



DUCKS UNLIMITED (N. Z.) INCORPORATED
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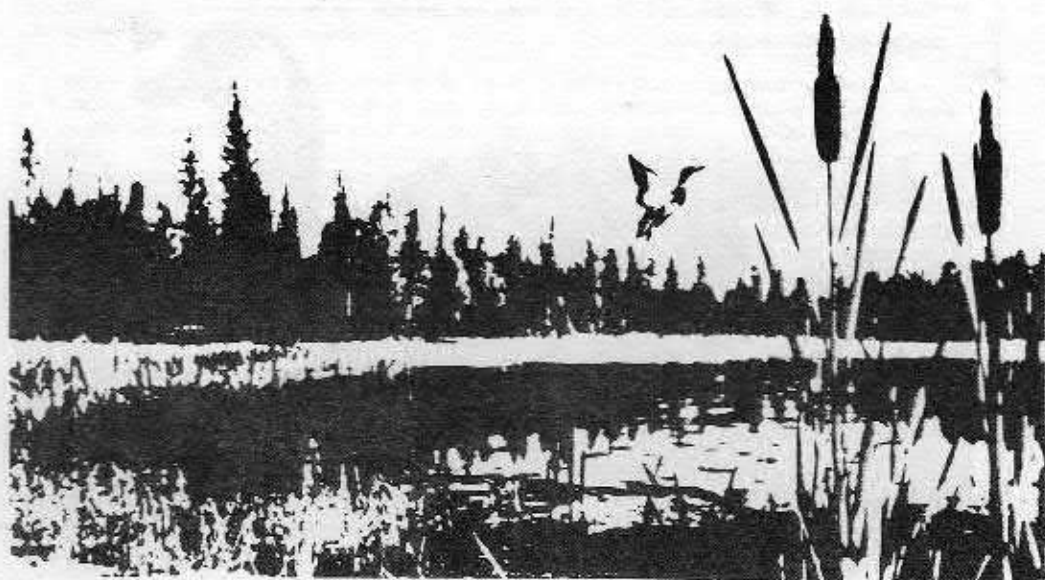
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FLIGHT 2/80 ISSUE 24

JUNE 1980

"FLIGHT"



"FLIGHT"

