

# Flight



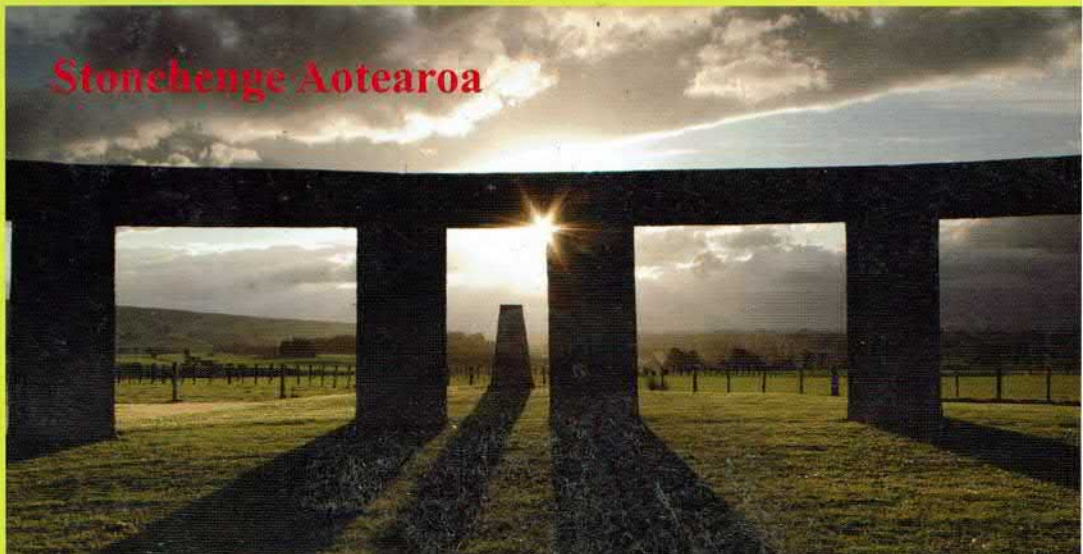
ISSUE 127 - APRIL 2006



Inside:  
Ducks Unlimited assists Wairakei Pastoral Ltd  
Birds Endangered and Exotic  
Pohangina Opens to the Public  
Photos Wairarapa Chapter lunch  
Our People  
Our Dogs



**Stonehenge Aotearoa**







Our business is to harness community, business and government resources to restore and develop lost wetland areas within New Zealand.

Wetland Care members recognise that wetlands are vital to the wellbeing of the environment, acting as huge ecological sponges by soaking up pollutants and filtering water before it reaches streams, rivers, lakes, aquifers and the sea.

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

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

Funding for projects comes from the Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust which was established by Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc in 1991, as well as membership, donations and corporate memberships such as that from Banrock Station Wines.

Central to Wetland Care New Zealand's mission is forming partnerships with people and organisations with similar aims. An example is Banrock Station Wines who place the Wetland Care New Zealand logo on their wine bottles distributed in New Zealand. In return, Banrock contribute a fee, which is based on each bottle sold, to Wetland Care New Zealand.

Money from this partnership has been given to wetland conservation projects done by:

**Ducks Unlimited Operation Pateke**  
**Port Charles release 2005 at Coromandel**  
**Henley Trust, Masterton**  
**Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, Wellington**  
**Kitchener Park, Feilding**  
**Manawatu Estuary Trust, Foxton**  
**Mangaone Wetland, Raetihi**  
**Masterton Intermediate School, Masterton**  
**Steyning Trust, Hawkes Bay**  
**Travis Wetland Trust, Christchurch**  
**Wairio Wetland, South Wairarapa**  
**Wetland Trust New Zealand, Rangiriri**  
**Waitakere Branch of Forest and Bird, West Auckland**  
**Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, Dunedin**

For further information, please contact:  
 William Abel - Director, Wetland Care  
 New Zealand, phone 04 478-4335.

## Stonehenge Aotearoa



Stonehenge Aotearoa is a brilliant open-sky observatory, built on the same scale as Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain, but more detailed, as it combines modern science with ancient knowledge. This full-scale working adaptation of Stonehenge has been built near Carterton, allowing all New Zealanders to experience the wonders of stone circles and learn how early cultures, including New Zealand Maori, used astronomy for navigation, to obtain detailed information on both the seasons and time. Stonehenge Aotearoa is designed specifically for its location in the southern hemisphere.



*Richard Hall explains the Analemma to visitors*

*We thank Christopher J. Picking for the Stonehenge Aotearoa images.*

**Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc**

### **2006 Annual General Meeting**

**28 - 30 July 2006**

#### **Venue and accommodation:**

Copthorne Resort Solway Park, Masterton, Wairarapa

#### **Programme**

##### **Friday 28 July**

7pm Registration and pre-dinner drinks followed by dinner

##### **Saturday 29 July**

9am AGM.

10am Morning tea.

10.30am Bus trip visiting Wairio Wetland followed by drinks and lunch at the Lake Ferry Hotel, then a visit to Stonehenge Aotearoa in Carterton.

7pm Drinks, and Silent Auction opens

7.30pm Award presentations

8.00 Dinner followed by Main Auction.

Sunday 30 July 10am Morning Tea and social get-together.



# Insight

by Ross Cottle, President

*At our recent Board meeting it was very pleasing to note that after struggling along for number of years the organisation is now in a comfortable situation financially, with funding available for wetland habitat creation.*

*Another matter that was discussed was the number of years some of our directors had served on the Board. Two had been there at least 17 years and the only reason one of them knew that was because one of them knew that he didn't have children when he was first elected.*

*The point I wish to make here is that although we are now financially sound, the problem we now face is a lack of personnel coming forward to replace those wishing to move on to other endeavours.*

*This is also true at the chapter level where a lot of the work is being done by a small group of people. I know that we are not alone in this regard and that a lot of organisations are having problems in this area, but I do have real concerns for the future of DU if it carries on this way.*

*So, in conclusion, support your local chapters, put your hand up when jobs or positions need to be filled and help secure Ducks Unlimited's future.*

Ross Cottle  
President

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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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### Front cover:

At Horouta Dam, the Ducks Unlimited-assisted project for Wairakei Pastoral Limited (see pages 10-11), the two chaps on the landscape are Ducks Unlimited Patron Jim Campbell in black and Wairarapa's Geoff Reid in white

Kokako banding: *Image courtesy DOC* - see page 13

AGM - Stonehenge visit - see page 2. *Image: Christopher J. Picking*



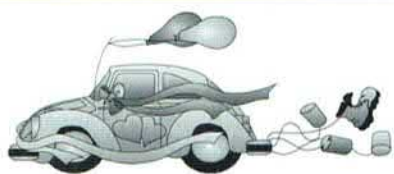


Di Wilks of Greytown.

