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IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- * ANNUAL CONFERENCE - FULL REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHS
- * D.U. BOARD APPOINTS TWO FURTHER DIRECTORS
- * KEEMAN OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED
- * ANOTHER GREAT START TO OPERATION GRETEL FOR 1978
- * D.U. EXHIBITS AT N.Z. DEERSTALKERS HUNTING EXHIBITION

DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) APPOINTS TWO DIRECTORS

The President, Ian Pirani, announced at the annual conference in July the appointment to the Board of Miss Diane Pritt of Chakune, the second woman to be so appointed, representing members' interests.

"Diane has been an enthusiastic DU member for many years, comes from a family of waterfowl conservationists and her expertise in this field, and organisational abilities will benefit the group a great deal" comments Ian Pirani.

The Board also announces in this issue of FLIGHT the appointment of Mr Julian Nelson-Parker of Tauranga as a Director of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc. One of DU's earliest members, Mr Nelson-Parker has made a valuable contribution to waterfowl conservation over the years and now extends his expertise to DU affairs at Board level.

"These persons, with their extensive practical knowledge of waterfowl, and its conservation, will play a valuable role in the affairs of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) at Board level" comments Ian Pirani, "and we extend a warm welcome to them."

WIVES OF DU (NZ) DIRECTORS ATTEND INTERNATIONAL WATERFOWL CONFERENCE

Mrs Dawn Pirani, wife of President Ian Pirani, and Mrs June Bronger, DU Membership Secretary whose husband, Sig, is a DU (NZ) Board member, attended the international convention of Ducks Unlimited Inc (U.S.A.) and (Canada) in May as part of an extensive private visit to view waterfowl collections in Europe and the North American continent. The photograph on page 4 of this issue shows Mrs Dawn Pirani, with officials from Ducks Unlimited Inc (U.S.A.) and Ducks Unlimited (Canada) at the dedication of the Oak Hammock Marsh wildlife management area. The conference which was attended by persons from the United States, Canada and Mexico was held in the Canadian city of Winnipeg, Manitoba

WELCOME!



NEW DU MEMBERS!

DU extends a warm welcome to the following members:

R. Cox	(S)	S.B. Lawrence	(F)
Ross D. Clark	(F)	K.J. McSweeney	(F)
R. Groudswaard	(S)	D. Nehoff	(S)
Bronwyn Hare	(S)	C.H. Rose	(S)
Graham Hare	(F)	B. Trevathan	(F)
P. Hook	(S)	A.J. Ward	(F)
P.R. Jackson	(S)	J.H. Ward	(F)
		A. Wilks	(S)

note: (S) denotes Supporter membership

(F) denotes Full membership

MEMBERS! ASSIST WITH DU FUNDRAISING. ORDER YOUR DU LAPEL BADGE NOW!

ALL SALE PROCEEDS
BENEFIT DU PROJECTS.
PRICE: ONLY \$ 2-95!



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PLEASE SUPPLY ME WITH LAPEL BADGE(s)
CHEQUE ENCLOSED FOR \$
POST TO: (name)
(address)
.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1978/79 ARE NOW DUE - HAVE YOU RENEWED ?



Fig 1 - scene from annual meeting, Vice President, Paul Pirani (left) and Bill Wilkinson, auctioneer accepting bids.



Fig 2 - during bidding, from left to right, standing Cheryl Pirani, Paul Pirani, Bill Wilkinson, Dudley Bell. Seated at left, facing camera, Mr Julian Nelson Parker.



Fig 3 - Mrs Dawn Pirani, with officials of Ducks Unlimited in the U.S.A., Canada & Mexico at the dedication ceremony of The Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management area during her recent Canadian visit.

REPORT ON 1978 ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD IN HAMILTON

A successful and stimulating annual conference was held at the Waikato Clay Target Club premises in Hamilton on Saturday 1 July 1978. The meeting had been preceded by a directors' meeting which was attended by Mr T. Caithness of the Wildlife Service, guest speaker at the annual meeting. The conference was attended by persons from as far away as Auckland to Christchurch.