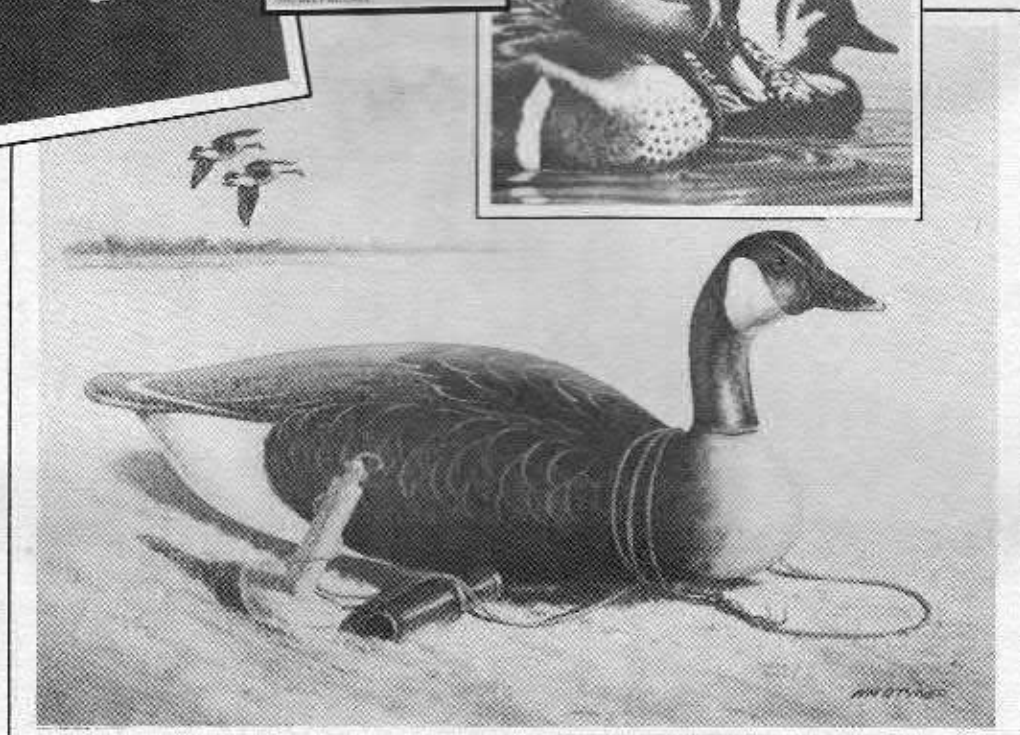
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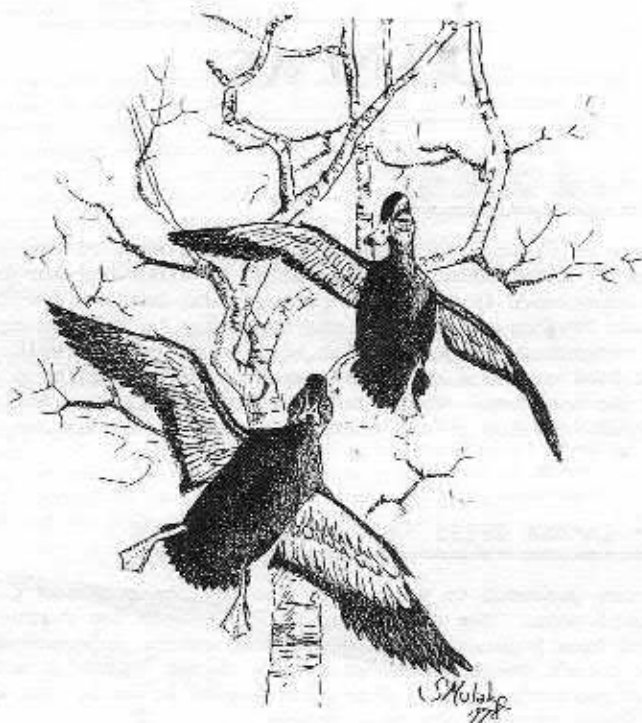
IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Annual Report
 News & Photographs - Operation Gretel
 Details: Annual Conference - July
 DU News, Project News

PLUS MORE!

PICTURED ARE SOME OF THE ITEMS DONATED
 FOR THE DUCKS UNLIMITED AUCTION TO BE
 HELD AT AUCKLAND ON SATURDAY, 12 JULY





MEMBERS.... SUPPORT DUCKS UNLIMITED'S MAJOR FUNDRAISING
EVENT OF THE YEAR - YOU CAN MAKE IT A MEMORABLE OCCASION
BY YOUR PARTICIPATION - THE "BENEFICIARIES" ARE WATERFOWL!

The 1980 Ducks Unlimited conference promises interesting addresses from guest speakers, highlights of the DU year, the opportunity for you to meet with your directors and officers of the organisation, to introduce friends and family to the DU concept - in addition there is the excitement of the auction proceedings. Be there on Saturday 12 July!

Registration fee: The fee is \$ 15 per head which covers a delicious buffet dinner prepared by the Gateway Lodge chef. The cost for each of your guests is also \$ 15. You may if you wish renew your DU subscription at the same time, and enrol new members.

Ducks Unlimited is delighted with items donated for this year's auction - among them supplies of ammunition, waterfowl needlework with a modern theme, handcrafted leatherware with a waterfowl theme, pottery, outdoor equipment etc. Ducks Unlimited, Inc U.S.A. has donated an exciting assortment of fundraising items - signed and numbered waterfowl art prints of Canada Geese, Green Winged Teal, a Federal Duck Stamp print, a set of rare "Armetale" plates depicting waterfowl, a set of fundraising buttons depicting waterfowl designed by artist David Maas, a prototype of the 1980 Jim Beam Collector Bottle of Blue-Winged Teal, a signed and numbered deluxe edition of "Ducks and Men" by William Leitch. Mr Gay Donnelley of the United States has donated a magnificent Audubon print "The Canvasback Duck".