## OUR People

### Di Wilks

A member for over 25 years, Di was born in Ashburton and raised on her father Arthur Nicoll's standardbred stud farm Durbar Lodge where she developed her lifelong love of horses and interest in racing, principally trotting (without betting!). After boarding schools in Christchurch and Timaru, she worked on the farm and then in a small-factory job to save money for the obligatory OE in 1950 (four weeks at sea). She had three-and-a-half years at the Hulton Press in London on the boys' paper Eagle, after three months in Portugal teaching English to a nine-year-old boy, and with leave to spend time hitch-hiking round Europe and the UK. Back in New Zealand, she became New Zealand's first female newspaper sub-editor, married Alan Wilks (actor Alan Jervis) and their son David was also on the DU board till family commitments intervened. She has proof-read 34 of the last 35 issues of Flight - 'all care but no responsibility,' she says.



*It is with great pleasure that the Editor shares with readers the good news that DU member James Hunter of Rangitoto, Waipukurau, is to marry Jane Cunnihame this year, thus changing James' status of bachelor' as reported in Flight 121. Congratulations, James, and felicitations to Jane!*



### Obituary

We regret the passing of Ron Denny of Masterton and extend our sympathies to his wife Janet.

Ron was a founding member of Ducks Unlimited and a Wairarapa Chapter committee member. Always available to help with dinners and shoots, Ron was a passionate breeder of pheasant and quail for release. He bred pateke. He loved hunting and fishing, was always laughing and great fun to have around.

Ron will be sadly missed, but not forgotten.

By Ross Cottle and Alan Wilks.



*Thank you to our Sponsors*



**Carpet Court**  
YOU'LL LOVE THE LOOK



### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Greg Hart, Otane  
Chris Cant, Hamilton  
Andrew Lynch, Palmerston North  
Maurice Mehlhopt and family, Christchurch  
Barry Pethybridge, Te Puke  
Andrew Morris, Masterton  
Gareth Morris, Masterton  
Mike O'Leary, Masterton



# Wetland Care Projects

## Manawatu Estuary Recipient of Banrock Station Wines financial assistance

It was a fine November day with a light breeze which greeted the group of 17 Manawatu Estuary attendees at the presentation of the \$5000 cheque from Banrock Wines, as opposed to the windy gale which accompanied the similar transaction at Wairio as reported in Flight 125.

A number of migratory birds were observed during the morning and Banrock Wines Executive Tony Sharley seemed most intrigued with the whitebaiters, one of whom is faintly pictured in the photo of the presentation. The result of the catch was enough for half a whitebait patty...!

After the cheque presentation and a stroll over to the observation platform, a number of attendees chatted with Tony and Nobilo Wine Group marketing executive Jane Williams at a local Foxton café.

*Report by Ian Jensen*

## Farewell to the migratory birds at Manawatu Estuary

Despite a stormy night when out-of-season snow covered the Tararua Ranges, close to 70 people braved the cold wind on Saturday 4 March to say their farewells to the Arctic waders which have spent their summer at the Manawatu River Estuary. The estuary was recently recognised as a Wetland of International Importance through the Ramsar Convention, and the publicity has sparked a lot of interest in the area.

People of all ages from three to 86 came from as far away as Taihape, Wanganui, Dannevirke, Kapiti and Palmerston North to take the opportunity of being with experts with knowledge to share. The ornithologists focused their telescopes on the different birds for people to see for themselves a close-up view of the different species.

The godwits and knots were fat and sleek, having spent the summer at the estuary feeding on the prolific invertebrates which live in the tidal mudflats. Many were displaying their bright orange/tan breeding plumage on their breasts, and on cue they followed the incoming tide across the mudflats to roost at the end of their sandspit. They are almost ready to depart on their long flight north to the Arctic, following the Eastern Flyway over northern Australia, East Asia, Korea to the mountains of Siberia and Alaska where there will be 24 hours of daylight for much of the time over the summer and heaps of food to raise their young.

A few weeks ago, three specialists from the Department of Conservation and the Ornithological Society of New Zealand set up mist nets in the evening to catch and band birds on the night tide. They were very successful in managing to fix very lightweight-coloured bands to the legs of about 35 birds. Now these individual birds can be identified and scientists can track them as they fly north. They can later see if these individuals actually return here to the Manawatu Estuary next year.

One uncommon visitor was seen, a Hudsonian godwit, from Canada. This bird had flown in with the bar-tailed godwits from Alaska, even though the Hudsonian godwits normally migrate to South America. The Manawatu Estuary is wellknown by bird watchers for the occasional rare visitor. Recently a Japanese snipe spent time there, and enthusiasts came from far and wide to have a look.

On the walk back to the parked cars the visitors saw a big flock of white-fronted terns and another flock of black and white oystercatchers resting on the sand. Then running along over the flats was a small flock of the New Zealand endangered native wrybill.



*Tony Sharley presenting Joan Leckie of the Manawatu Estuary Trust with a cheque for \$5000 in November 2005*

The Manawatu Estuary is one of the critical wintering places for this unique bird with the crooked bill. The wrybill breed in the braided rivers of Canterbury and their crooked bill has evolved to enable them to catch insects underneath the stones. These little birds run fast with a smooth gait across the wet flats and at times can come right up close to people who stand still to watch.

Dr Peter Maddison, National President of the Forest & Bird Society and a professional 'bug man', had previously carried out a detailed study of the invertebrates which create the 'larder' for all these birds at the estuary. He was present to tell people about the rich abundance of life in the estuary which is the reason all the birds come to stay.

The Manawatu Estuary Trust is planning to build a Wetland Centre to provide a focus for visitors, schools and universities, with a scientist present to explain and inform the public about the importance of wetlands such as estuaries in retaining the biodiversity of New Zealand. The Horowhenua District Council has supported this with a large grant to start the ball rolling and fundraising is underway.

*Report by Joan Leckie*



*Hudsonian godwit above and left.*



*Japanese snipe, courtesy [www.aussiebirds.bravepages.com](http://www.aussiebirds.bravepages.com)*



## WAIRARAPA CHAPTER



*DU President Ross Cottle welcomes Peter Russell - captive-breeding coordinator on the Whio Recovery Group - and Dave West*



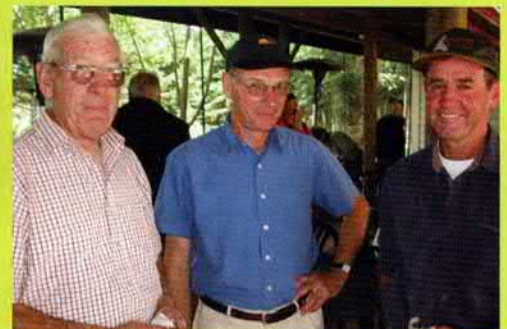
*Alan Wilks with Bill Clinton-Baker*



*Joyce Brooks, Gail Reid and Raana Campbell on the registration table*



*Ducky Derby winner Anne Fitzgerald*



*Robin Borthwick, Jim Law and Neil Candy*



*Janet Denny, whose husband Ron passed away only weeks before, is pictured with Marilyn Law and Gail Rapson*