Income for the evening, derived from sales of cookery products, cheeses, registrations, donations, lapel badge sales, a 'silent' auction, the annual auction and the bar, was \$ 1004.31. Expenditure, including food, token hall hireage and wine and spirits totalled \$ 196.83 - leaving a net income for the event of \$ 807.48 which is very encouraging considering the changes made to format and venue this year compared with previous conferences. Many thanks to those who attended, for their efforts in achieving this fine result particularly in view of the fact that many New Zealanders are facing difficult economic times.

Major credit for the success of the auction lies with Mr Bill Wilkinson who again displayed his obvious talents, and infectious personality, and was responsible for strong and stimulating bidding on many items. Auction items which went under Bill's "hammer" included waterfowl art, shotgun ammunition, pottery, camouflage clothing, waterfowl publications, duck-calls and many other items generously donated for the occasion.

Warm thanks are also extended to the ladies who provided a superb meal for those present comprising duck, geese, pheasant and other game with salads and cheeses, wine etc, the game kindly donated by DU supporters for the occasion. DU also wishes to thank the Waikato Clay Target Club for generous use of its superb new facilities for the evening - a donation was made to the Club by way of thanks.

Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc wishes to acknowledge and sincerely thank the following contributors for their efforts to ensure a successful 1978 annual conference. Their efforts deserve your patronage when you need their products and/or services.

We gratefully extend our thanks to:

Mr G. Malaher, Canada	(waterfowl art)	Vern Wilson Sports shop	(Lee Loader)
Mr W. Wright, Waikanae	(pottery)	Wellington Sporting Arms Co	(gun case)
I.H. Pirani	(waterfowl art)	Ducks Unlimited Inc. U.S.A.	(waterfowl art -
CAC Limited, Auckland	(case ammunition)		'Autumn Snows & Blues)
van der Sluis Studio	(pottery)	Sports Depot, Wellington	(2 boxes 308 ammunition
Mrs G. Butler/	(decanters DU Jim	Vern Wilson Sport shop	(duck call)
Mrs J. Bronger	Beam Bourbon)	C. Hunt	(hunter models)
Mr D.G. Bell	(foot pump)	Isco Limited, Wellington	('Game Illustrated &
Mr & Mrs P.B.C. Pirani	(Audubon portfolio)		'Game Cookery')
Ducks Unlimited Inc	(waterfowl art -	F.N. Hayes	(gun case)
U.S.A.	The Wood Duck)	Vern Wilson Sports shop	(gun cleaning kit)
" " "	(DU Belt Buckle)	Mrs J. Bronger	(cookery products, preserves)
Mr & Mrs P.B.C. Pirani	('British Birds')	A.F.C. Tauranga	(potted plant)
Mr P.M. McLeod	(waterfowl art)	Dalgety's Tauranga	(2 boxes ammunition)
Mrs J. Bronger	(wine)	Valentines Ltd, Hamilton	(camouflage suits,
Miss D. Pritt	(camouflage hat)		hats etc.)
Shoppe 44, Chartwell	(house products)	Waikato Clay Target Club	
Hallensteins, Chartwell	(pure wool blanket)	Mr K.G.W. Wilkinson	(auctioneer)

Special note: re auction and sale table purchases

Some members have inquired whether or not they can submit receipts for conference purchases i.e. auction and sale table purchases, 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). Although purchases at DU conferences benefit waterfowl, the member or purchaser has received something tangible for his pleasure and/or use - therefore cannot claim a tax deduction. Please do not submit any receipts to the Department other than those for membership subscriptions or donations with your annual tax return as these are certain to be rejected by the Inland Revenue Department.

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

HELD AT THE WAIKATO CLAY TARGET CLUB PREMISES, HAMILTON ON SATURDAY 1 JULY 1978

WELCOME

The President extended a warm welcome to those present, particularly those who had travelled a long distance. The following apologies were advised - Messrs S. Bronger, J. Glover, A. Hart, R. Hunter of CAC Industries, I. Jensen, H.I. Jones, N.C. Muschamp, R.J. Penna. Member P.M. McLeod moved apologies be accepted/seconded K. Mackie.