Auction proceeds benefit DU's waterfowl programme for 1980/81. This is your sole opportunity to help raise funds for the ducks in an exciting and stimulating atmosphere.

Sales of T shirts and DU lapel badges will also be conducted during the conference. Ducks Unlimited Inc, U.S.A. has sent a supply of DU international duck head pins for auction and/or sale at the conference - this is a polished mallard profile, offset by a clean, black border - may be donned as a lapel pin, hat pin or tie tack. These pins also make perfect gifts for friends!

REFER PAGE 6 for Formal Notice of Meeting



DU News

NEW DIRECTORS FOR DUCKS UNLIMITED

Your Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of two further directors - David McNeil, a farmer from Matamata, and John Gill, a veterinary surgeon of Wellington. David has many years experience in waterfowl propagation, habitat development and water and land management and DU looks forward to the expertise he will bring to the organisation. John is a practising veterinary surgeon, which will be of immense value, but he is also an avid breeder of Brown Teal and in a relatively short time has built up considerable knowledge concerning the species. Under the Rules of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc., these appointments require ratification at the annual general meeting in July 1980.

OPERATION BRANTA - CANADA GEESE FROM WELLINGTON ZOO

Ducks Unlimited is very grateful to Wellington Zoo for the generous gift of four Canada Geese to aid Operation Branta. The geese were reared by the Zoo during the past breeding season. The Zoo has a fine reputation for goose propagation and good numbers of both Cape Barren Geese and Canada Geese have been reared there. Wellington Zoo is a member of Ducks Unlimited and is participating in Operation Pateke as well. DU will be providing the Zoo with further Brown Teal in the near future.

MEMBERSHIP RATE INCREASES STEADILY

New membership in Ducks Unlimited has maintained steady progress in recent years and 1980 is no exception - we welcome each quarter in FLIGHT approximately 21 members. This issue we extend a welcome to:

Blake Abernethy	(J)	Linda Haddock	(F)	Mrs G. McArthur	(F)
Mylrea Bell	(S)	L.W. Hammond	(F)	* B.A. McLennan	(F)
R.E. Bensemann	(J)	Ray Hart	(F)	Bill Morrison	(F)
Kay Clapperton	(S)	M.H. Jackson	(F)	Anthony E. Reiger	(F)
M.G. Darling	(F)	Stuart Kenny	(S)	Lesley A. Underwood	(J)
Mrs Janet Dickerson	(S)	Mrs F.A. Leahy	(S)	Miles Winchester	(J)
W.R. Grange	(F)	T.H. Logan	(F)	Ross Winterburn	(S)
Douglas Hallberg	(J)				

(Note: * plus donation, many thanks.)

Special thanks also to Mr F.J.J. Tilley of Wellington, long time DU supporter for his recent most generous donation to Ducks Unlimited.)

We have just learned of the following new members:

G.J. Caird	(S)	W.B. Johnson	(S)	K. Pihera	(F)
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MEMBERS ORDER YOUR LAPEL BADGE NOW - PROCEEDS BENEFIT DU PROJECTS

PRICE \$ 5 EACH
(size 5/8" diameter)



To: Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Inc - LAPEL BADGE ORDER FORM
P.O. Box 74 Hamilton

PLEASE SUPPLY ME WITH LAPEL BADGE(s)

CHEQUE ENCLOSED FOR \$

POST TO: (name)

(address)