*Janet and Tenick Dennison*



*Ken and Jan Cook chatting with Neil and Julie Candy from Manawatu*



*Glenys Hansen*



*Gary and Gaye Thompson from Eketahuna*



*A fond glance from Jan to husband Bill Clinton-Baker*



## ANNUAL LUNCH AND DUCKY DERBY

The Wairarapa Chapter annual lunch was held at Gladstone Vineyard Café in its large garden on Sunday 5 March with over 55 people participating. Eleven of these were members from the Manawatu. Dermot Fitzgerald conducted an auction of items sent from DUNZ Canada and items donated by members - some fetching large sums as the competition hotted up - was enormously successful and the silent auction of goods of all types donated by members, from homestays to paintings to practical objects, kept everyone busy outbidding each other. The generous buffet lunch was delicious and chef Peter Icke and his staff excelled themselves. It was simply a Very Good Party indeed. Which husband did not take his hat off, even though his wife asked him to? Check out the expressions on the faces.

### The great Ducky Derby

Participation in the Ducky Derby was enthusiastic. Members purchased 20 numbered plastic ducks at \$2 each and paid for enough to float five heats. The first three in each event went into the final float-off down a little stream. Ably started by president Ross with Jim Campbell as finish judge the event created much hilarity. The winners were first, Anne Fitzgerald, second Jim Campbell and third Roger Brooks. *(It would, of course, be most unfair to assume that Jim Campbell, being both finish judge and second place-getter, was any more than simple coincidence...Ed)*

Gladstone Vineyard is an owner-operated winery in the Wairarapa region of New Zealand, currently producing about 3500 cases of wine, increasing to 7500 in the next three to four years. Established in 1986, vines are planted on a free-draining terrace, once the riverbed of the nearby Ruamahanga River. Christine and David Kernohan took over the vineyard in February 1996. Both were born in Glasgow, Scotland, and emigrated to New Zealand 26 years ago. Christine is the winemaker, involved in all stages of the activities, and manages the business. Christine is one of only three Scottish women winemakers in the world (it not being a common career aspiration when she grew up!). David runs his own business, Architecture Diagnostics, from the vineyard, and spends his weekends serving wine!

## Rare Campbell Island Snipe Flourishing

The Department of Conservation has discovered one of the world's rarest birds, the Campbell Island snipe, is recolonising its former home in the remote Southern Ocean at an astonishing rate, Conservation Minister Chris Carter announced in January. The existence of a Campbell Island snipe was only discovered in 1997, when a tiny population was found living on Jacquemart Island, an inhospitable rock-stack neighbouring Campbell Island, deep in the Southern Ocean.

'Archaeological work established that the snipe used to live on Campbell Island, but was driven out of its home by the introduction of rats, which most likely occurred when a ship wrecked near the island in 1829', Mr Carter said.

'In 2001, the Department of Conservation fought back, and in the largest rat eradication ever attempted in the world, successfully made Campbell Island pest-free, using new funding from the Government'.

A DOC survey team inspecting the island this summer has found a new snipe population, estimated to be about 30 birds, living on Campbell, a far larger population than ever expected.

## Stoat's Record-breaking Swim

On 14 December 2005, an adult stoat (mummified, unsure of sex, probably female due to size and absence of vacuolus bone) was discovered in a trap on Centre Island in Lake Te Anau.

This 14ha island is 2.2km from the mainland from the nearest point, a record-breaking swim for a stoat. The greatest distance a stoat has swum as far as we know is 1650m to Moutapu Island in Lake Wanaka.

For more information contact:

Hannah Edmonds  
Biodiversity Ranger  
DOC Te Anau Area Office  
ph 03 249 8274 (VPN 5942)



## Good news for Campbell Island teal

The Department of Conservation team who have been on the Subantarctic Campbell Island for three weeks in March came back to terra firma in Invercargill with excellent news for some of our most enigmatic wildlife.

The team returning from Campbell Island on 14 March 2006 consisted of six people and two specially-trained dogs who have spent the last three weeks searching the remote island for teal.

The team are thrilled with the discovery that the endangered native teal that were released on to Campbell Island over the 2004 and 2005 summers have bred. During their three weeks on the remote Campbell Island, the team found five different ages of ducklings, which is a promising sign for this rare native bird.

'As well as finding ducklings, the team discovered nesting remains and unbanded adult ducks, which are last year's ducklings,' said Pete McClelland, Programme Manager for the Subantarctic Islands.

'Finding evidence of breeding so soon after returning these ducks to their natural habitat of Campbell Island is excellent news, and it shows a fantastic response to the rat eradication,' he said.

In 2001 the Department of Conservation carried out the world's largest rodent eradication on the 22,000ha Campbell Island, and removed the last introduced predator from the island.

Because of predation by rats and other predators, the tiny flightless Campbell Island teal had become extinct on the main island. Twenty years ago, 11 Campbell Island teal were brought back to New Zealand for breeding as a captive population and this allowed the reintroduction of the Campbell Island teal back to their natural habitat, with 50 being released on Campbell Island in 2004 and another 55 in 2005.

Letter to the Editor from Dr Avi Holzapfel, Conservancy Advisory Scientist, Waikato Conservancy, Hamilton.

(See Frog Week article, Flight 126). Dr Holzapfel was kind enough to supply the photos and material for the article on pages 6 and 7 of that issue.

'Just got the copies of the magazine - a wonderful article and great promotion of awareness of frog issues.'

Many thanks!  
With regards,  
Avi.'





## Lake Wairarapa Coordinating Committee

DU Director Jim Law attended a meeting of the Lake Wairarapa Coordinating Committee in March on behalf of DUNZ.

The group visited sites at the north and east of the lake, mainly to see damage by willows, elders, etc, and the possibilities for recovery/utilisation. Jim reports that it was 'all rather sad with little going on - our Wairio project is a bit of a beacon'.

However, he said that there was some good news near the end of the day when the committee was addressed by Ian Buchanan (Chairman of the Wellington Regional Council) and Allan Ross (DOC Conservator for the Wellington Region). These men advised that their organisations were working towards a joint development initiative, whereby Crown and council land around the lake would be incorporated, over time, into a major park/reserve, providing both public access and conservation of fauna and flora.

Jim Law commented that what the committee was trying to achieve at the Wairio Wetland, in partnership with DOC, was in line with their stated objectives and that they would proceed on what would be a no-regrets basis. Both Ian and Allan agreed with this, and supported what we were doing, stating that they liked the partnership model.