Mr Pirani welcomed to the meeting Mr Tom Caithness of the Wildlife Service, the guest speaker, and also extended a welcome to two further members of the Department of Internal Affairs, Wildlife Service - Mr John Cheyne (DU member) and Mr Steve McGill.

MINUTES PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous annual meeting, held on Saturday 9 July 1977 at Auckland, having been circulated to all members in FLIGHT issue 3/77, were taken as read and confirmed. N. Baucke moved/ M. Dench seconded.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT AND PRESENTATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The President commented briefly on his annual report which summarised the year's activities and results, which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting - also on the financial affairs of the organisation. Mr Pirani commented specifically on the country's economic circumstances and how this affected DU, and noted the pleasing trend with members who had not renewed for some time who again appeared to be financially supporting the group, which was very encouraging.

The President summarised briefly the results with various projects and commented specifically on Operation Gretel (to benefit Grey Teal). He announced that at a board meeting earlier that day, the Board had decided the construction of a further 200 Grey Teal nest boxes should go ahead, to be located around the country - some at Dunedin, Wellington, Hamilton and at Auckland. He advised that members would be called upon to assist with box construction and erection in their respective districts. At this point, Mr Pirani paid tribute to the spirit with which voluntary support was generously given among members and other friends of Ducks Unlimited which enabled funds to be expended to greatest advantage. He also gave special thanks to Mr T. Caithness of the Wildlife Service who had given valuable advice on this particular project.

The financial statement was approved and adopted by members present - P.M. McLeod/B. Rows.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS, REPRESENTING MEMBERS

The President advised that since the notice of meeting had been circulated, Mr M. Dench had advised the Board he would not now be available for re-election at the annual conference - which left two vacancies. The President stressed that it was not necessary to have two members elected from the floor, but this was desirable from the members' point of view. Before calling for nominations, Mr Pirani commented on the contributions of Messrs Kelvin Mackie and Murray Dench, the retiring members, and expressed the thanks of the Board.

Nominations were called. Mr F.N. Hayes nominated Miss Diane Pritt/seconded by P.M. McLeod. Mr K. Mackie nominated Mr Paul Casey. Miss Pritt accepted the nomination, and Mr Casey declined. Further nominations were called for, but none were received. The President welcomed Miss Diane Pritt to the Board; he explained her background with waterfowl and confirmed the Board's confidence in her ability to make an excellent contribution to DU affairs at Board level.

GUEST SPEAKER - Mr T. Caithness, Wildlife Service

Before Mr Caithness addressed the meeting, the President outlined his experience and background with the Wildlife Service and his friendship to Ducks Unlimited over the years since its establishment. Before beginning, Mr Caithness said he would welcome criticism of his comments and then launched into a stimulating and, at times, provocative dissertation, the theme of which was "If it was not for the Mallard, duck shooting would not be an occupation".

Mr Caithness commented that the model criticism appeared to be that Grey Duck, for example, had been forced out by 'this terrible Mallard'. "This was not so! If there was no Mallard, we would be shooting at nothing!" commented Tom Caithness. With the use of slides, he illustrated his points, which resulted primarily from an intensive study of the Waikato region. It was a comparison of Mallards with Greys only, utilising three independent sampling methods. He cited two major factors as being causes of Grey Duck decrease and Mallard increase - mechanisation of farming about 1960 and the 'bombarding' of waterways by 'clowns in power boats, water skiing etc' of recent times. These changes, Mr Caithness stated, were not the Grey Duck's 'scene' - it was a wild bird, unlike the Mallard which was prepared to 'live anywhere'.

Tom Caithness went on "People cannot consistently or rationally keep on grizzling about this duck (the Mallard) - we cannot go back!" "There is no way to stop progress. Mallards are ducks which put up with a great deal of 'nonsense' in their surroundings and this is what makes them such a magnificent bird. You (DU) would be 'extinct' if it was not for the Mallard because no-one would know what a duck was!" "There are powerful reasons why the Mallard should be successful other than it will put up with people" and at this point, Tom Caithness tabled figures on a slide to clearly illustrate his point, which was that the Mallard is "too cunning, has a larger clutch, breeds for a longer period etc."

