



“FLIGHT”

FLIGHT 3/77 ISSUE 13

SEPTEMBER 1977

DIRECTOR, NEIL HAYES, REPORTS ON HIS OVERSEAS VISIT

'During July and August of this year, my family and I were fortunate enough to visit several places which are of particular interest to waterfowl people; namely - in the United Kingdom: the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, Peakirk, Martin Mere, Washington and Arundel; London Zoo, Whipsnade Zoo, Riber Castle Zoo; and in the U.S.A. San Diego Zoo and San Francisco Zoo. All these places have comprehensive waterfowl collections.

Without doubt, the highlights of our trip were visits to the Wildfowl Trust centres. The Wildfowl Trust was founded in 1946 by Sir Peter Scott (son of Sir Robert Falcon Scott of the Antarctic), and the Trust's main objective is to advance the study of waterfowl - many of which are in danger of extinction. Admission to Trust centres is 55P (about \$ 1) for adults and half price for children. Members with one guest have free access to all centres. During 1976, nearly 400,000 people visited the centres. Apart from large collections of waterfowl, four of the centres we visited have relatively large areas of water which attract many thousands of wild waterfowl, particularly during the United Kingdom winter.

The Wildfowl Trust Headquarters are at Slimbridge, in Gloucestershire. Slimbridge is on the banks of the river Severn and the Trust owns some 850 acres there. Such an area gives excellent protection for wild visitors. (The Wildfowl Trust owns several thousand acres throughout the U.K.) The Education and Research building at Slimbridge (see Fig 1) is an impressive structure which, in addition to education and research facilities, also houses an excellent shop where everything associated with waterfowl is on sale - including an occasional original painting by Sir Peter Scott.

Between them, the Trust centres have reared most of the rare waterfowl of the world. To my mind, the highlight to date being the captive rearing of the Hawaiian Goose from a close to extinction figure of 47 birds in 1950, to a population of over 2,000. Many geese have been returned to Hawaii where they have adapted well and are now breeding. Fig 2 shows a pair of Hawaiian geese.

Fig 1 - Education & Research Building at Slimbridge

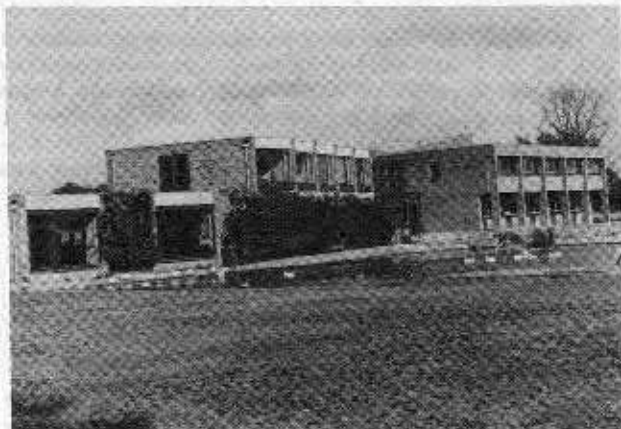


Fig 2 - 'Going to Hawaii?' - Hawaiian geese, Peakirk



We were very well received at all the centres, and at Slimbridge we were privileged to be taken on a guided tour of the rearing facilities, where we saw over 2,000 waterfowl in various stages of development. We discovered that the Trust is in a bad position with our New Zealand birds - they have only two Brown Teal males, no Blue Ducks and no Grey Ducks. Whether DU (NZ) can assist the Trust in any way will be well worth investigation. The Slimbridge Curator, Mike Lubbock, was very interested and enthusiastic about our Pateke project.

Slimbridge has a resident stock of over 2,000 pinioned waterfowl, of some 120 species. The grounds are beautifully set out and well planted with trees and shrubs. The larger areas of water hold a large number of species, while smaller ponds and enclosures house one or two birds. At each centre, the water source for the ponds invariably comes from a main creek, stream and/or water bore. Electric pumps are widely used to maintain pond levels and to provide fresh water. To view the wild birds, a number of hides are placed at strategic points.

An exciting feature of Slimbridge in winter (must go during the winter next time!) is the herd of Bewick Swans which arrive in large numbers each November, from their breeding grounds 2,000 miles away in Siberia, and stay. A study of the Bewick Swans is currently an important research project and, because of each bird's individual beak markings, it has been possible to individually identify and name over 1,100 birds. One Bewick, named 'Lancelot', has been a regular winter visitor for over 14 years!

The Trust's research unit is based at Slimbridge and twelve scientists and several technicians are engaged in scientific and conservation work. Studies are made of waterfowl populations, migration, habitat, behaviour, and so on. Details of the main work of the Trust are superbly displayed in the main foyer at Slimbridge.

All Wildfowl Trust centres devote considerable effort to educating people, particularly young people, to a greater appreciation of wildfowl and wildlife in general. In addition to the five centres with collections, the Trust also has two refuges for wild birds, one in Scotland and the other in Norfolk. These refuges provide excellent habitat for wild waterfowl and, from various hides, people can observe the birds at relatively close quarters, and in their natural state.

So - in thirty years, the Trust has made a superb contribution to waterfowl conservation. If any DU members are visiting the United Kingdom, a visit to the Wildfowl Trust is a must.

Taking two days off from waterfowl viewing, we visited the Country Landowners Association Annual Game Fair held at Woburn Abbey. This Game Fair, which is the largest in the U.K. had well over three hundred exhibitors including gun makers and retailers, fishing tackle suppliers, book stalls, stalls selling wildlife paintings, stalls for rural arts and crafts, and so on. The leading conservation and shooting sports organisations (these organisations work very closely together in the U.K.) all had large stands. Some of these associations were - the Wildfowlers' Association, World Pheasant Association, Game Conservancy, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Hawk Trust, to name but a few. Two suppliers of waterfowl also had nice collections on display, as did the Wildfowlers' Association. At the Wildfowlers' Association display, which covered 1½ acres, we were privileged to meet Dr Jeffrey Harrison - one of Europe's leading ornithologists; his wife, Pamela - one of the world's leading bird photographers; John Anderton, the Wildfowlers' Association Director; and Harry Tennison, President of Game Conservation International, which is based in Texas U.S.A. Harry was very familiar with the work of Ducks Unlimited (NZ), his organisation being closely associated with Ducks Unlimited, Inc U.S.A.

Over recent years, the Wildfowlers' Association has really expanded and membership is now well over 40,000 - 711 new members joined at the Game Fair. The Association controls well over 30,000 acres of waterfowl habitat and members are currently breeding between 15,000 and 20,000 waterfowl per year. There is no doubt that shooters in the United Kingdom have long since realised that unless they put something into their sport, their sport will rapidly deteriorate.

The Game Fair also had an impressive clay bird shooting course which attracted over 2,000 entries over the two days. The Game Fair itself attracted over 78,000 visitors for the two days.

Woburn Safari Park was also close by and, on a drive through the park, we were able to see at very close quarters, lions, tigers, elephants, rhino's, hippo's bears and so on - all roving in very large paddocks. These safari parks are very popular in the U.K. from both the animal's point of view, and that of the human visitors - the animals all breed extremely well, and thousands of people flock to see them.

The whole trip was very enjoyable and successful. We saw all the things we have been reading about for many years and also managed to record many of these on film. I am hopeful that these films, together with our experiences, will be of some value to Ducks Unlimited (NZ).'

F. Neil Hayes

note: FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF NEIL'S
TRIP, REFER PHOTOGRAPHS ON
PAGE 12!

NEWS: OPERATION GRETEL RESULTS EXCEED HIGHEST EXPECTATIONS !

The 1977 breeding season is off to a 'flying' start! THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE OF 357% IN OCCUPANCY RATE!

Following a recent nest box inspection at Tony Flexman's property, Pokeno, project supervisor Kelvin Mackie is delighted to report that on arrival at the site, numerous Grey Teal were seen to be sitting on top of the boxes and in the general area. Tony Flexman had indicated that, from his casual observation over the past few weeks, the Grey Teal were showing definite interest in the DU nesting boxes.

Calculations indicate a 357% increase of occupancy, compared with last year. With possibly up to three months still to go, we have already exceeded our anticipated results beyond all expectations and results to date prove that the boxes are successful and Grey Teal numbers can be increased with their use. Results in detail are:

<u>August inspection:</u>	Total boxes	87	'O' type	
	at Flexman's:	15	'Z' type) these boxes have proved to be unsuccessful,
		8	'X' type) apart from moderate success with 'Z' type.
		5	'V' type)

115

Usage: 'O' type - 23 boxes out of 87 (or 26.42%)
'Z' type - 2 boxes out of 15 (or 13.33%)

This is a total of 39.75% of total boxes, types 'O' and 'Z'

Eggs: Total of 133

Chicks: Total of 9 at time of inspection

A visit was also made in August to the Tuakau site of Grey Teal nest boxes. Plastic type boxes are in use in this area. While Grey Teal were seen in the area during the inspection and there were indications that boxes had been 'worked', no eggs were sighted. Our initial reaction was that the plastic drums were not suitable - however, in many cases, due to a drainage system recently installed, many boxes were not over water. Accordingly, it was decided to move some of these plastic drums to Tony Flexman's property to see whether birds there use them.

It is only by experimentation and perseverance that DU can establish whether or not the plastic drums are acceptable to the Grey Teal. Further inspections will take place shortly and it is hoped to have an even more encouraging result to report in December 'FLIGHT'.

NEWS: DU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Those members who were present at the annual conference in Auckland in July will be aware that a new member of the board was appointed to represent members - he is Murray Dench of the Waikato, a former DU Keeman. He replaces Glen Butts who is retiring from board activity because of an impending overseas appointment. To Glen, we give our thanks for his valuable contribution in the field and at the board table - and we welcome Murray. We are equally certain he will contribute much of value to board discussion and convey members' views in a positive way.

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of Trevor A. Voss from the board. Trevor was a foundation member of DU and his fellow directors will miss his wise counsel - although he assures DU he hopes to make a greater contribution in years to come - however, in the meantime, because of increased farming commitments, Trevor has had to relinquish his directorship.



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WELCOME!

NEW DU MEMBERS!

DU extends a warm welcome to the following new members - and also notes that director Peter McLeod of Christchurch has become a new Life member. (This brings the total of life membership to 6 - one life member has reverted to full membership during the year)

J.E.D. Abbott	(F)	D. Gibberd	* (S)	H.C. Perkins	(S)
F.J. Atkins	(F)	B.V. Gillespie	(F)	A. Rayner	(F)
W.A. Baigent	(S)	R. Glen	(S)	I.J. Rodgers	(F)
N. Bell	(S)	Miss D. Gulliver	(F)	B.N. Searle	(F)
R. Boyd	(F)	Mrs P.A. Howlett	(F)	B. Thompson	(F)
G.R. Croad	(F)	K.G. Johnson	(S)	T.G. Tyson	* (S)
M.J. Cushman	(F)	R.D. Miller U.S.A.	(F)	Sir Henry Wigley,	(F)
Mrs M.K. Dodd	(S)	D.G. Mortensen	(F)	Chairman, World	
A. Elliott	* (S)	M. Nichols	(S)	Wildlife Fund	
Pouakai Wildlife		Paradise Valley		of New Zealand	
Reserve, New Plymouth	(F)	Springs, Rotorua	(T)		

* denotes sponsored.

MEMBERS ! ASSIST WITH FUNDRAISING! WEAR A DU LAPEL BADGE !

DU has had a trial run of lapel badges manufactured as part of its fundraising effort for the ducks. Be early, to secure a badge for yourself. The lapel badge is gold, with blue and white and is a replica of the DU decal (illustrated at right). PRICE IS \$ 2-95!! (size is 5/8 inch round)

A DU lapel badge is an inexpensive Christmas or anytime gift for an enthusiastic DU supporter - hurry while the limited stocks last - 100 only have been manufactured. Complete the order form below.

DUCKS UNLIMITED LAPEL BADGES

To: Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc, P.O. Box 74, Hamilton

PLEASE SUPPLY ME WITH LAPEL BADGE(S)

CHEQUE ENCLOSED FOR \$

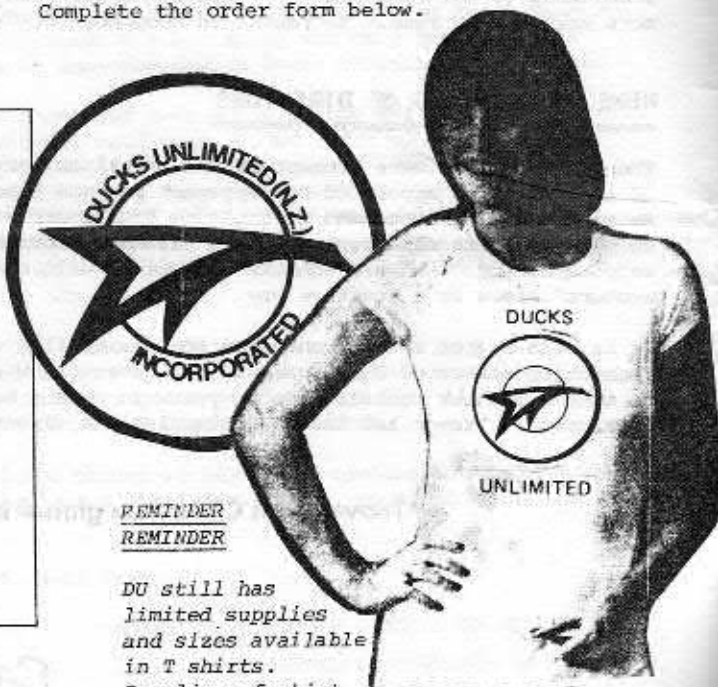
POST TO: (name)

(address)

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REMINDER
REMINDER

DU still has limited supplies and sizes available in T shirts. Supplies of shirt illustrated have been exhausted, but the 'Fly United' shirt is still available. All sizes: price \$ 3-95

SOLVE A DIFFICULT CHRISTMAS OR ANYTIME GIFT PROBLEM - WITH A DU LAPEL BADGE OR T SHIRT!

PROJECT REPORTS (IN BRIEF)

Because the breeding season has just begun, there is little report in this issue regarding Operation Pateke (Brown Teal). For most members holding Brown Teal, birds are just beginning to breed and we hope to have something positive to report in the December issue of FLIGHT.

Operation Branta - Neil Hayes, DU Wellington director, reports he has spoken with Ian Buchanan, a DU member in Wellington and officer of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society. Ian says the Canada geese have settled in well to their new environment at member Jim Campbell's property in the Wairarapa. In the next issue of FLIGHT we hope to have a full report with perhaps some photographs. DU headquarters are at present arranging the shipment of further geese to the Wairarapa to strengthen the flock already present and we will report to members again as soon as details are finalised.

Operation Gretel - refer news story, page 3!!

DU ANNOUNCE OPERATION 'HARLOCK'

This is a small flax planting project which has begun in Hamilton, carried out under the supervision of member Craig Worth, one of our enthusiastic Waikato supporters. Below is his first report:

'Operation 'Harlock' commenced on Sunday 17 June 1977 when a party comprising Paul Casey, Nev Irwin, Jack Worth, Murray Dench, Rich Haywood, Steve Griffin and Craig Worth, planted 355 clumps of flax on the northern bank of the Whangamarino River, about 100 metres down from the Humpback Bridge.

The is the first stage of the project and the conditions for planting were perfect, as the floods of recent weeks had left the planting area in a very wet condition. The second stage plant of 710 clumps will take place during January 1978. An information sign has been approved and prepared for display at the site.' CW

KEEMEN AND KEEMEN REPORTS

KEEMAN OF THE YEAR

John W.A. Dyer of Whangarei was chosen Keeman of the Year and the announcement made at the 1977 annual meeting at Gateway Lodge, Auckland in July. John receives a book token and certificate and DU acknowledges his consistent and outstanding contribution to Keemen affairs since the system was instituted some years ago. John is also an active promoter of DU in Northland, and sends in his reports regularly to Keemen supervisor, Dudley Bell.

Keemen reports from Northland/Whangarei

'A brief report on the past hunting season showed bags to be perhaps lighter on the opening day than in the past but generally good thereafter when the weather deteriorated somewhat. A closed shooting area did not hold the numbers of nesting duck it had in the past seasons and swan numbers on the second weekend were no more than in the past, approximately 50. It appears that their population has not increased greatly over the past two years closed season on swan and there are reports from the farming community of some birds causing a nuisance It has been noted that two pair of Brown Teal were observed on a farm pond which was closed to shooting and any breeding success will be reported on later.'

. Waikato

'The hunting was generally good in the central Waikato area with some exceptionally good bags being taken and many hunters now turning their attention to cut maize stubble shooting in the evening. Opening weekend was not too fruitful owing to unusually fine weather but later in the season, as the conditions for hunting became more to the shooter's liking, so the bag improved. The present breeding season is blooming into life with many young broods of mallards and some swan broods already taking to the water. Looks good for the remainder of the breeding with swamp water levels appearing good following consistent rain. All we need is an easing off of rain, a drop, slowly in water levels and it may be a boom year for waterfowl.'

. and Southland

'The split hunting season in the Southland and Otago district indicated 'mixed results' with the first part of the season dampened by floods and the second improving as the waterways became more accessible. Regular census counts are being conducted on the two Gore oxidation lagoons. Extracts show large numbers of shoveller (350 + on 1/5/77 and 407 on 19/5/77) with mallards being constantly in the 130's, a few swan and only on odd occasions Grey duck (6 on 15/5/77 and 16 on 20/8/77)'

(note: the observations of Keemen are personal opinions only on conditions in their respective areas for the information and benefit of DU members and friends.)

REPORT ON 1977 ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD IN AUCKLAND

A successful and enjoyable annual conference was held at the Gateway Lodge, Mangere on Saturday, 9 July. The day began with a directors' meeting during which executive members were re-elected by board members for a further term i.e. I.H. Pirani as President and P.B.C. Pirani as Vice President and Secretary. This meeting was followed by the conference itself, which was attended by 80 persons from as far as Whangarei to Christchurch.

At the conference were displays of waterfowl projects undertaken in the Ohakune district (one display featured member Bill Pritt's property and the work he has done on his 350 acres which now supports close to 30 ponds). The other display was prepared by B. Wilde, another Ohakune member in a very professional manner. Mini-raffles were conducted throughout the day and sales from the sale table boosted returns.

The auction raised \$ 1,690 gross and final proceeds for the evening, after payment of all expenses, were \$ 1,061. This is a little disappointing, upon reflection, particularly in view of the excellent and attractive fundraising items for sale/auction. However, DUCKS, like many other New Zealanders, seem to be doing a bit of 'belt-tightening' and this was reflected in the auction bidding which was not as spirited as in the past. The result, in spite of this factor, was heartening and we are delighted with the funds raised for the ducks from the evening. Major credit for the auction success goes to Mr Bill Wilkinson once again - Bill set things alight right from the start!

Visitors who participated in the conference were Dr and Mrs Bill Marsland of the United States, and Auckland Acclimatisation Society executive members, Bill Sullivan and Peter Howard participated in the conference, dinner and auction proceedings.

DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO ENSURE AN OUTSTANDING 1977 ANNUAL CONFERENCE/AUCTION. THEIR EFFORTS DESERVE YOUR PATRONAGE WHEN YOU NEED THEIR PRODUCTS AND/OR SERVICES!

We thank sincerely:

Mr and Mrs S. Bronger
Mrs A. Butts
CAC Industries Ltd, Auckland
CP Air Limited, Auckland
Ducks Unlimited, Inc U.S.A.
Ducks Unlimited (Canada)
Mr Gaylord Donnelley U.S.A.
Email Industries Ltd, Wellington
Mr A. Flexman
Fairfield Bridge Dairy, Hamilton
Gail's Florist, Hamilton
Hamilton Pottery Studio
Hallensteins, Chartwell, Hamilton
Ian Parnham Gallery, Hamilton
I.S.C.O. Ltd, Wellington
Meltzers Sport & Ski Shop, Auckland
Mullins Pharmacy, Cambridge
Allan G. Mitchell Ltd, Auckland
Milcich Wines, Ohaupo
Martins Toy Centre, Chartwell
Mr Norm Mackay

D.A. McCulloch
New World Products, Tirau
R. Oatway
Plaza Jewellers, Hamilton
F. Price & Son, Hamilton
W.J. Pritt
M.O.W. Pomare
Queenwoods Mower & Cycle Service, Hamilton
Rowes Pharmacy, Otorohanga
Rice Printers, Hamilton (*special thanks for printing door ticket free of charge*)
Sports Depot, Wellington
Shoppe 44, Chartwell, Hamilton
Tisdalls Ltd, Wellington
Waymouth Pharmacy, Hamilton
Waikato Locksmith & Gunsmith Services, Hamilton
Wellington Sporting Arms Company
Valentines Ltd, Hamilton
B. Wilde
J. Worth
Wilf Wright, Reikorangi Pottery, Waikanae
K.G.W. (Bill) Wilkinson

SPECIAL NOTE: RE AUCTION AND SALE/TABLE PURCHASES

We have received inquiries from some members as to whether or not they can submit receipts for conference purchases i.e. auction and sale table items, as part of their annual return to the Inland Revenue Department and whether these qualify for tax exemption. Unfortunately, the favourable tax exemption for DU subscriptions does not extend to any other items (i.e. the sum claimed must be either for a donation or a subscription). We have obtained an opinion from a tax consultant who confirms that the only reason DU obtains a favourable tax rating from the department is because members do not receive anything tangible for the sum given i.e. they have no use of club facilities as with a gun, shooting or yachting club. Therefore, although purchases at DU conferences benefit DU, the member or purchaser has received something tangible for his pleasure and/or use. Please do not submit any receipts other than those for membership subscription or donations with your annual return as they are certain to be rejected by the Inland Revenue. We hope this clears up any confusion which has arisen over annual conference purchases.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC

HELD AT THE GATEWAY LODGE, MANGERE, AUCKLAND ON SATURDAY 9 JULY 1977 2 pm

WELCOME

The President welcomed those members present (total of 80) and recorded the following apologies - Messrs J. Campbell, R.A. Denny, R. Dench, R. Egan, T. Flexman, J.D. Glover, A. Hart, T.G. Hunt, F.N. Hayes (DU director - overseas), R. Hunter for CAC Industries Ltd, I. Jensen, M.D. Midgley, J. Murphy, J.C. Savage, Dr Murray Williams and W. Wright. Member B. Rowe moved apologies be accepted/seconded D.G. Bell.

Mr Pirani welcomed to the meeting Dr and Mrs Bill Marsland, members of DU Inc U.S.A. who were visiting the country at the time of the meeting, Messrs D.A. McCulloch and M.O.W. Pomare, guest speakers; and Messrs W. Sullivan and P. Howard representing the Auckland Acclimatisation Society, as well as all those who had travelled considerable distances to attend.

MINUTES PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous annual meeting, held on Saturday 24 April 1976 at Wellington, having been circulated to all members in FLIGHT issue 2/76, were taken as read and confirmed. D.G. Bell moved/K. Mackie seconded.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT AND PRESENTATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The President read from his annual report which had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and commented further that the financial affairs of the group received close attention from directors in order to keep budgeted expenditure within limits, and he commented further on fundraising which he considered to be the key to the future of the organisation. He also pointed out that the figures for project work, presented in the annual accounts were not a true reflection of the actual cost of work done to date. Materials for nest boxes, labour, time and vehicles were all donated - and he commented that the cost of project work would be many many times greater if the true cost had to be carried by the organisation, and paid tribute to the great spirit of voluntary support among members which enabled the limited funds at present to be used to fullest advantage. He also discussed the results of Operation Pateke - the Brown Teal handrearing project; Operation Gretel - the Grey Teal nest box programme; Operation Branta - the permanent establishment of Canada Geese in the North Island and talked briefly on Operation Headquarters, the organisation's search for a national centre and waterfowl display area which, when established, would be a major source of fundraising. He briefly reported on his recent visit, together with the Vice President, to the 40th annual convention of Ducks Unlimited Inc U.S.A. which will prove to be of great value to DU (New Zealand) in the future. The financial statement was approved and adopted by members present - H.I. Jones moved/B. Rowe seconded.

ELECTION OF TWO DIRECTORS, REPRESENTING MEMBERS

G. Butts, members' representative was retiring from the board, and K. Mackie was offering himself for re-election at the annual meeting. Nominations were called for. G. Butts nominated K. Mackie and this was seconded by N. Mackay. D.G. Bell nominated M. Dench and this was seconded by C. Worth. Further nominations were called for, but none were received. The President then declared Messrs Mackie and Dench re-elected and elected respectively to the board for one year as members' representatives.

The President gave a vote of thanks to G. Butts for his dedicated service, and contribution to the affairs of DU during his period of board membership, and he welcomed M. Dench to the board.

REPORT - OPERATION GRETTEL

G. Butts read his report for the year on behalf of his co-supervisor, K. Mackie. He commented on the positive assistance received from Australian enthusiasts with nesting box expertise, on the fertility rate and occupancy rate with boxes placed on properties and looked forward with enthusiasm to the 1977/78 breeding season. Several questions were raised from the floor and were answered by Mr Butts and the Vice President. A slide presentation was shown at this point - detailing the various species dealt with in the project reports; commentary was from the President, Ian Pirani.



MINUTES - ANNUAL CONFERENCE contdGUEST SPEAKER - Mr M.O.W. Pomare, Trustee, World Wildlife Fund of New Zealand

Mr Pomare's subject was the World Wildlife Fund in New Zealand, and Maori artifacts and their relationship to conservation. The Vice President outlined details of Mr Pomare's background and expertise.

Mr Pomare, a trustee of the World Wildlife Fund in this country, gave a short address on the fund and its work and distributed promotional material among those present. He said he considered DU and the WWF had much in common because, like DU, the Fund in New Zealand was in an initial period of establishment. Both were involved in conservation and Mr Pomare said he was interested in the international aspect of conservation and particularly anything biased toward New Zealand. He further remarked that best wishes for every success had been expressed by Sir Henry Wigley, Chairman of WWF in New Zealand and a DU member, for a worthwhile annual conference.

Then followed a fascinating address on Maori artifacts and their relationship to a conservation theme - Mr Pomare had numerous examples of aged and historic feather cloaks, greenstone weapons and tools which members present were able to handle and admire. After such an intense address, there are now a further 80 persons who are more concerned at the loss of such a priceless heritage to overseas collectors. At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr Pirani thanked Mr Pomare and his wife for travelling such a long distance to be present and for his thoughtprovoking and stimulating comments.

KEEMAN OF THE YEAR

Member John W.A. Dyer, of Northland, was announced as Keeman of the Year for an outstanding and consistent contribution to DU's work under the Keeman scheme. John was to have been present, but could not attend at the last moment. The President advised he would be presented with a book token and certificate.

OPERATION BRANTA

Director Peter McLeod of Christchurch gave a brief report on his involvement with the initial shipment of geese to the Wairarapa and reported that the birds had settled in well and were located on a DU member's property in an area where there would be minimum disturbance. Several questions were received from the floor concerning physical dimensions and other factors relating to Canada geese and the type of environment the species was happiest to be located in - Ian Buchanan, DU member from Wellington and an officer of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society endorsed the comments made and commented further on the shipment of geese and stated his opinion that they would breed well in their present location in the Wairarapa.

At that point, the Vice President outlined the visit he made with the President to the Serpentine Canada Goose project in British Columbia, Canada in April and how the physical dimensions of the region were similar in many ways to parts of New Zealand, especially the Wairarapa, and he was confident Operation Branta had a major role to play in waterfowl conservation in this country.

OPERATION HEADQUARTERS

D.G. Bell delivered a summary of reports which had been issued in FLIGHT and mentioned that a search was still under way for a suitable property with all the desirable features necessary - this was not something to be rushed and in the meantime plans were in hand for the project, which would be a staged one when it was finally undertaken in the right location.

GUEST SPEAKER - Mr D.A. McCulloch, President, North Island Council of N.Z. Acclimatisation Societies

The Vice President outlined details of Mr McCulloch's contribution to conservation in New Zealand and his association with Ducks Unlimited (NZ) and with the New Zealand Acclimatisation Society movement. Mr McCulloch outlined his reasons for being present and mentioned the presence of the Auckland acclimatisation society representatives. He then went on to describe the history, responsibilities and work of the movement and its range of activities and touched on implications for the future.

Mr McCulloch commented that he saw DU as an achievement group which operates in a practical fashion, the World Wildlife Fund in New Zealand as an international 'search and rescue' operation which would give funds to assist, and the Society movement as being a responsible group acting as watchdog of the wildlife environment in this country. He said he felt the Society movement, DU and WWF had a happy partnership to play in the future years and he did not foresee any conflict of interest - 'Each draws on its resources and uses the expertise and knowledge of its members in different directions, and I think as time progresses we will see stronger links between these three groups.' Mr Bill Sullivan, of the Auckland Society, who was in attendance endorsed Mr McCulloch's comments.

MINUTES ANNUAL CONFERENCE - contd

Mr McCulloch gave encouraging news to those present regarding a better liaison between the North and South Island Councils and viewed with optimism the chances of national shooting and fishing licences for sportsmen in the future. He concluded his remarks with the comment that the Society movement, Ducks Unlimited (NZ) and the World Wildlife Fund in New Zealand have a partnership to play in the future and he felt that, as time progresses, there will be stronger links between them.

The Vice President expressed thanks of the board, and members for Mr McCulloch's illuminating address and for travelling from Wellington to the conference.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr B. Wilde of Ohakune brought up the matter that, in the balance sheet, it appeared that only 20% of income had been expended on project work. His question was answered by the Vice President, who referred to the President's comments earlier, and who said that this appeared to be the case but, in fact, much of the nesting box materials, i.e. galvanised drums, plastic drums, wood, netting, vehicle usage, manpower etc was donated. Thus the figures in the balance sheet were not truly indicative of actual cost of project work. This assistance from members, individuals and corporate groups made it possible, in the early years of establishment, for funds to be released for printing of the newsletter, advertising, the annual report etc as well as a small advertising leaflet promoting the group. Without this assistance there would be no funds for promotional purposes. The Vice President further mentioned that funds for advertising were to be increased substantially in 1977/78 for the sole purpose of increasing membership. It was the intention of the board that when finances were on a better basis, to place at least 80% of funds income in the field - but this was some years away. This fact was recognised by the loyal volunteers and friends of DU who made donations as mentioned above to enable both project work and advertising take place at the same time. His comments were endorsed by the project supervisor for Operation Gretel.

MOVIE

The film 'Prairie Giant' kindly loaned by Ducks Unlimited (Canada) and shipped to New Zealand courtesy CP Air, Auckland, was shown and spectacular movie shots of waterfowl and in particular the Canada geese made quite some impression on the audience.



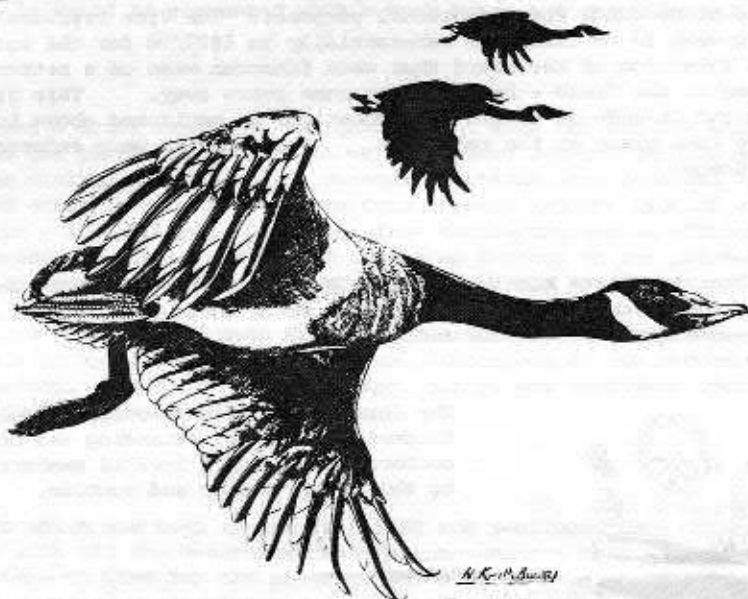
The formal part of the meeting concluded at 5.30 pm. The President thanked members for attending and contributing to the success of the conference - he then invited members to partake of refreshment prior to the annual dinner and auction.

AUCTION

The auction was held following the dinner - auctioneer was well known Mr Bill Wilkinson of Cambridge (formerly of Wellington). It was a stimulating evening for both organisers and participants and a financial success. Items which went 'under the hammer' included shotgun ammunition, waterfowl art, cameras, pottery and macrame, camouflage suits, shotshell reloaders and a ten week old Labrador puppy! Warm and heartfelt thanks were given to those firms and individuals who had generously given auction items and members were urged to support these organisations and / or services.

YOUR DU MEMBERSHIP . . . THE OTHER RENEWABLE RESOURCE

ANY BOOK ABOUT DUCKS AND GEESE WILL TELL YOU WATERFOWL ARE A RENEWABLE RESOURCE GIVEN GOOD HABITAT PROTECTION DURING REPRODUCTIVE TIMES ETC ETC. FOOD, WATER AND SPECIAL COVER ARE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN THIS 'GOOD HABITAT' BUT, FIRST, SOMEONE MUST ASSURE THERE WILL BE HABITAT TO BEGIN WITH. THAT'S WHAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN DUCKS UNLIMITED IS ALL ABOUT.



AT DU WE CONSIDER YOUR MEMBERSHIP A RENEWABLE RESOURCE TOO. WHEN YOU RENEW, YOU GUARANTEE THE COMPLETION OF WATERFOWL PROJECTS ALREADY UNDER WAY FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND PROVIDE FOR NEW PROJECTS. SO - JUST AS FOOD, WATER AND COVER ARE WHAT GOVERNS HABITAT QUALITY REGULAR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE WHAT GOVERN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

HAVE YOU RENEWED FOR 1977/78?

DU MEMBERSHIP - TAX DEDUCTIBILITY RATING

All members will be aware that DU (NZ) promotes the tax deductibility of its membership subscriptions. For our newer members, we repeat below the details.

Subscriptions by individual members, subject to the current statutory limitation of \$ 200, qualify for the special exemption allowable under Section 84B of the Tax Act. Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc is approved for the purposes of the following Acts:

- Section 18 of the Stamp and Cheque Duties Act 1971 - exemption from conveyance duty
- Sections 39A and 73 of the Estate and Gift Duties Act 1968 - exemption from estate and gift duty purposes
- Section 86 (1) (n) of the Land & Income Tax Act 1954 - exemption from income tax
- Sections 84B and 126B of the Land & Income Tax Act 1954.

Under Section 84B cash donations (ie subscriptions) by individuals of \$ 2 or more will qualify as a special exemption up to an overall limit of \$ 200 for all qualifying donations.

Under Section 126B, cash donations by public companies will qualify as a deduction up to a maximum of \$ 1,000 in respect of any one donee with an overall maximum for all qualifying donations of:

\$ 1,000, or

5% of the company's assessable income, whichever is the greater.

ADVERTISING IN FLIGHT

Trade members qualify for favourable advertising rates, when advertising in 'FLIGHT'. Rates for 1977/78 are \$ 10 for a half page advertisement per issue, and \$ 5 for a quarter page. Full and supporter members may also advertise if they wish, at double the rates above.

Members who wish to advertise in FLIGHT are invited to submit an advertisement layout. As DU does not have art facilities, it will be necessary to submit the advertisement in final form. This can be simply text, or can include a graphic or photograph (in the case of photographs, the cost of plate making will have to be borne by the advertiser).

AVAILABILITY - GALVANISED DRUMS

DU still has a few drums left - those members interested in using these for nesting box material please contact Ian Pirani at DU headquarters, P.O. Box 74 Hamilton regarding collection. These are supplied free to DU and make ideal nesting material. Ian has used these successfully with his private collection. The drums convert easily - DU is happy to tell how - in member's own area.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND COMMENTS - F.N. Hayes visit to the United Kingdom
(see story Pages 1 and 2)



Fig 3 - Neil Hayes with WAGBI
director, John Anderton



Fig 4 - Hayes 'rebels' with Red
Breasted Goose at Peakirk



Fig 5 - Concourse at Peakirk

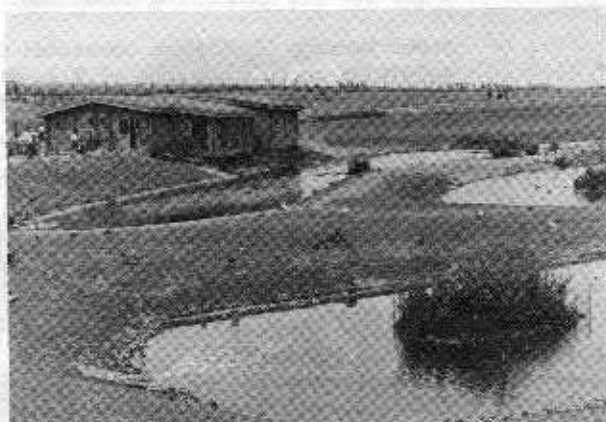


Fig 6 - Norwegian style concourse
at Washington



Fig 7 - Mrs Sylvia Hayes (right)
with Mrs Pamela Harrison
one of the world's leading
bird photographers