



DUCKS UNLIMITED (N. Z.) INCORPORATED
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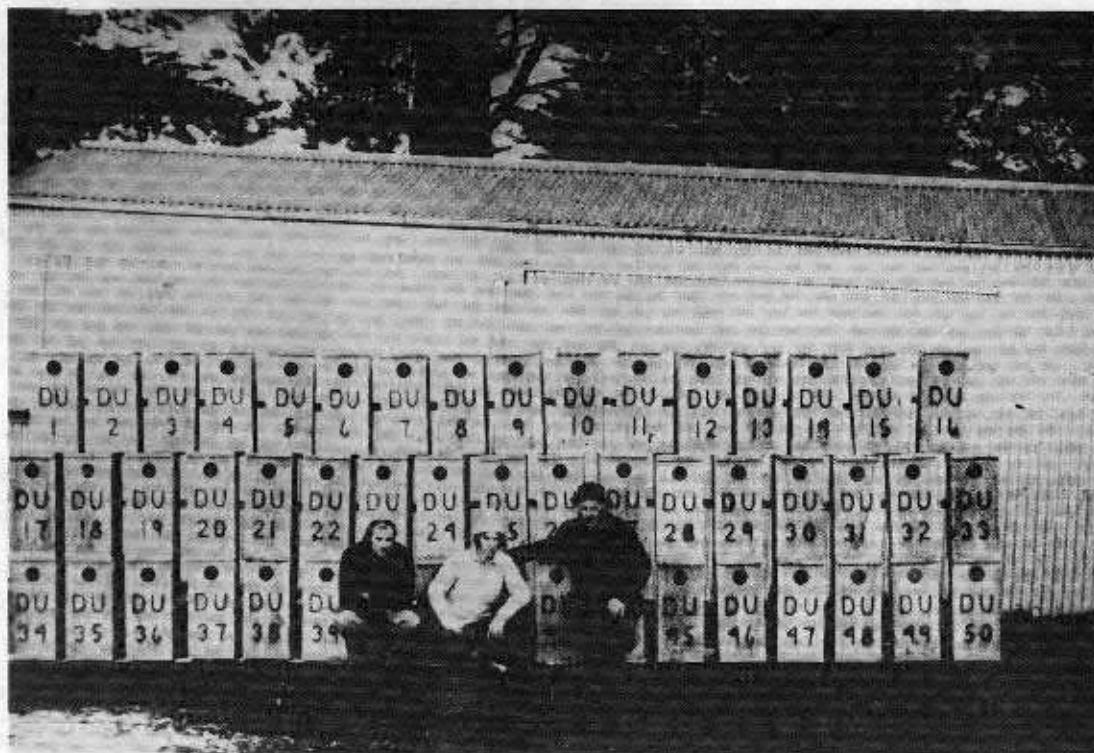
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FLIGHT 4/79 ISSUE 22



DECEMBER 1979

"FLIGHT"



**THE COVER:**

Operation Gretel at Dunedin:
Cover photograph shows Messrs
Garry Flewitt, Peter Hollarby
and Horace Sinclair with the
50 Grey Teal nest boxes.
Further report on page 8

IN THIS ISSUE

Mobil Environmental Award
News & Photographs: Operation Gretel
Guest Editorial
Symposium: Rare & Endangered Species
Observations on the Shooting Sports

PLUS REGULAR FEATURES!**GUEST EDITORIAL:****SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION**

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Ducks Unlimited (NZ) has not previously published editorials in FLIGHT, although we have often thought that it may be desirable to promote DU policy by this means or to discuss other items of interest to members which would not normally appear in the pages of the newsletter.

It certainly seems that some policy statement is overdue in respect of our position on shooting and conservation; particularly since our President, Ian Pirani, and I were informed at the recent Mobil Oil Environmental Award presentation that conservation organisations in New Zealand were under the impression (a very misguided one) that Ducks Unlimited (NZ) is a shooting organisation.

Some of the main objectives of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) are:

- * to promote a better appreciation of waterfowl by all New Zealanders
- * to propagate and increase the numbers of waterfowl species whose numbers are low
- * to help preserve and develop wetlands and associated waterfowl habitat on a national basis
- * to promote and ensure a better appreciation and understanding between hunters and conservationists.

Ducks Unlimited (NZ) is neither pro, nor anti, shooting; in fact our members comprise a broad cross-section of "pure" conservationists and waterfowl hunters (who are conservationists). Each member recognises the very important role that she/he can perform in the preservation, propagation and management of our waterfowl and their habitat. DU believes that a "marrying" of the two factions is essential if we are to ensure the survival of our rare and endangered waterfowl species.

In New Zealand we are currently well behind many enlightened countries in respect of ensuring mutual co-operation between conservationists and shooting sportsmen..... and one of DU's important objectives is to rectify this situation. We only need look at the joint co-operation and activities of organisations such as The Wildfowl Trust, The Wildfowls' Association of Great Britain and Ireland, The Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds, and The British Ornithological Union; all these organisations are working together for the benefit of wildlife in Europe. Parochialism is a thing of the past! In New Zealand, DU would like to see much closer liaison between organisations such as the Acclimatisation Societies, The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, The Ornithological Society and so on and, of course, ourselves. Ducks Unlimited is confident that hunters and conservationists can work together!

The Author: Neil Hayes of Wellington, DU Director, has an abiding passion - ducks. Neil tutors in mechanical engineering during the week but at weekends and in spare time he toils in his own little wetland at his home where, over the years, he has reared 400 waterfowl - Brown Teal, Grey Teal, Scaup, Shoveller and Grey Duck.

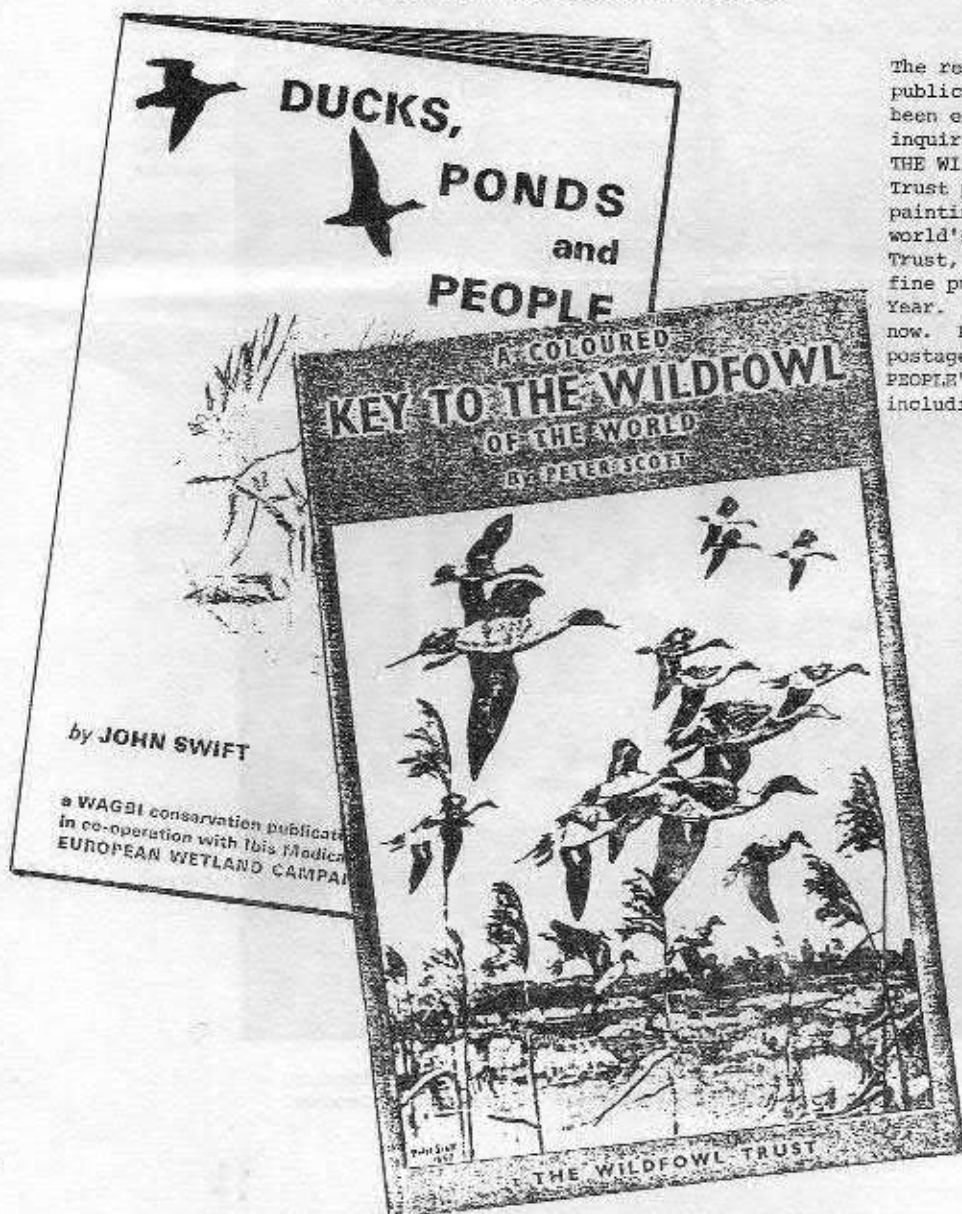
DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) EXTENDS A WARM WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS.....

A.R. Bray	(S)	K. Hollamby	(F)	J.R. Moxham	(S)
David Brenckley	(F)	L. Kilner	(F)	B. Parkes	(F)
P. Fenton	(F)	S. McGill	(S)	J.H. Roberts	(F)
R. Guest	(J)	W.J. McLeod	(F)	G.W. Scott	(F)
Maria Hansby	(J)	M. Moore	(F)	B. Williams	(F)

MEMBERS! ASSIST WITH DU FUNDRAISING - ORDER YOUR LAPEL BADGE!

ALL SALE PROCEEDS BENEFIT DU PROJECTS. PRICE: ONLY \$ 3-00 EACH.
(size: 5/8" diameter)

WATERFOWL PUBLICATIONS FOR "DUCK PEOPLE"

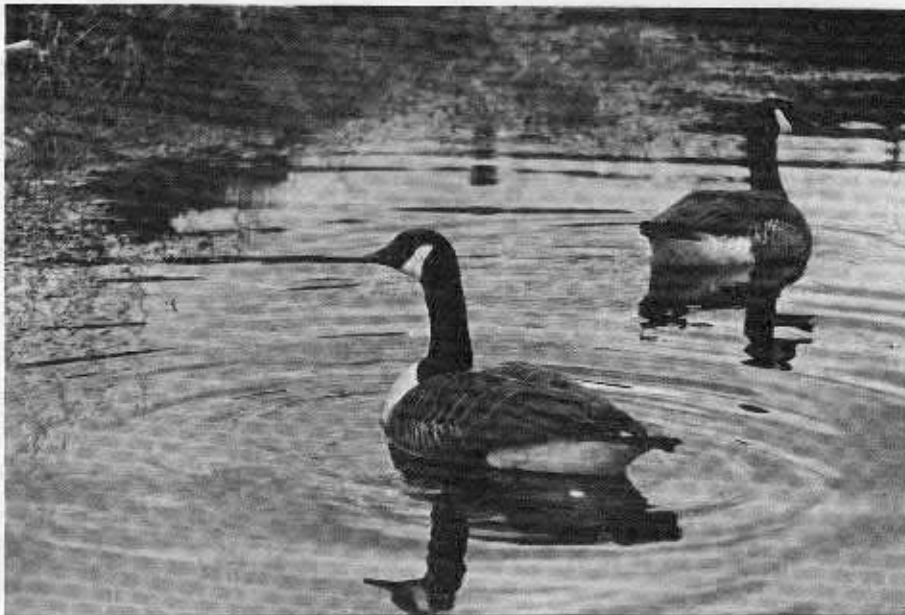


The response to our advertisement for the publication "DUCKS, PONDS AND PEOPLE" has been excellent. We have also received inquiries for copies of "A COLOURED KEY TO THE WILDFOWL OF THE WORLD", a Wildlife Trust publication containing data and paintings by Sir Peter Scott, on all the world's waterfowl. Thanks to the Wildfowl Trust, DU has a small shipment of this fine publication arriving early in the New Year. To ensure an early copy, please order now. Price is \$ 10 per copy (which includes postage). Copies of "DUCKS, PONDS AND PEOPLE" are still available at \$ 4 per copy including postage.

OPERATION BRANTA

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Excellent breeding results are being reported for North Island Canada Geese and the final figures for numbers reared will be very impressive. Unfortunately, some difficulty is being experienced in obtaining additional birds from the South Island but DU is hopeful that these problems will be overcome shortly. Pictured below are Canada Geese at "Mitredale", Ohakune, property of Mr W. Pritt, DU member. Diane Pritt reports that 6 birds paired; the first pair sat on 5 eggs; deserted after 3 weeks. Two of the eggs were infertile and the other 3 had dead embryo. The second and third pair of geese sat soon after on 6 eggs apiece.



Pictured above is Diane Pritt who, together with other DU members in her district, mounted a DU display at the recent Outdoor Life Exhibition at Wanganui in October.

OPERATION GRETEL

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PROGRESS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

KOWARAU DAM (30 boxes)

Two inspections to date, but no occupancy by Grey Teal. This is a little disappointing as a good number of Teal were present last January. It could well be that Grey Teal frequenting the dam need to be "educated"!

PUKE PUKE LAGOON (30 boxes)

No usage of boxes to date but as mentioned in the September issue, usage is not expected until next season. One good piece of news from Puke Puke is that a pair of Brown Teal have been sighted over recent weeks!



BARTON'S LAGOON (30 boxes)

Only one inspection to date - 30 September. This revealed that three clutches had already hatched and another box had 9 eggs. This is a good start to the season and it is interesting to note that the four boxes used were all different to those used last season. Inspections at Barton's are being kept to a minimum to cause little disturbance and no attempt is being made to determine the number of eggs laid. Considering the amount of work which has been done to the lagoon by the Catchment Board, which was only completed in July, DU is more than pleased to see that this has not upset the birds. Thanks to excellent co-operation between the owner, Mr John Barton and the Catchment Board, water levels and habitat look better than ever.

WAIKATO: Mountley Site (25 boxes)

First visit for the season was made on 4 August, and the last visit on 18 November. The number of boxes used totals 20 (80%).

Boxes used more than once at Mountley were:

Nos	2	(2x)
	4	(2x)
	6	(2x)
	7	(2x)
	20	(2x)

Total Eggs Laid	157+	
Total Eggs Hatched	81+	= 51.59%
Total Eggs Infertile etc	12	= 7.64%
Total Nests Deserted	9	
Total Eggs in Deserted		
Nests	46	= 29.30%

Flooding was cause of all the desertions, except for 11 eggs. There are 3 nests still to hatch containing 17+ eggs.

POKENO: South Auckland (107 boxes)

Ian McFadden, the Wildlife Officer, on site at Pokeno reports as follows:

As at 8 November 1979	1,429 eggs laid
	889 incubated through to hatching (n.b. maximum clutch 20 minimum clutch 3)
	775 hatched
=	87%

A further 165 eggs were deserted; rats, mynas, men!

In addition there are 375 eggs in clutches being incubated and/or at various stages of laying, with 31 boxes having full clutches ready to hatch 20-30 November. A further inspection will be made on 10 December and Ian reports that by the time of the March issue of FLIGHT, he expects laying to have eased up - he will prepare a detailed report covering all data from July onwards.

MORE SEE PAGE 8

TAX CONCESSIONS ON D.U. CONTRIBUTIONS / DONATIONS



From time to time DU receives inquiries from members as to the tax concessions they receive when they make a contribution/donation to Ducks Unlimited. Below is a recent letter from the Inland Revenue Department stating the tax deductibility rating of donations and contributions made to our organisation for the information of members and friends.



5 October 1979

Donations and subscriptions to Ducks Unlimited qualify for the purposes of sections 56A and 147 of the Income Tax Act 1976 (previously sections 84B and 126B of the Land and Income Tax Act 1954). Under section 56A individuals may claim a rebate of 50 cents in the dollar in respect of donations and subscriptions to Ducks Unlimited up to a maximum of \$175 for all qualifying donations and private school fees. Under section 147 public companies may claim a deduction up to a maximum of \$1,000 to Ducks Unlimited. In respect of the aggregate of all qualifying donations a public company can claim the greater of:-

- \$1,000, or
 - 5 percent of the company's assessable income.
- Ducks Unlimited is also approved for the purposes of the following Acts:-
- Section 10 of the Stamp and Cheque Duties Act 1971 - exemption from conveyance duty.
 - Sections 39A and 73 of the Estate and Gift Duties Act 1954 - exemption for estate and gift duty purposes.
 - Section 61(25) of the Income Tax Act 1976 (previously 85(1) (a) of the Land and Income Tax Act 1954) - exemption from income tax.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature)
Director (Revenue)

Waterfowl are a symbol of the seasons.

Your gift for all seasons will help Ducks Unlimited make sure they always will be.



A Gift For
ALL Seasons



you may use the gift membership coupons attached

A Gift For ALL Seasons

TO: Ducks Unlimited, Box 74, Hamilton

Please enter a subscription for:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Type of subscription
(Tick where applicable)

Life
\$500

☐

Full
\$10

☐

Supporter
\$5

☐

Junior
\$2

☐

Trade
\$20

☐

My payment for \$ is enclosed.

Donor's Name:

Address:

A Gift For ALL Seasons

TO: Ducks Unlimited, Box 74, Hamilton

Please enter a subscription for:

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ADDRESS:

Type of subscription
(Tick where applicable)

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☐

Junior
\$2

☐

Trade
\$20

☐

My payment for \$ is enclosed.

Donor's Name:

Address:

OPERATION GRETTEL: REPORTS CONTINUED =====

DUNEDIN (50 boxes)

In the September issue of FLIGHT, DU was pleased to mention that Mr Horace Sinclair had completed construction and erection of 50 Grey Teal boxes on his magnificent property located between Lake Waiholo and Lake Waipori, Dunedin. As can be seen from the photographs on page 9 and the cover of FLIGHT, the construction and placement of 50 boxes was an impressive achievement and our congratulations and thanks to Mr Sinclair. Over the next few seasons, DU expects to see very high usage of these boxes. All posts and boxes were erected from row boats. No occupancy to date, but a great deal of activity is reported around the boxes. Starlings are something of a problem, but they are being "discouraged".

GENERAL (new boxes)

The complete programme of Operation Gretel calls for the erection of 3,000 nest boxes in suitable areas. In the first three seasons, the following number of "O" type boxes have been erected:

Pokeno, South Auckland	107
Ngaruawahia	25
Te Awamutu	10
Frankton	14
Martinborough	30
Masterton	30
Foxton	30
Dunedin	50
	<hr/>
	296
	<hr/>

In addition approximately 20 other boxes of varying designs have been erected at Pokeno. Before the 1980 breeding season, DU hopes to see a further 150-200 boxes erected - in Auckland, Hamilton, Wairarapa and Christchurch.

The Southland Acclimatisation Society has also erected boxes at its Redcliff Wildlife Management Reserve. This is a progressive move by the Society and we are hopeful that they will see some early results. The Hunterville branch of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society has also erected 30 boxes at two sites near Hunterville.

In the 1980 breeding season, further experiments will be carried out with three new designs of nest box. Ten boxes will be erected, having the same basic size as at present - 300mm x 300mm (12" x 12") but will have the depth reduced from 600mm (24") to 380mm (15"). Another ten boxes will have sizes reduced to 230mm x 230mm (9" x 9") and depth to 380mm (15" x 15") and the remaining ten boxes will have sizes at 230mm x 230mm and a depth as at present - 600mm (24"). All boxes will be constructed from treated plywood, which we hope will distort less than the tanned pine and will of course be easier to handle.



OPERATION GRETEL : PHOTOGRAPHS
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Fig 1: Boxes No 36 to 50 placed
in centre foreground of picture



Fig 4: Box 42

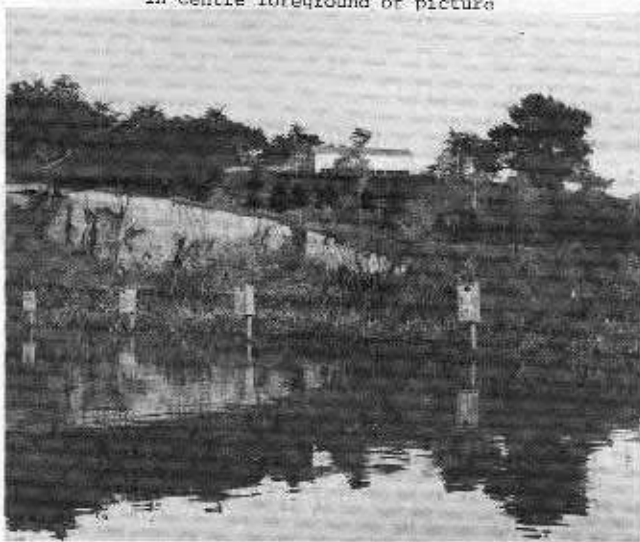


Fig 2: Boxes No 1 to 4



Fig 3: Boxes No 23 to 33



Fig 5: Fitting of box to post

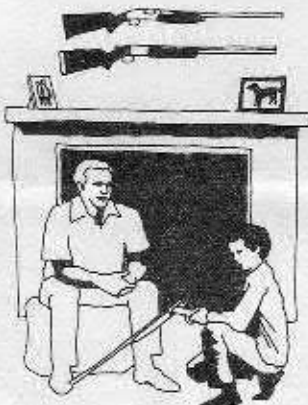
FURTHER TO THE EDITORIAL IN THIS ISSUE:

WE REPRINT HERE AN ARTICLE FROM A RECENT ISSUE OF THE DUCKS UNLIMITED (USA) MAGAZINE - BY THE ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF "FIELD AND STREAM".

OBSERVATIONS on the shooting sports

**NO, I HAVE NOT THANKED
A GREEN PLANT TODAY—
I'VE BEEN TOO BUSY**

by
Gene Hill
Associate Editor
Field & Stream



In the last year or so I have been requested to help save the Hudson, to help save the Yellowstone, to help save the tuna, the striped bass, the Atlantic salmon, Silver Creek, the Pine Barrens, ducks in general, whales, wild horses, burros, and enough other creatures and places to make me more sympathetic than ever with the Lord resting on the seventh day.

I contribute time and money to DLI, TU, FFF, the Gamewoin, African Safari Clubs, the NSSA, ATA, NSSF... and oh yes, the NRA.

Not to mention license fees, big-game permits, and special duck, woodcock, pheasant, and trout stamps. I clean up beer cans on streams, I build wood duck nests, I teach kids gun safety and how to fish, I release almost all the fish I catch and try not to shoot my limit on waterfowl (which is easy). I plant bird cover, dig ponds, and create sanctuaries. I hunt with a trained dog to help save game. I douse my campfire and pack everything out that I packed in.

And every so often I most humbly,

in my very small way, emulate the Lord by looking at what I've helped do, and say to myself, "That is good." I am delighted to have seen the antelope increase to vast numbers, to know that there are now more whitetail deer than when Columbus discovered the continent. I am pleased that the salmon fishing is getting better, that I can see Canada geese by the thousands where not too long ago there were few. It's been hard and costly work—but I can't imagine anything more worthwhile. I am anxious to do more and I will.

I am simply a man who likes to hunt and fish when I have a little free time. I am a typical, average American sportsman. I consider myself one of America's great natural resources. I have helped save, clean, reclaim, guard, and propagate as many things that I believe to be precious as I could. And my children believe as I believe; they understand what I have given them and they will work to do even more.

There seems to be only one little thing that not too many people are willing to help save: Mr.

Every year there's more and more pressure to prevent me from gunning. The town close to where I live forbids the discharge of a firearm... even at a backyard clay target. National television shows portray me with bias and prejudice. Every major newspaper carries advertisements from various groups saying that I not only shouldn't hunt, I shouldn't even be allowed to own a gun.

These are the same gentle people who put bumper stickers on their cars asking me, "Have You Thanked a Green Plant Today?" Well, no I haven't. As a sportsman I've been too busy sowing wild celery, willows, multiflora, and rice, and asking farmers to leave a few rows for the bobwhite and pheasants.

It seems that more and more people today find it hard to be for the environment and all that it stands for without being against those of us who like to hunt and fish.

We sportsmen have done a magnificent job of educating each other. We work together and talk our problems out. We write articles about the fine job we've done in bringing back the wild turkey. We show films about the reclamation of wetlands. We count ducks and regulate ourselves on seasons and bag limits. Our good works are legion—but in a way we've kept them all to ourselves. I think we should do something a little different; we're not asking for love necessarily, but for understanding.

I know there has been some effort in this direction, but we need more and we need it soon. I'm not quite willing to put a sign on my van saying "Last year I spent X dollars to support our wildlife" the way the big truckers ad-

vertise that "This vehicle pays X dollars a year in taxes." But I want to find a way to constantly remind the anti-hunters, bird watchers, and "I Brake for Animals" crowd that I'm one of the sportsmen who are basically the source of the abundance of birds and animals. And I didn't do it just by sending a dollar or two for a bumper sticker.

Maybe our fishing and hunting clubs ought to take ads in the local papers saying that "The pheasants and quail you enjoy seeing and hearing were made possible by the following local sportsmen," and run a list of names. Maybe someone will ask one of you about this program and you can tell them some of the facts about wildlife and its management. Not emotions—but biology: about feed, cover, propagation, and harvest.

There are many millions of well-meaning, but ingenious and unknowledgeable people who are violently against your enjoyment of hunting and fishing. They will agree, if forced, that a certain amount of culling and harvesting must take place—but they want the professional game manager to do it, not you in your blaze-orange vest. A great many of these wildlife professionals believe that underneath this sentiment is a prejudice against the sportsman—rather than a great sympathy for our wildlife.

It's frightening when we admit that this emotion might be so irrational as to be impervious to education or logic. Part is a growing fear of guns, part is an overreaction to what seems to be an increasing climate of violence. Part is a collection of emotional half-truths about what constitutes conservation.

The fact that much of what is feared is neither true nor real isn't going to make the struggle any easier. The sportsman—meaning you and me—must adopt a personal code of ethics, every one of us, that is as close to being above reproach as we can make it. We must come to our own defense "with clean hands."

I'm a great believer in the lessons of history. I have great faith in our ability to deal with the great numbers of undecided, the "I don't cares," and to change the attitudes of the violently opposed just as we have reversed the destinies of so many of our precious wildlife resources.

And it has to work, for we are the last and the most important resource of all—the totally concerned, the totally committed. The sportsmen.

*Provided as a public service by
The National Shooting
Sports Foundation*

1980 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

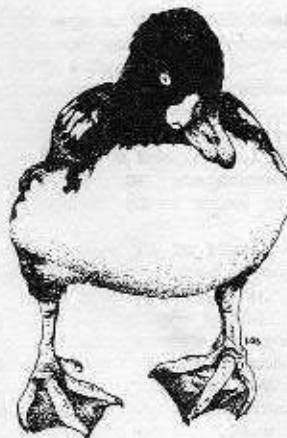
SATURDAY 12 JULY 1980 - KEEP THIS DATE FREE!

VENUE: GATEWAY LODGE, AUCKLAND

FURTHER DETAILS WILL FOLLOW.

OPERATION AYTHYA ANNOUNCED

The Board recently announced a new project - Operation Aythya. This project aims to co-ordinate the captive rearing of the New Zealand Scaup (Black Teal), with a view to liberating surplus birds onto suitable water. Most DU members with waterfowl collections report excellent breeding results from their captive Scaup. The Scaup certainly seems to be a very adaptable bird and frequent liberations could eventually see an increase in the wild population.



OPERATION PATEKE: INTERIM REPORT

The Project Supervisor has not received all reports from breeders of Brown Teal but the following individual members report as follows: Sig Bronger has 14 eggs incubating, Neil Hayes has 6 hatched and progressing well, Jim Glover has 3 hatched, Barry Rowe 2 clutches incubating, Laurie Piper has 1 clutch incubating as has John Gill - Mt Bruce also report a good number of eggs incubating. A more detailed report will be published shortly.

The Wildlife Service has recently advised DU that it is investigating the possibility of giving Ducks Unlimited greater responsibility for the management of Brown Teal. This may mean that DU is responsible for the liberation of its hand reared birds and the location of suitable areas for liberation. DU has now presented to the Wildlife Service a comprehensive programme for the management of Brown Teal and is awaiting the Service's comments.

Brown Teal in the United Kingdom: DU's two females have settled in well and now have one male bird with them in their enclosure. The birds have been allocated a priority spot in the Guinness Aviary at Slimbridge and hopes are high for early breeding.

SYMPOSIUM ON RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

As a result of our submissions to the Nature Conservation Council on Rare and Endangered Species, a representative was invited to attend a one day symposium in Wellington to support and discuss its submissions. Director Neil Hayes attended the gathering held on 16 November and says that the majority of recommendations made by those present were very much in line with DU's submissions. He reports it was encouraging to see fourteen acclimatisation societies showing a keen interest in New Zealand's rare species and three societies (Waitaki Valley, Ashburton and Wellington) were represented at the symposium.

Recommendations from the gathering, together with submissions, will now be considered by the Nature Conservation Council who will make final recommendations to Government. Further reports on the move to provide our rare species with better protection will appear in future issues of FLIGHT. Copies of DU's submissions are available from P.O. Box 74 Hamilton at \$ 2 per copy for those interested.

1979 MOBIL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT

As mentioned in September FLIGHT, DU was delighted to learn it had been granted a \$ 750 Mobil Environmental Grant for 1979. President Ian Pirani and Director Neil Hayes attended the award presentation at Mobil headquarters in Wellington on 16 October - the Award was presented by Hon V. Young, Minister for the Environment at a luncheon attended by the award recipients - Neil Hayes is shown below (right) accepting the award.

The \$ 750 grant is specifically to assist DU with the staging of a 3 day seminar for DU members holding Brown Teal - it will deal with all aspects of Brown Teal management. DU believes that the promulgation of ideas and experience resulting from such a seminar will prove invaluable in its efforts to save the species from extinction, and Mobil's part in this effort cannot be understated. DU hopes to stage the seminar in mid 1980 just prior to the annual meeting in Auckland.

On behalf of all members, the DU Board expresses its sincere thanks once again to Mobil Oil New Zealand for an enlightened attitude toward practical conservation of all kinds - its support of DU in this instance is very generous and encouraging. To date, Mobil has awarded almost \$ 90,000 toward conservation/environmental projects in New Zealand. This is certainly an outstanding contribution and the portion of award funds presented to DU will, we are confident, go a long way towards ensuring the continued survival of the rare Brown Teal.