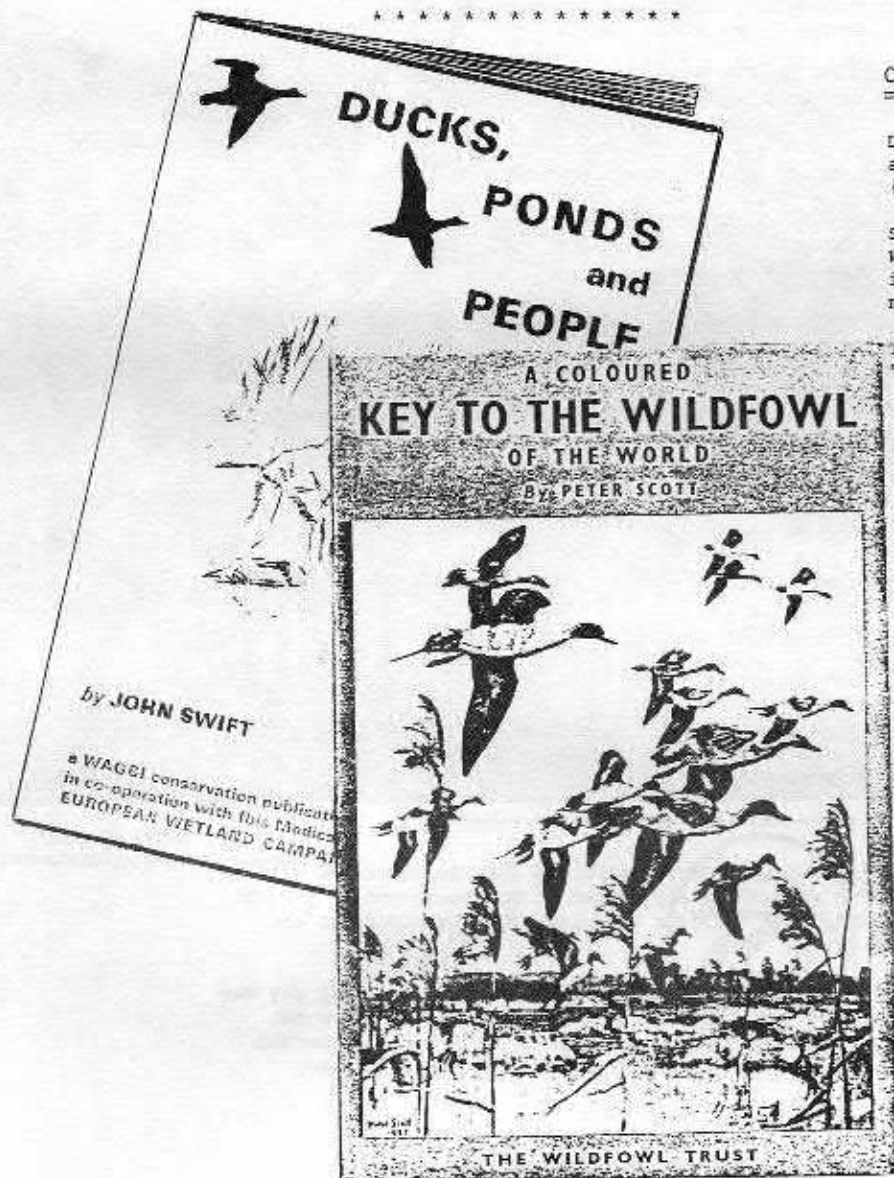
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NEW WILDLIFE APPOINTMENT

The New Zealand Acclimatisation Society movement has recently established a central office in Wellington and appointed Mr W.B. (Bryce) Johnson to the joint position of Director of the National Executive, and Secretary of the North and South Island Councils. Prior to his appointment in February Mr Johnson was involved with the acclimatisation society movement and other environmentally minded organisations, at the provincial level, and has worked in Canterbury, Otago and Southland as a farm adviser with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Wellington appointment will involve co-ordination of acclimatisation society movement activities at the national level and include liaison with government department and other associated organisations. Mr Johnson sees his appointment as both a challenging and supportive one, with the continued strong involvement of the society movement at the provincial level being of principal importance. He is a graduate of Massey and Otago Universities in general biological science, agriculture science and wildlife management.





CALLING ALL "DUCK PEOPLE"

DU has further copies of "Ducks, Ponds and People" available at \$ 4 per copy (includes postage).

Sir Peter Scott's "The Wildfowl of the World", a Wildlife Trust publication is also available to interested DU members, at \$ 10 per copy.

These publications are valuable "companions" for "duck people"!

DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC - ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1980

The sixth annual conference of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated will be held at Gateway Lodge, Kirkbride Road, Auckland, on Saturday, 12 July 1980 at 2.00 pm.

BUSINESS

1. 1.30 pm Registration
2. 2.00 pm Welcome and apologies
3. 2.05 pm Minutes of 1979 annual conference, and matters arising
4. 2.15 pm President's report and presentation of annual financial statement
5. 2.25 pm Resolution: "That the Auditors, Messrs Hutchison Hull & Co. be re-appointed for the 1980/81 financial year."
6. 2.30 pm Election of four (4) directors from the floor, representing members, and ratification of appointment of directors made during the year
7. 2.40 pm Report on Operation "Pateke" (F.N. Hayes)
8. 2.50 pm Guest Speaker: Dr Murray J. Williams, Wildlife Service
9. 3.30 pm Break for refreshment (President's "shout")
10. 3.45 pm Report on Operation "Gretel" (Messrs D.G. Bell/
F.N. Hayes/I. McFadden)
11. 3.55 pm Report on Operation "Branta" (P.M. McLeod)
12. 4.05 pm General business
13. 4.20 pm Film
14. 5.20 pm Refreshments
15. 6.30 pm Annual dinner
16. 7.30 pm Annual auction
17. 9.00 pm Refreshments

A copy of the Rules of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated will be available for perusal by any member at the conference. All members and friends of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated are invited to attend.

A seminar for DU Brown Teal breeders, sponsored by Mobil Oil New Zealand Limited, will be held at Gateway Lodge, Auckland on Friday, 11 July 1980 commencing at 10.30 am. Ducks Unlimited members interested in participating are welcome to attend.

F.N. Hayes
Secretary
P.O. Box 74, Hamilton



FOCUS ON BROWN TEAL
(photography: F. Neil Hayes)



1980
Annual Report

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE : IAN H. PIRANI

What price waterfowl conservation? When is the last time you got so much for ten dollars?

Ten dollars does not buy very much today - it barely works on its own. However, combined with all the ten dollars contributed by DU members and friends, in what other field can you receive so much for a ten dollar investment? DU offers (and is achieving) a significant improvement in the numbers of some of our country's endangered waterfowl species; the opportunity for you to participate in the establishment of species such as the Canada Goose in the North Island; and it promotes an "awareness" campaign to ensure a better future for all waterfowl species. Dollars for our waterfowl are vital. Of course DU needs them more than ever. DU also needs personal effort from its supporters more than ever. When the organisation was established a few short years ago, ten dollars seemed a most appropriate figure for an individual to contribute - of course, everyone knows how inflation has eroded the dollar which is, today, stretched to cover many many demands made of it. Dollars must be stretched - personal motivation and effort must continue to be stretched. DU's members are stretching both dollars and efforts for a great cause.

DU projects stretch dollars effectively and efficiently. The future of the Brown Teal, for example, is beyond a price estimate. Financial and technical assistance from DU breeder members and corporate groups just cannot be underestimated. The work carried out with Brown Teal at the Wildfowl Trust headquarters, Slimbridge is beyond cost estimates from DU's point of view. We are talking of the future of a species which a few years ago just may not have "made it".

Operation Gretel, to benefit our Grey Teal population, is value for funds invested. The success rate to date has been beyond wildest predictions; farmers' co-operative attitudes are beyond all value. Where else could we obtain the use of such wetlands free of charge? The costs of construction of boxes, labour, transportation are small because so much is "volunteered" willingly and with spirit! The services of researchers and skilled, dedicated Wildlife Service technicians are at DU's disposal - at no cost.

Operation Branta is a tribute to the co-operation and enlightened attitude of North Island farmers in overcoming the "bogey" of having the Canada Goose in their immediate environment, and the goodwill of our South Island friends has enabled this magnificent bird to be established further north for the first time. In controlled situations, Ducks Unlimited believes there is a firm place for the Canada Goose throughout the country and is determined to further its propagation - again the voluntary efforts of enlightened Acclimatisation Societies, Federated Farmers groups, DU supporters, the Wildlife Service and individual farmers make this project possible - if DU had to rely on funds to achieve its objective, it could not succeed. Motivation bridges many gaps.

Administratively of course, ten dollars is a mere drop, particularly in terms of the inflation spiral which has hit such items as motor spirits, postal charges, the cost of an individual's time (all inherent cost factors in a "business" such as ours). Where else can you have an organisation which functions successfully from an investment by individuals of a mere ten dollars?

It has been suggested by members before this that Ducks Unlimited should raise its membership fee. This is something your Directors always look at seriously. However it should be remembered that while "money talks" - so, too, does action. I am proud to say that DU is an active group. Our volunteers, friends and directors work actively to promote the best interests of waterfowl in New Zealand. Many of them (and I am speaking particularly now of those who have chosen to take on the role of officeholder or active volunteer) spend many hours planning waterfowl programmes, driving long distances to arrange, co-ordinate and take part in working parties often at their own expense; display ingenuity in designing and building nestbox prototypes and eventually supervising mass production, arrange advertising and promotion of the group, and promote the objectives of Ducks Unlimited to their friends, family and acquaintances - often, we all suspect, to the point of being totally "hooked" on the idea of Ducks Unlimited! This "addiction" to the cause serves one great purpose however - an improvement in conditions for our waterfowl and with it improvement in the environment of our country.

About this time each year I think of the group I am privileged to head, and of its future. I think of all those who support us in this unpaid and often seemingly thankless task. DU faces criticism from time to time, like any other organisation which is endeavouring to raise the level of consciousness in others. Prejudiced, ill-informed criticism has been levelled by some who think Ducks Unlimited is a shooting organisation. Ducks Unlimited has never been, nor ever will be a shooting consortium of any kind. Its sole purpose is to benefit waterfowl, with its associated advantages. I say it again - that many of our members are ardent duck hunters; just as many are ardent anti-shooters; many are devout "bird watchers". There is a place in Ducks Unlimited for all these people. We are proud of the diverse range of our membership. We are supposed to be living in a democratic society. Our critics have a right to level their criticism (even if it is misjudged) - however, DU strongly protects its right to respond, and educate!

I am certain that Ducks Unlimited has shown by its actions of the past few years that it is sincere in its approach - long hard work during the "establishment" period is starting to reap rewards. I am totally confident that DU will succeed in its race to improve conditions for the ducks. It may take a generation of people before this is achieved and the work is truly appreciated, but we will make the public appreciate with results. I am confident, too, that with time the organisation will attain a secure financial base, but this may take a while to achieve. In the meantime, your Directors work constantly to improve the situation because a healthy bank balance will enable the acceleration of waterfowl programmes and therefore results.

A quotation from Gene Hill, Associate Director of "Field and Stream" is appropriate in this context:

".....I am 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....."

Were it not for the drive, determination and dollars provided by you, our DU members and friends, DU's conservation effort would be dramatically diminished. Ducks Unlimited's achievements to date are evidence of your commitment to improve the situation for our waterfowl. That's a lot of performance for an investment of ten dollars!



DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INC.
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1980

**Hutchison
Hull + Co**

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Subscriptions : Life	275	250
: Active	1994	1689
: Supporter	520	520
: Junior	30	16
: Trade	140	120
<u>TOTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS</u>	2959	2595
<u>PLUS OTHER INCOME</u>		
Donations	736	565
Conference Income	3572	1004
Profit/(Loss) on T Shirt Sales	31	(45)
Profit/(Loss) on Lapel Badge Sales	31	(149)
Sundry	337	86
Grant : Internal Affairs	500	500
: Mobil Oil (Pateke)	750	-
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	8916	4556
<u>LESS EXPENDITURE</u>		
Audit and Accountancy Fees	127	76
Advertising	1142	1132
Duplicating	152	17
Operation : "Gretel"	3000	1557
: "Pateke"	248	147
: "Branta"	246	150
Postage	468	345
Printing	1204	842
Stationery	5	338
Sundry	393	137
Travelling Expenses - Board Meetings	1459	606
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	8444	5347
<u>EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</u>	\$472	\$(791)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 MARCH 1980

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>		<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			<u>ASSETS</u>		
Bank Overdraft	691	-	Petty Cash	20	-
Accounts Payable	561	101	Bank of New South Wales	-	121
			Debtors	200	-
<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>			T Shirts Stocks	230	215
Balance 1.4.79	280	1071	Lapel Badge Stocks	2	45
Plus Excess Income over			Term Deposit	1500	-
Expenditure	472	(791)	Machinery	52	-
	752	280			
	\$2004	\$381		\$2004	\$381

AUDITORS REPORT

We have examined the attached Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities together with the books and records of the Association and have obtained such information and explanations as we consider necessary.

In common with similar organisations, control over the income prior to its being recorded is limited and there were no practical audit procedures to determine the effect of this limitation.

Subject to the above qualification the Income and Expenditure Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities present fairly the results of the Association's activities for the year ended 31 March 1980.

Hutchison Hull & Co

Note for Members:

The final set of Accounts signed by the President, Secretary and Auditors was not available at the time of publication. The signed copy will be available for perusal by any member at the Annual Conference on 12 July 1980. (F.N. Hayes, Secretary)

GUEST EDITORIAL:

GREY TEAL NEST BOXES AND
ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETIES

=====

The author, Neil Hayes of Wellington is a DU Director and Secretary. DU members will be aware that Neil has reared over 400 waterfowl - Brown Teal, Grey Teal, Scaup, Shoveller and Grey Duck - at his home in suburban Wellington.



Ducks Unlimited's Operation "Gretel" is now in its fifth year and already shows all the signs of being one of the most successful wild waterfowl propagation ideas tried in New Zealand. In the early trials of nest boxes, DU experienced a considerable number of negative comments from many quarters. Comments on the stupidity of the idea were rife. Admittedly, it was a great gamble! But DU believed that, apart from the possibility of Grey Teal using the boxes, it was a good public relations and promotional exercise and, very importantly, it encouraged people to become actively involved in doing something constructive towards waterfowl conservation and propagation.

Of course the figures from Pokeno, South Auckland where DU has 107 boxes, of 6% usage in 1976; 56% usage in 1977; 84% in 1978 and close to 100% in 1979 (with over 1,000 eggs hatched) have shown that the gamble paid off. Figures such as these have astounded most critics (and ourselves) and they now appear to wholeheartedly support the project.

It is therefore of some concern, annoyance and disappointment when an acclimatisation society continually attempts to discredit the organisation and its activities, particularly in respect of Operation "Gretel". DU enjoys an excellent and valuable relationship with most acclimatisation societies and at all times attempts to liaise closely with them. Many societies have already begun their own Grey Teal nest box programmes and DU is delighted. However, comments from a particular society claiming that nest boxes litter lagoons and the timber treatment material leaches into the water and poisons it, surely have no place in waterfowl management. One can only feel there is some ulterior motive behind such prejudiced remarks. However, all it really does is make Ducks Unlimited more determined that the project will gain further success.

Of course, there is nothing new about the erection of nest boxes for tree nesting waterfowl and in Australia over 5,000 boxes have been erected for the Chestnut Teal and the Grey Teal; while in the United States the classic story of nest box usage is the way in which the Carolina Wood Duck was saved from extinction purely through the erection of nest boxes. From only a few birds in the 1920's, Wood Duck numbers have increased to around four million - thanks to many thousands of boxes. Acclimatisation societies will no doubt be pleased to learn that such a population enables over one million birds to be cropped annually.

Ducks Unlimited is forever hopeful that any negative group will eventually show a more enlightened approach, and assist in the propagation of a delightful little bird in New Zealand!

OPERATION GRETTEL : WORKING PARTY AT MATTHEWS LAGOON

What must surely be one of the most successful working parties held since Operation Gretel began took place at Matthews Lagoon on 22 March this year. Matthews Lagoon is a Wildlife Management Reserve administered by the Wellington Acclimatisation Society and DU is indebted to the Society for its co-operation and permission to use the area. Matthews Lagoon is a magnificent area of some 800 acres, with large water area and many small lagoons surrounded by willows. It was in these smaller lagoons that 40 DU boxes were erected, as shown in the accompanying photographs.

DU members were ably assisted by a number of waterfowl shooters who have stands on the lagoon. One of the requirements of stand holders is that they show an interest in this sort of project. And, of course, it has been found that they are more than pleased to become involved.

DU thanks Ian Buchanan, