirement of the recovery plan, to establish a large-scale self-sustaining population outside existing populations at Mimiwhangata and Great Barrier Island.

— Ossie Latham

## Whio

The latest blue duck release went well on 23 February with 11 birds released in Egmont National Park.

It is really great for the breeders when this happens. As we know blue duck are not easy to breed and to have 19 birds bred over the last season is excellent. The others were released in March.

— Peter Russell

## Wetland Care sponsors Travis Wetland guidebook

As part of the partnership with Banrock Station Wines, Wetland Care NZ has put well-judged funding into the production of an excellent field guide to the Travis Wetland on the eastern edge of Christchurch city. 'Travis Wetland Walk — a Field Guide' was launched at Travis Wetland's Education Centre on 2 February, World Wetlands Day.

Travis Wetland Nature Heritage Park is a lowland freshwater wetland, located in an urban environment. It offers easy walkways and viewing areas, with opportunities to see many bird species and plant communities. There is an information kiosk and the nearby education centre includes a laboratory, educational facility and meeting space for groups.

The Travis Wetland covers 116 hectares of recently retired land surrounded by urban subdivision. It was bought by the Christchurch City Council in 1996 in response to public demand. Previously an important food and materials source for Maori in Canterbury, the land was acquired by settlers in the 1800s and subsequently drained for dairy farming. It is now being restored and managed as a Nature Heritage Park.

'Travis Wetland Walk — A Field Guide' was written by Joanna Orwin, a well-known writer of non-fiction and fiction for young people. The guide was produced by Travis Wetland Trust with sponsorship from Banrock Station Wines through Wetland Care NZ, Environment Canterbury and the Christchurch City Council.

The Guide is well-designed and fully illustrated and tells the interesting history of this unique, important site. There is information on each of 15 stopping sites on the 3.5km wheelchair-accessible walk. It explains how each site fits into the wetland restoration effort and alerts you to what to look for.

## Pamphlet for Manawatu River Estuary

Banrock Wines with Wetland Care have sponsored the production of an attractive pamphlet for the Manawatu Estuary Trust, formed in 2001 by people in the area to conserve the estuary for its biodiversity, education and eco-tourism. Volunteers currently offer guided tours and talks to groups, and the Trust has plans to build a professionally-operated wetland centre.

The Manawatu River was once the main port between Wellington and Wanganui. Travellers came ashore at Foxton to continue by coach, and later the Wellington coach travelled up the beaches and was ferried across the river there. Foxton was the first port to be settled in the region, and was the centre for exports of flax from the vast swamps that formed the original landscape of the plains.

At over 200ha the estuary is the most significant in the lower North Island and has been nominated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance. It is a refuge for international migratory birds such as godwit, knot, tern, golden plover, and is also the winter home for New Zealand shorebirds like royal spoonbill and the endangered wrybill.

For more information contact Judith Tyer, phone 06 368 1489 or Joan Leckie, phone 06 368 1277.

Copies cost \$10 and are available at all Christchurch City Council Service Centres. Contact details: Leisure & Parks Customer Service, phone 03 941 6840,

email: [leisureandparkscustomercentre@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:leisureandparkscustomercentre@ccc.govt.nz)

Visit the Christchurch City Council's excellent website for more about Travis Wetland. Go to [www.ccc.govt.nz](http://www.ccc.govt.nz) and look for Natural Areas in the Environment pages. Click the Wetlands link.



# Bird Talk

For several years DU has been working with Fish and Game and other organisations on the issue of continued protected-species status for grey teal. A review of the Wildlife Act 1953 is currently being carried out, initiated by DOC after pressure from Federated Farmers, who want more ability to control what they regard as problem birds, mainly Canada geese, paradise duck and spur-wing plover. Graham Gurr, David Smith and John Dyer met Minister of Conservation Chris Carter in December to discuss the issue. He has replied that a public discussion paper will be available in April, and you will have the opportunity to make submissions to this review.

As an organisation DU needs to be represented at any hearing, with a position that reflects the concerns of its members.

Please contact Graham Gurr or David Smith for more information (details on page 3).

## Protection Is Killing Off Grey Teal

Adapted from John Dyer's letter to the Minister of Conservation

**T**he grey teal was self-introduced from Australia and considered rare in NZ at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It has since become extremely common in suitable wetland areas, largely because the nest-box programme has been so successful. Estimates vary but about 3000 nest boxes have been erected in New Zealand wetlands since then. Most have been placed by gamebird hunters responding to Wildlife Service offers in the 1970s, to reclassify the species as a gamebird if numbers were increased.

Results were spectacular. In many areas grey teal are now the second most numerous duck after mallards. Well-maintained nest-box complexes attract grey teal in flocks of up to 600 and individual nest boxes are used three or even four times in a year. With a box life averaging around 30 years, the enormous potential of nest boxes to contribute to grey teal abundance is clear.

The nest-box programme was once a model of large-scale community involvement in wetland management. Timber companies, steel mills and workshops offered materials and equipment, and boxes by the hundred were made and erected in wetlands. Others bought kits from Ducks Unlimited for their own ponds — at least a thousand were sold this way. Volunteers erected, maintained and checked the boxes every year, and DU Board members travelled the country generating stories, photo opportunities and publicity wherever a new nest-box complex began.

Like paradise duck, which had limited distribution in the 1940s, we know that grey teal can be established in new areas by taking surplus eggs from nest boxes, rearing and releasing the ducklings at new nest-box sites. The current goal is to obtain permission to expand this practice. If grey teal was reclassified as a gamebird, the relocation programme would be more straightforward.

Because it is easy to mistake a grey teal for other duck species, especially in poor light, many hunters have come to resent the bird's species-protected status and the considerable risk it poses to them. Initiatives such as the nest-box scheme increase their vulnerability to current punitive fines and as a result, many teal box programmes have failed through lack of support, un-serviced nest boxes are falling over from neglect, and the number of ducklings coming out of them has declined considerably.

Grey teal is currently an 'Absolutely Protected Species', and increases in Wildlife Act penalties mean that anyone who shoots a grey teal accidentally is liable for a \$100,000 fine, a further \$5000 per head of grey teal shot, and/or a six-month prison term. The select committee that considered this anomaly has expressed

concern at the potential for ordinary gamebird hunters to be swept up in laws intended to catch others.

Under Section 8 of the Wildlife Act the Governor-General could change the status of grey teal by Order in Council, to reclassify it as a gamebird. The maximum penalty would then be a fine not exceeding \$5000 plus a further \$100 per head. Placing grey teal on the Game Schedule does not put it on any Fish and Game region's gamebird licence until they have made a local case for that change and have put the necessary monitoring in place. The Conservation Minister must first approve any application.

Could grey teal benefit from this approach? A case in point:

One US conservation success gives an example. The wood duck was presumed extinct at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Thousands of nest boxes, captive-rearing and relocation were successful, but by the 1950s wildlife authorities recognised that to achieve anything more, the wood duck should be included on a game licence. They reasoned that since hunters were responsible for the nest-box success, they would be the first to resist harvesting 'their' species if its population declined. With careful management, there are now 3.5 million wood duck in the USA, it is now one of the most common birds in hunter's bags and its numbers are more stable than most other waterfowl species there. The wood duck nest-box programme inspired Duck's Unlimited grey teal nest-box scheme in this country. In fact, the first boxes used here were of wood duck design.

*With thanks to Graham Gurr and John Dyer. -Ed.*



*Pupils at Rukuhia school, Ohaupo with the nest boxes donated by DU Waikato for placement at Lake Cameron last year. John Dyer talked to the class about grey teal, and the pupils planned to monitor grey teal numbers and help with seasonal upkeep of the nest boxes. LtoR Kevin Hutchinson (DOC), Mitchell Eason, Joshua Pratt and Ahitere Tuwhangai. Photo: Waikato Times 2004.*

*Continued on page 10...*





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