"This was good to hear and should help us get DOC concurrence to our work programme for 2006 (the earlier Wairio Committee minutes refer). In this regard, Derrick Field, Area Manager, DOC Wairarapa, undertook to get back with the go ahead in the next few days", concluded Jim Law.

Di Pritt of Mitredale, Ohakune, shares with readers this recipe:

### Mangaone Barbecue Duck Breasts

Mallard duck breasts removed from carcass and skinned

Port

Soy sauce half the amount as the port

Sage leaves

Mix flavourings and marinate breasts for at least two hours

Drain and barbecue just until pink in the middle

Serve with Banrock Sparkling Shiraz or White Shiraz.

### Jane's Salad

Salad greens mixed with crumbled blue cheese, sliced pear, sliced red onion.

Dressing: olive oil, balsamic vinegar (3:1 is advisable) manuka honey, garlic, salt and pepper. Mix in quantities to taste.

## Science & Technical Publishing - Distribution Memo 179 from DOC

This monthly distribution memo lists new publications that record the outcome of science projects undertaken by DOC staff and contractors for Research, Development & Improvement Division.

Contact

<mailto:science.publications@doc.govt.nz>  
for orders, or send to: Science & Technical Publishing, PO Box 10 420, Wellington. Fax: (04) 496-1929.

*For new members who may not be aware, Operation Pateke was started up by Ducks Unlimited NZ Inc about 30 years ago when members started captive-breeding pateke. 'A few years ago Operation Pateke was taken over by DOC who are doing a really good job with the species. DU members still participate greatly in the captive-breeding programme,' Ducks Unlimited's representative on the Pateke Recovery Group, Ossie Latham, states. DU member Kevin Evans is the captive-breeding coordinator on the Recovery Group and publisher of the Brown Teal Roundup newsletter we publish when we can in Flight.*

## Brown Teal Roundup

### Changes to the Pateke Recovery Group

With Shaun O'Connor taking on his boss's job in the newly created Threatened Species Section of DOC in Wellington, he has given up the recovery group leader's role. Thanks to Shaun for the excellent job he has done in keeping brown teal recovery on track. Shaun will stay on as the independent advisor to the group, Richard Maloney has taken up the recovery group leader's role and Ray Pierce is now doing the science advice job. The recovery group has invited Rosalie Stamp to work with Richard with a view to taking over the leader's role in the next year or two. For those of you who don't know Rosalie, she is Auckland DOC's technical support officer for fauna, and as such has been involved with pateke work on Great Barrier Island for a number of years. For general recovery group inquiries contact Richard ([rmaloney@doc.govt.nz](mailto:rmaloney@doc.govt.nz)) in the first instance.

### Mimiwhangata, Northland, from Emma Neill

As at 31 January 2006, 31 birds were fitted with transmitters. Breeding season: 26 breeding attempts from 24 pairs, of which 13 have a radio-tagged female. At season end 25 nests hatched, one nest preyed on. Juveniles: 17 juveniles of the season were radio-tagged and a further eight colour-banded. Therefore the target of 20 juveniles was not met. As at 31 January six of the radio-tagged juveniles have died, and one is missing. Deaths: There have been no deaths of adult birds since the November roundup.

Predator control: continues from Whananaki, north along a coastal margin to Teal Bay (n=348 trap sites). During December 38 stoats and two cats were caught.

Monitoring: the sample maintenance period is scheduled to start late February. All radio-tagged birds will be caught to have their transmitters replaced, and a few extra birds caught to bring the sample size up to the target of 35. All transmitters used are Holohil brand.

Flock counts: as at 10 February, two of the four annual flock counts have been completed. Count totals for these two counts were 253 and 24 - about 100 fewer birds than the first two 2005 counts. The remaining two counts occur in February.

### Okiwi, Great Barrier Island, from Joanna Sim

In the past three months there has been another visit from James and Percy in which we attached transmitters to 24 juveniles. Unfortunately 14 of these birds are now dead with another four juveniles missing. Due to the scavenged state of all the carcasses, the post-mortem reports were inconclusive. This has been confounded by the time-of-death function on the transmitters, as according to these, the teal died at various times of the day and night. One adult female has also died in this time. The post-mortem report came back as starving. In November I did an



aerial flight over the island looking for missing birds. I picked up three missing birds. Of these two were dead (both adult females), but it was very useful to see how far they had travelled prior to their deaths. One was over the hill in Kawa Bay (in the north-western side of the island) and the other dead bird was way south in Okupu (halfway down the island on the west coast).

The other was a male from last year's juvenile sample that has travelled south into the Awana catchment and is still residing there. Pateke are very conspicuous at this time of year, with around 180 birds counted feeding at Whangapoua estuary at low tide recently. The annual flock counts are being organised at the moment. The previous three-monthly counts in the basin have also shown increasing numbers at the flock sites but also much movement between them. Rainfall has been sporadic with dry periods interspersed with extremely heavy rain. January, however, had some damp humid weather which the ducks were no doubt relishing. Craig caught no cats since mid-December, and just this week has caught three cats. Four orphaned pateke have been well looked after by Karen Walker since December, which are thriving in her care. We are in the throes of organising a transfer of these juveniles to Kevin to boost the captive-breeding population.

#### **Port Charles,**

**from Jason Roxburgh, Lettecia Williams and Rebekah Caldwell**

**Predator Control:** Since the last Pateke Roundup, the trapping has caught three cats. Monitoring: since the November roundup, four more pateke have died; one killed by a cat (juvenile), one run over not far from the cat kill (juvenile), one avian predation, had blood in the wing fat analysis (2004 bird) and one melted in a drain in the humidity, nothing left for analysis (2005). This brings the total dead from the 19 May release to 16 (three x 2004, 11 x 2005 and two juveniles), and are now 30 of the 40 monitored 2005 release birds still alive. Transmitters were attached to nine juveniles in November, and two have died, two are missing, and the other five are scattered about. **Breeding Season:** we are still seeing the occasional brood about and there are definitely more birds (non-tagged) about the area.

**Vehicle Deaths:** still no vehicle deaths on the road by the hazing fence, but one was hit around New Year's Eve at Parakete. The tally of vehicle deaths for wild teal between Waikawau Bay and Colville is now up to 10, and we are looking at putting up more signage to help with this problem. In a way it is good to see that there are more birds about. Rebekah and Lettecia continue to advocate strongly with residents and visitors about pateke, especially asking people slow down and be careful while driving. As mentioned above, we continue to have vehicle-related deaths, though the numbers are reducing around Port Charles.

#### **Captive Update,**

**from Kevin Evans**

The captive-breeding season has been an extremely busy and successful one, with well over 120 juveniles spread around the country

at the moment. Many thanks go out again to all of the captive-breeders out there who have this year pulled out all the stops to produce such great numbers for this year's very exciting release programme; without you all we would not be able to achieve what we have to date, nor could we afford it. Twenty-eight birds and the staff at Peacock Springs were up bright and early to catch a plane from Christchurch to Rotorua, flown by helicopter to Mayor Island (Tuhua) [see article this issue], where they were released into an extremely large crater lake and wetland. This release site is one of the few predator-free offshore islands which have an extensive wet area, as most islands are small dry places with limited teal habitat.

If successful this location has the potential to establish a breeding population of our goal 100 birds-plus which will certainly help contribute to the longterm goals of the recovery programme. This year's other releases will see potentially our last release into Moehau, with the final decision on this coming up at our next recovery-group meeting later in the year and a new Northland site. We should have around 60 birds for the 18 May release into Moehau and 20 birds for the Northland site at this stage, and with some birds still nesting, we may have a few more to release nearer the time.

Peacock Springs now has some room available for pre-release conditioning for the remaining teal out there, after an extremely busy breeding season and releases of orange-fronted parakeets, Campbell Island teal, North Island and South Island blue duck, black stilt, shore plover and of course brown teal. The continued effort put in by Anne and the girls is greatly appreciated; it is a critical part of the success of this captive-release programme into the wild. The pre-release conditioning phase that the birds undergo while they are all housed at Peacock Springs facilities prior to their release ensures we are able to release a 'standardised' group of brown teal that are all trained on to Nosloc feeders, and readily identify with the feeders when released into the wild.

This year we have also been fortunate enough to have eight orphan ducklings from Mimiwhangata (Northland) and four from Great Barrier Island brought into the captive programme, with the Northland birds being reared by myself and Karen Walker (GBI Bird Rescue) rearing the GBI ducklings. All are doing well, and will be flock-mated during the year.

#### **Karori Wildlife Sanctuary,**

**from Neil Anderson**

Since mid-November we have seen 28 new ducklings produced from six breeding pairs, although one male has been responsible for two clutches to different females in overlapping territories. This situation resulted in some particularly vicious fights with the established female prevailing and the younger birds' ducklings quickly disappearing. A brand new pair at the north end of the lower lake produced two ducklings, although both were lost. The pair on the top dam which has lost all of their three previous clutches continued in the same vein with their five hatched not lasting a week. This female takes her ducklings a long way from the lake

up and over the dam and down into the creeks below where, one by one they disappear. She then returns to the dam and rejoins her mate who has stayed put. Of the remaining 20 ducklings hatched to establish pairs, 16 survived and all are approaching banding age. One established pair based on the lower lake has shown some behaviour we have never observed in here before. They lost four out of five of their second clutch quite quickly after hatching in August. A single surviving female from this clutch stayed with the parents right through nesting, hatching and raising of the next clutch. She is not only tolerated but seems to play an active role in family matters, herding up wayward ducklings in their early weeks and is particularly keen on chasing off mallards. The younger siblings are now 10 weeks old so the coming weeks could prove to be rather interesting.

#### **Tiritiri Matangi,**

**from Barbara Walter**

**Wharf Road Dam -** Jemima and Ossie appeared with four ducklings on 19 November. Only one has survived of this second clutch and we discovered, as the water level reduced with a lack of rain, that we had a large eel. The eel probably also ate the first clutch. Last month an eel trap was set and caught one large and two medium-sized eels over a three-day period. We are hoping to band the juvenile next week.

**Lighthouse Valley Dam -** Britannia, Blue Bonnet and Finn (when he isn't with the females on the Bunkhouse Dam). The eel net was also set there as Britannia's ducklings disappeared in September. Unfortunately Britannia got caught in the eel net and died. In all the years we have used the net this is the first time that this has happened. At present Finn is staying there with Blue Bonnet.

**Bunkhouse Dam -** Finn is seen there a lot of the time with three females and occasionally a shy male appears.

**North East Bay Dam - (the new wetland area) -** Connie and Ralph appeared with four ducklings on 1 December. They have all survived and we have managed to band two of them. Will try to band the other two when they trust us again! Ralph disappears at times, we are not sure where to, except possibly to Rose which he has been seen with once in a month on the Bush 21 Dam.

**Fishermans Bay Dam 1 -** The 28 pateke were raised in captivity by a number of private breeders and Ducks Unlimited. For the last several months the birds have been held and cared for by the Isaac Wildlife Trust in Christchurch where they were banded, screened for disease and quarantined. Old home of Daisy and Ruan is completely dry and dead eels have been found in there.

**Fishermans Bay Dam 2 -** This dam is now the home of Daisy and Ruan and we believe that she may be sitting as she isn't always seen and possibly ducklings are due soon.

**Bush 21 Dam -** Rose has been seen once and Ralph once. Teal are also seen occasionally on Hobbs Beach at night.





# FROM FOREST TO FARM

**Ducks Unlimited  
participates in Wairakei  
Pastoral Limited's massive  
development between  
Taupo and Rotorua.**

*Report from John Dermer*

Wearing my other hat, that of a Ducks Unlimited director, I joined Ross Cottle, Neil and Julie Candy and Rachael Mitchell on a visit to two sites being developed by Wairakei Pastoral Limited (WPL).

One is on the main road between Taupo and Rotorua, and the other is on Broadlands Road, just across the Waikato River. This is a huge project and one which I believe all of New Zealand will follow with interest because of the changes in use of the land - from forestry to farming.

How did DU get invited? Simple. There are some gullies and waterways on the first farm to be developed and Wairakei Pastoral Limited decided to create wetlands as a means of managing run-off from the pasture land developed.

## Who you gonna call?

Who does one contact when creating wetlands? DU's Patron, Jim Campbell of course. Jim is DU's main dam and wetland designer, and many middle districts members will remember visiting his magnificent dam near Mt. Bruce. More about that later.

Some statistics: The area to be developed is approximately 26,000ha (64,246 acres). It consists mainly of radiata pine forest which had been owned by Tenon, and prior to that by Fletcher Challenge Forests, before Tenon sold off its interests in forestry. The bulk of Tenon's forests were sold to the Harvard Pension Fund, but a group of four Auckland property investors bought the forests which are outside the Kaingaroa area and were sold separately. The area consists of the Taharakuri Forest, which is the forest you drive through for ages between Taupo and Rotorua, and the Tauharari Forest, which is on the Broadlands Road between Taupo and Reporoa - just after you leave the new car-racing track being developed north of Taupo.

The aim is to create a number of dairy farms of approximately 450ha which will carry an estimated 1200 cows each. Separate farms for rearing calves will take up approximately half of the land area, and the balance of the land would be developed for drystock farming. The soil type is predominately raw pumice, with better soils on some of the country further west. Contour is mostly



*Horouta Dam above and on the right*

flat to rolling, so is easy to develop using machinery.