At this point, Mr Caithness was asked if he thought there was any chance of the Grey Duck changing his lifestyle to adapt to the changes about him. Tom Caithness felt that it may do, but time had to be on its (the Grey Duck) side for this to happen. He commented on the relationship between primary farm production in New Zealand and its importance, and on the retention of wetlands. He felt there should be 'buffer zones' so farming and waterfowl did not have to impinge on one another's areas. Until this happened, he felt the Grey Duck would not expand.

Member N. Baucke asked if the Grey Duck had decreased as drastically compared with the Mallard increase. Tom Caithness' reply was "No, I don't think this is related - it is land usage and people which are the problems facing the Grey Duck as their area becomes more and more confined, with the subsequent decrease in numbers."

Further questions followed from the floor and Tom Caithness summarised these with - "The Grey Duck is a bird of wild wetlands - the Mallard is the opposite. 53% of wild Mallards are males and determined to procreate. Hybridisation is a lot of nonsense, unless carried out under unnatural conditions." he said.

T. Caithness chose this point to make a few comments on the Shoveler and its mobility within New Zealand, using comparisons with Mallard and Grey Duck shown on the slides earlier. "New Zealand is the only country where work has been done on the Shoveler. This work was done by John Cheyne, DU member, in the Waikato. The Shoveler is a hugely mobile species which knows no limits to its range" - he cited examples again to illustrate his statement.

General discussion and further questions from the floor followed, at the conclusion of which the President thanked Tom Caithness for his stimulating talk which the audience had obviously enjoyed and responded to with enthusiasm.

SLIDE PRESENTATION - F.N. Hayes

Neil Hayes presented commentary and slides featuring his recent visit to the United Kingdom and North America - detailing many species of waterfowl and the superb locations and facilities of the Wildfowl Trust, San Diego Zoo and those of private collections, which were of immense interest to DU members. Indispersed with his comments were questions from the floor and comments on the various Ducks Unlimited projects under way at present.

KEEMAN OF THE YEAR 1978

Mr Neil Mair of Gore, was announced as Keeman of the Year for an outstanding contribution to the Keeman programme. The President advised Neil Mair would receive a presentation and certificate to mark the award, and expressed congratulations on behalf of members and the Board.

There being no other business, the President declared the formal part of the meeting closed, after giving special thanks to Mr Tom Caithness and Mr Bill Wilkinson, the auctioneer for their part in ensuring a successful function.

D.U. AT THE N.Z. DEERSTALKERS' HUNTING EXHIBITION

From 5 - 9 July 1978, Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc staged a live waterfowl display at the very successful New Zealand Deerstalkers' Hunting Exhibition held at the Winter Show Building in Wellington.

Again working closely with our good friends, the Wellington Acclimatisation Society, DU's Wellington members Jim Glover, Arthur Thomas, Paul Taylor plus directors Bud Jones and Neil Hayes, put together an impressive waterfowl enclosure which was complete with artificial pond (see photographs opposite). Newly appointed director, Diane Pritt came down from Ohakune and was of great assistance, particularly during the eventual drainage of the pond and dismantling of the pen.

The remarkably well-behaved waterfowl on display were Mallard, Grey Teal, Grey Duck, Scaup and Shoveler from the collection of Neil Hayes. Well over 30,000 persons visited the five day exhibition and the live waterfowl certainly created much interest.

DU is grateful to the Wellington Acclimatisation Society for the opportunity to assist with the Society's display and thanks are also due to the Secretary of the Department of Internal Affairs for his kind permission to display live waterfowl.

(photographs - Neil Hayes)

PHOTOGRAPHS - DU EXHIBIT AT DEERSTALKERS' CONFERENCE:



PROJECT REPORT - OPERATION GRETEL

This project goes from strength to strength and results from three locations to date are very encouraging.

Mr Tony Flexman's property, Pokeno, South Auckland

Figures are:

<u>This time last year</u>	<u>This year to date</u>
87 boxes	107 boxes
133 eggs	340 eggs
9 hatched	62 hatched
	(33.64% boxes used)

It was interesting to note that this year one box had a clutch of 18 Grey Teal eggs - also a Mallard had taken advantage of a box and at last inspection there were 11 eggs in its nest. Last year a Mallard also made use of a box - perhaps it is the same bird who has learned to 'squeeze' through the small opening in the box which was designed for Grey Teal!

On each inspection at Pokeno, many Grey Teal were observed in the area. Unfortunately, we do not know whether the same birds as last year are making use of the boxes again this time - we can only assume they are familiar with them because the way Teal are utilising the boxes indicates they are no strangers to this method. Further reports will follow in the next issue of FLIGHT.

Once again, thanks are due to Kelvin Mackie, assisted by Paul Pirani for his efforts with inspections. On recent visits, Kelvin has been accompanied by John Cheyne, DU member and a Field Officer with the Wildlife Service and John's advice and helpful comments have been appreciated. Special thanks also to Mr Tony Flexman for his generous action in allowing DU unrestricted access to the nesting sites - without his assistance, this particular activity would not have 'got off the ground'.

Barton's Lagoon, Martinborough - Wairarapa

Wellington director, Neil Hayes reports good news from Barton's Lagoon. An inspection on 24 September revealed that 12% of the boxes had eggs. Details are:

25 boxes	Neil reports that 4 other boxes showed signs of nests in the early stages of being formed. A rat was also found to be in residence, on one visit to inspect the boxes but this was not in a box containing eggs.
3 boxes used	We look forward to further reports in the next issue of the magazine.
23 eggs	

Ngauwahia - Waikato

Dudley Bell, director and Keeman supervisor advises that boxes were placed in this area late, and he was not expecting any results for this year. However, on the first inspection, 1 box contained 9 Grey Teal eggs! DU is hopeful for further excellent results from this new site.

Dunedin

At a recent meeting of the Board, a decision was made to extend the Grey Teal programme to Outram. With the co-operation of Mr Horace Sinclair of Outram, and DU members led by Mr Harvey Perkins of Dunedin, DU is making arrangements to commence Operation Gretel at Mr Sinclair's very desirable property where there is quite some population of Grey Teal in residence. We will report further on this new extension to DU Operation Gretel in the next issue of FLIGHT.

- * Ducks Unlimited has proved conclusively that one particular Grey Teal box design is successful and utilised by the species. The group is erecting a further 225 boxes this coming summer in Auckland, Waikato, Wairarapa and Dunedin.

PROJECT REPORT - OPERATION PATEKE

There is little to report on our Brown Teal project as the breeding season has just begun. However, just as a footnote, Neil Hayes of Wellington reports that he has supplied the Wildlife Service with a clutch of Brown Teal eggs, all of which were fertile. Further reports on this project will follow in subsequent issues of FLIGHT.

KEEMEN REPORTS

from HASTINGS

The duckshooting season has come and gone in Hawkes Bay and after 6 weeks, there still appears to be an abundance of Mallard to ensure a successful 1978 breeding season. The Grey Duck have, in some localities, established themselves in reasonable numbers e.g. on several farm ponds near Elsthorpe approximately 30 km south east of Hastings. Numbers have shown an increase over the last 5 years. On the same farm, several new dams have been built and these are being fenced off and will be planted by the Keeman and others over the next year. A continuing count of the duck population will be made on these ponds.

The Paradise Duck population appears to have remained static over the past three seasons of protection and it appears they are not ready yet to be re-included on the game bag. A population of 300 birds was observed on farmland near the Wakarara Range approximately 60 km south west of Hastings.

The Hawkes Bay reports a mixed hunting season bag, with the fine weather providing the welfare for the duck. The river hunter fared the best as his, in many cases, was the only permanent water.

from GORE

It now appears that, through negotiations between the Gore Borough Council and the Southland Acclimatisation Society, the local oxidation ponds will become a Closed Game Area. The following is a further census of waterfowl using the ponds:

4 June 1978	78 Mallard 14 Shoveler
18 June	2 Mallard 3 Shoveler
25 June	26 Mallard
29 July	162 Mallard 6 Shoveler
13 August	105 Mallard

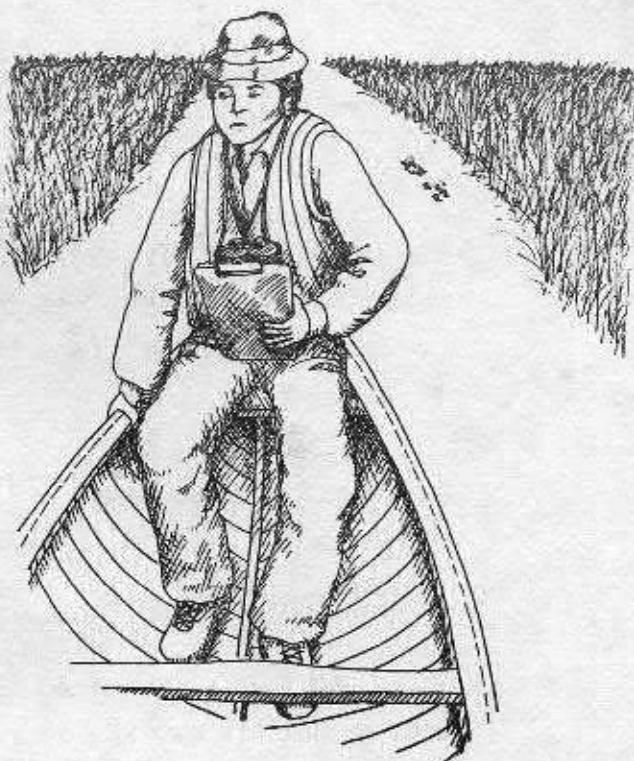
(note: the observations of Keemen are personal opinions only on conditions in their respective areas, for the information and benefit of DU members & friends)

MESSAGE FROM DUDLEY BELL, KEEMAN SUPERVISOR:

NOT on the subject of ducks, but on KEEMEN. DU has a voluntary group of people who report to headquarters on waterfowl and interesting happenings within their respective districts. If you would like to participate please write to Dudley at 84 Houshens Road, Hamilton. A SPECIAL MESSAGE for our Keemen in Northland, Lower Hutt, Waimate and Ohakune - we would be pleased to hear from you for the next issue of FLIGHT, by 25 November - many thanks.

KEEMAN OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

At the annual conference of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc at Hamilton on 1 July, Dudley Bell, Keeman Supervisor announced that an award would be made for 1978 to Neil Mair of Gore for his outstanding contribution to DU Keemen affairs over the year. Neil is an enthusiastic DU member living in the South Island - apart from his contributions to FLIGHT, he actively promotes DU in his district. Congratulations Neil and we appreciate your efforts on behalf of the ducks in Southland.



A FLIGHT OF GEESE OUTLINED AGAINST THE SKY, A FLOCK OF DUCKS
FLOATING GRACEFULLY IN A SECLUDED COVE. THERE ARE FEW OF US
WHO HAVE NOT PAUSED TO MARVEL AT THESE SIGHTS.

FOR SOME, THERE IS THE CHALLENGE OF SHOOTING, OF MATCHING WITS
WITH A WISE OLD HONKER. FOR OTHERS, THE CHALLENGE IS CAPTURING
THE NATURAL BEAUTY ON FILM OR CANVAS - OR JUST KNOWING THAT THE
BIRDS ARE THERE.

BUT THE GREATEST CHALLENGE OF ALL IS IN PRESERVING AND RESTORING
OUR WETLANDS - THE VITAL ELEMENT FOR THE CONTINUED WELL-BEING OF
WATERFOWL.

IT IS TIME THAT ALL OF US WHO SHARE A COMMON CONCERN FOR WATERFOWL
WORK TO MAINTAIN WHAT HABITAT IS LEFT, AND TO RESTORE WHAT WE CAN.

YOU CAN HELP BY SUPPORTING WETLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAMMES IN
YOUR COMMUNITY.

WHAT IF THERE BE NO MORE GOOSE MUSIC?

Aldo Leopold, "A Sand
County Almanac"