The owners, Wairakei Pastoral Limited, who are determined to get things right the first time with this development, plan to spend \$10m on riparian plantings and amenity trees over the next 20 years. The first farm has 18 bores put down so water quality can be measured, both in and out. All the riparian and wetland areas will be fenced off and will be planted in native trees and shrubs, as well as utilising a series of dams to manage any run-off. Jim's job!

The riparian strips along the Waikato are three times the recommended size and these too will be planted, although the natural regeneration seemed to be doing the job very well without the need for extra planting. Plenty of *pittosporum tenuifolium* were growing in the fenced-off area. Plenty of weeds as well, which will require ongoing management.

The intention is for all trees over seven years old to be grown to maturity, harvested, then the land converted to pasture. We saw several piles of 10-year-old trees which had been plucked out in order to complete the development of a whole block. The company plans to sell these trees for hog fuel. On the first block, the slash had been raked and burned, and the stumps pulled out. This left some piles of unwanted stumps and slash as well as the piles of 10-year-old trees. The present policy is to rake the slash into windrows, grind the stumps with a specially-designed grinder mounted on a digger, then re-spread the slash so it can be mulched with specially-adapted tractors. The digger is a 29-tonner with two motors. The extra one drives the grinding wheel. This grinds the stumps down to about 600mm and would have to be one of the world's most monotonous jobs! Working your way down seemingly endless

rows of stumps with two motors roaring at you all day is not my idea of fun, and these contractors run it 24/7. The slash is then re-spread for the mulchers. These tractors are specially adapted 300+ hp Fendts. Not much change out of \$500,000 each we 'experts' in the car reckoned, and the mulchers can chop the slash fine enough for grass to be sown with a roller drill. The estimated cost of this is between \$3000 and \$5000 per hectare, with fencing, irrigation water supply, fertiliser and rotary sheds still to come. All this development is funded by Wairakei Pastoral Ltd with Landcorp Development Ltd then taking up a 40-year lease on the land.

Ten percent of the total area is to be retired into wetlands, riparian strips and copses of amenity trees. On a venture of this size that is 2600ha. This may cause problems, as the number of plants needed may not initially be available from the local nurseries. No plantation or crop trees are planned, so steep sidelings will be planted for beautification, larch being the preferred option at the moment. They plan to work closely with Environment Waikato on all water-monitoring and any nutrient runoff will be recorded.

Jim's job, the first of many up there we hope, is now done. A series of small dams has been built down the gullies which will control any surface runoff from the pumice soils, which, as we saw, have the potential to scour badly in heavy rain if not managed correctly. The completed area looks superb already and the local duck population has wasted no time in making use of it. This development will be a huge asset to the area, and as well as managing runoff from the pastures, will provide a significant wetland habitat.



## RENOWN DAM - WAIRAKEI PASTORAL LIMITED WETLANDS



### Early days in the project

*Two left photos and below: giant earthworks nearly finished, now for the planting*



## DREAM COME TRUE AT POHANGINA WETLANDS FOR THE PILONES

Gordon and Anne Pilone's news is that the Kahikatea block of the Pohangina Wetlands (the block along the Pohangina Road side just before Pohangina village) was opened to public access on the longest day of the year, 22 December 2005. Small entry gates have been installed along with a sign noting that the wetlands are open for public access. You can enter from one end of the block and exit the other along the road; making it convenient for village road walkers to stroll the wetlands. The wetlands will be closed on the shortest day, 21 June, for the breeding and nesting season, opening again the following long day for a quiet visit. Plans are to finish in March and get on with planting in 2007.



*This aerial shot was taken two years ago.*



*Gordon and Anne Pilone proudly unveil their sign welcoming visitors to Pohangina Wetlands, at the opening day. This has been their labour of love for many years.*



# Our Dogs

The New Zealand Kennel Club has kindly allowed reproduction of this article on the labrador retriever, which we thought could be informative and useful. Please read on.

Once known as the 'St John's Dogs', originally from Newfoundland, Canada, the labrador was trained to jump overboard into the icy waters to haul fishermen's nets to shore. These dogs had been known variously as the Black Water Dog, the Lesser Newfoundland, or the St John's Dog; they were descendants of dogs taken there by explorers, settlers and fishing crews. The dogs, found to have excellent hunting and fishing abilities, were brought to England early in the 1800s where their 'modern' development carried on. Crossed with other local sporting breeds, the strong and sturdy lab became, and continues to be, England's most popular gundog. This breed excels in obedience and field trials, needs plenty of outdoor exercise and especially enjoys swimming.

## Temperament

The labrador retriever is a kindly, outgoing dog breed. The lab's easy-going and friendly manner makes him an excellent addition to families with children. The labrador retriever is easy to train and, by nature, is a true sporting dog. Labs love swimming and will play fetch in the water for as long as you will!

## Upkeep

Labradors are active and sociable dogs. They need daily exercise, preferably in the form of retrieving and swimming. Owners with swimming pools either must fence them out or be prepared to share the pool with dog. The lab coat sheds water easily. It needs daily brushing to remove dead hair. Although labs can live outdoors in temperate climates, they are much happier indoors with their family.

## Official Breed Standard

The general appearance of the labrador should be that of a strongly-built, short-coupled, very active dog, broad in the skull, broad and deep through the chest and ribs, broad and strong over the loins and hind-quarters, the coat close, short with dense undercoat and free from feather. The dog must move neither too wide nor too close in front or behind, he must stand and move true all round on legs and feet.

**Head and Skull:** The skull should be broad with a pronounced stop so that the skull is not in a straight line with the nose. The head should be clean cut without fleshy cheeks. The jaws should be medium length and powerful and free from snipiness, the nose wide and the nostrils well developed.

**Eyes:** The eyes of medium size expressing intelligence and good temper, should be brown or hazel.

**Ears:** Should not be large and heavy and should hang close to the head and set rather far back.

**Mouth:** Teeth should be sound and strong, the lower teeth just behind but touching the upper.

**Neck:** Should be clean, strong and powerful and set into well-placed shoulders.

**Forequarters:** The shoulders should be long and sloping, the forelegs well-boned and straight from the shoulder to the ground



when viewed from either the front or side. The dog must move neither too wide nor too close in front.

**Body:** The chest must be of good width and depth with well-sprung ribs. The back should be short coupled.

**Hindquarters:** The loins must be wide and strong with well-turned stifles; hindquarters well developed and not sloping to the tail. The hocks should be slightly bent and the dog must neither be cow-hocked nor move too wide nor too close behind.

**Feet:** Should be round and compact with well-arched toes and well-developed pads.

**Tail:** The tail is a distinctive feature of the breed; it should be very thick towards the base, gradually tapering towards the tip, of medium length and practically free from any feathering, but clothed thickly all round with the labrador's short, thick dense coat, thus giving that peculiar 'rounded' appearance which has been described as the 'Otter' tail. The tail may be carried gaily, but should not curl over the back.

**Coat:** The coat is another distinctive feature of the breed, it should be short and dense and without wave with a weather-resisting undercoat and should give a fairly hard feeling to the hand.

**Colour:** The colour is generally black or yellow - but other whole colours are permitted. The coat should be free from any white markings but a small white spot on the chest is allowable. The coat should be of a whole colour and not of a flecked appearance.

**Weight and Size:** Desired height. Dogs: 56 - 57cm (22 - 22.5in) Bitches: 54 - 56cm (21.5 - 22in).

**Faults:** Under or overshot mouth; no undercoat; bad action; feathering; snipiness on the head; large or heavy ears: cow-hocked, tail curled over back.

There are one or two other things which are required for all-over wonderfulness, but let us agree, our dog is our dog, and that's that.

## Excerpt from Brown Teal Roundup 14 February 2006

Fiddich the gordon setter, who worked tirelessly locating brown teal in streams, wetlands and ponds, passed away in December. She worked on brown teal at Mimiwhangata for six years, and also on Great Barrier, Little Barrer and Tiritiri Matangi Islands. She found two fiordland teal in 1996, and in 1997 discovered a previously-undescribed species of snipe on Campbell Island. Much of what we know about brown teal today can be attributed to the hard work of Fiddich and those dogs that went before her.



# Birdlife

## Pull of pukaha too strong for shore plover

What's the difference between a shore plover and a boomerang?

The question is being pondered by the captive-breeding team at Pukaha Mount Bruce, after a shore plover winged its way back there, more than 300 kilometres from its release site near Hawkes Bay.

Discovered outside an aviary in December, it was one of eight birds released on to an island off Hawkes Bay back in February. It was three months old when it was transferred for release after being bred at Pukaha Mount Bruce as part of the national recovery programme for this endangered species. Currently the itinerant shore plover is being held in a spare aviary and is undergoing health checks and quarantine to ensure that it does not pose a disease risk to the captive-breeding population.

## Back from extinction, pateke return to Tuhua

*Story by Stephanie Twaddle, Community Relations Manager, DOC*

Though previously extinct in the Bay of Plenty, 28 of the nationally-endangered pateke arrived at their new home in March on Tuhua (Mayor Island), offshore from Tauranga City.

'With only 1000 pateke remaining in the wild in New Zealand, we are extremely pleased and excited to work in partnership establishing this new population on Tuhua,' said Community Relations Manager Stephanie Twaddle.

The 28 pateke were raised in captivity by a number of private breeders and Ducks Unlimited. For the last several months the birds have been held and cared for by the Isaac Wildlife Trust in Christchurch where they were banded, screened for disease and quarantined.

The 28 pateke were flown from Christchurch to Rotorua. A helicopter then took them directly to Tuhua. With a blessing from Tuhua Trust Board kaumatua, the pateke were released by iwi, sponsor Barry Dent of BDG Synthesis and DOC staff on Tuhua.

'Me he paenga mo te Iwi me te moutere o Tuhua-Mahia. If it is good for the people and the island of Tuhua - do it,' said Hinewai Taingahue of the Tuhua Trust Board.

The Tuhua Trust Board has been working alongside DOC to restore Tuhua to a natural and intact bird-reptile-invertebrate-plant system. Tuhua is unique in many respects. The northern end of the island is a marine reserve, the rest being a restricted fishing area. The island boasts an exceptional pohutukawa forest that supports a large population of bellbirds, North Island robin and other native species. There are also significant wetlands and lakes, Te Paritu and Aroarotamahine, which provide perfect habitat for pateke.

'Declared pest-free in 2002, Tuhua can provide a safe environment for many threatened species. We can all do our bit to help the pateke and Tuhua recovery by respecting the quarantine regulations when we visit Tuhua and reporting pateke sightings,' says Stephanie.

Tuhua's newest residents will be monitored by DOC on site, via radio transmitters and receivers to ensure they settle in safely. Longterm monitoring will occur for at least the next 12 months.

Pateke usually inhabit lower freshwater wetlands and forests. Wetland drainage and reclamation along with predators like cats, rats and stoats have decimated pateke on the mainland, limiting them to offshore islands and parts of Northland. Successful transfers of pateke started with Kapiti Island in 1968, and Tuhua is an ideal location to re-establish a colony in the Bay.

Richard Maloney, leader of the New Zealand Pateke Recovery Group said, 'We want to emphasise that this is early days for recovery of pateke in New Zealand, but we are extremely excited about progress in the last few years and are particularly happy to have pateke returned to Tuhua, increasing the number of recovery sites throughout New Zealand.'

## Wanted

One male Australian shelduck  
one pair of Cape Barren geese and one  
pair of scaup.

Phone

Sharon (09) 815 4321 Ext 8605 (daytime)  
or 025 989 597

## More kokako hatch at Mt Bruce

The wild kokako population in the Pukaha Mount Bruce forest is close to becoming self-sustaining with the arrival of three more chicks this season.

The second pair of kokako chicks to be conceived in the wild at Pukaha Mount Bruce in 60 years fledged from their nest in January 2006 and another pair a little later.

The recently-hatched chicks join the 17 other wild kokako flying free in the Pukaha Mount Bruce forest. For kokako, 20 breeding pairs is considered a sustainable population and it is hoped that this goal will be achieved in the next season or two. If pest control is continued at current levels, a cumulative increase in bird numbers over the coming years can be expected.



*Photo supplied by DOC shows a kokako chick being banded at Pukaha Mount Bruce and was taken by summer interpreter Sandra Burles. For more information, contact Geoff Underwood on (06)375 8004.*

## Pukaha Post

The new Pukaha Mount Bruce postage stamps are proving to be very popular. The stamps, which have a picture of a kaka in flight can be purchased singly or in sets of five from Pukaha Mount Bruce.

## Helping fallen fledglings - from Gail Simons

Here's an idea to help baby birds which have fallen from their tree-nest and all. I found a nest that had blown out of a tree in high winds recently. Inside were three baby sparrows. I took them home and tried to feed them on jellymeat and then Trevor said he had seen that same nest on the ground a couple of days earlier and the adult sparrows were still going in and feeding them. So I took them back to where I had found them but couldn't leave them on the ground in case the cattle walked on them and they would have been easy takings for the cat!

The next problem was how to get them up higher-back into the tree. I was pondering on this when I spied some basket liners that I had bought that day to redo the hanging flower baskets on the terrace. Here was the answer, great support for a nest - especially one that had basically fallen to pieces, so I popped the nest into it, found some wire which poked through the liner easily, climbed up the tree on a stool and wired the basket to a couple of branches, then let nature take its course. The next day found three happy chirping little birds. I left them and their parents to it for a week and then curiosity got the better of me - had they survived?

I decided another check was needed so took my trusty stool and went off over the paddock to check. Not a sound was coming from the nest so I feared the worst but I had to know so climbed up and poked my hand into the nest. It was a success as a fully-feathered little sparrow on the verge of leaving the nest flew out. I couldn't believe how fast they had grown. I managed to catch it again and put it back in the nest as it looked like it needed a couple more days before it was really ready to leave home!



# SILENT SPRING -

## A MESSAGE TO BE HEHEDED

Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* triggered the first concerted questioning in regard to the true effects of indiscriminate and widespread use of pesticides. At that time, 1962, these pesticides, notably DDT, were applied in bulk whenever, and wherever, they were deemed to be necessary.

Curiously, although the book was a sensation in the Northern Hemisphere, it largely went unnoticed in the southern latitudes of the English-speaking world.

Aerial pesticide drops over large conurbations in New Zealand still to a surprising extent are unquestioned, and those who do raise objections tend to be dismissed as being on the fringe of society. This, in spite of the seemingly entrenched presence of the Green Party in Parliament.

Even when the State does intervene, as it did, in banning chemical pesticides for rabbit destruction, such proscription was largely ignored, and perpetrators enjoyed a crusader halo.

As with that other signpost protestor of the 1960s, presidential hopeful Ralph Nader, who put the auto industry on notice with his *Unsafe at any Speed*, Rachel Carson only really got noticed when the chemical industry tried to ban her book.

In 1962, a powerful group of chemical industry representatives, government officials and salaried 'experts' on the environment set out to prevent the publication of the book of the widely-regarded naturalist.

In effect, the book sought a review of the aerial spraying of DDT over American towns, farmlands and forests. In the event this was achieved, and government policy on pesticides was significantly altered.

Like Nader's book, its wider objective was also achieved and it was to radicalise thinking about the relationship with the natural world. The ecology movement of today largely sprang out of the rucus surrounding *Silent Spring*.

It pierced the collusion between government and big business, in this case the chemical industry, in behaving in a way that was profitable to the companies, and thus to the government, but long-term harmed the people actually paying the taxes that supported it.

The factor that persuaded Carson to launch her protest was one not unknown in contemporary New Zealand. It was the attempt to prevent an infestation of gypsy moths in the city of New York.

'The gypsy moth,' Carson wrote, 'is a forest insect, certainly not an inhabitant of cities. Nor does it live in meadows, cultivated fields, gardens or marshes. Nevertheless, the planes hired by the United States Department of Agriculture and the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets showered down the prescribed DDT-in-fuel-oil with impartiality. They sprayed gardens and dairy farms, fishponds and salt marshes.'

'They sprayed the quarter-acre lots of suburbia, drenching a housewife making a desperate effort to cover her garden before the roaring plane reached her, and showered insecticide over children at play and commuters at railway stations. At Setauket a fine quarter horse drank from a trough in a field which the planes had sprayed: 10 hours later it was dead.'

In the book Carson carries her readers through the complex web of

political and fiscal goings-on. Especially in explaining to a public that would have known almost nothing about biological as opposed to chemical pest control, exactly how government and other bodies manipulated the figures to make the biological option always seem 'too expensive'.

This biological option was central to *Silent Spring*. It caused the creation of a presidential committee that looked at the whole DDT question. Carson testified before the committee.

'We still talk in terms of conquest. We still haven't become mature enough to think of ourselves as only a tiny part of a vast and incredible universe. Man's attitude towards nature is today critically important simply because we have now acquired a fateful power to destroy nature. But man is part of nature and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself.'

Many believe that the synthetic war goes on, and that natural options remain the default solution.

Curiously, soon after *Silent Spring* was published Chairman Mao delivered an edict that China was to be rid of all bird life in order to save the crops, and thus to boost agricultural productivity.

The result was a plague of flies, which endured for several decades. Until the bird life was allowed to regenerate.

## Fiordland Moose Project



Ken Tustin of Queenstown, who set up the New Zealand Wildlife Trust in 2002 to educate people about wildlife management, has spent much of the past decade installing cameras in the bush at Herrick Creek, where he believes a few moose still live. He has the essential fuzzy photograph, reproduced in his book, of something that could be a moose. A second DNA confirmation of the existence of moose came to light in October 2005, the last relating to a snagged hair sample recovered from Wet Jacket Arm three years earlier.

Ken Tustin has also been collecting anecdotal evidence and says he has up to 55 reports from fishermen, hunters and trappers who have seen something they couldn't explain or heard about people coming across something that wasn't a deer. He appeared in national media recently asking for sponsorship for the cameras which are set up in the area, seeking to capture an image.

'Whatever people believe about their existence now, we can definitely say, with this latest evidence, that moose have lived in Fiordland up till at least October 2002,' he says.

For more information check out the website:  
[www.nzwf.co.nz](http://www.nzwf.co.nz)



## MEMBERS' PHOTOSTORIES -

You too can be in print - just write to the Editor and send a photo!



*Gail Simons of Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park, intrepid supplier of photos for Flight, has sent this little story.*

'Here is a photo of Daft - she's a paradise duck who has an obsession with me. She sits on the roof, as in this picture and waits for me to come outside. Then she swoops down over my head and lands by me and proceeds to follow me everywhere, quacking like a lunatic with her head lowered to the

ground. If someone talks to me she gets extra raucous so you can't hear what you are saying—talk about strange! I think she thinks I am her mate. Sometimes when I am inside she will be on one of the pillars on the balcony peering through the window to see if she can see me or tapping her beak on the glass of the sliding door.'

*Lucky you - it could be a male, thinking you're its mate...Ed.*

*DU member Jack Worth of Hamilton has sent us this interesting article and promises us more.*

### Magpie Goose

The magpie goose is an Australian goose restricted to the Northern Territory of Australia and southern New Guinea (see photo below). The population count of these birds is approximately half a million.

Legal hunting is permitted in parts of the Northern Territory and the aborigine skilfully hunt what they need by throwing sticks in the air, striking the airborne birds.

Magpie geese lay about seven eggs and both male and female share in incubation duties. Grey goslings emerge to face the hazards of predators or abandonment by their parents if they become dehydrated in the great heat. Import controls prevent the magpie geese entering this country.



*Magpie goose doing the two-step.*

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



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For membership and general inquiries, Ducks Unlimited, PO Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland, or email: [info@ducks.org.nz](mailto: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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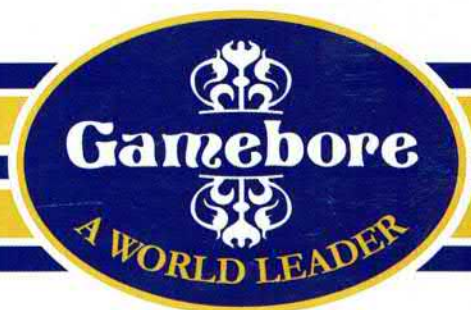
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*Canada Geese at William Abel's Lake Huritini wetland.  
Photo: William Abel.*

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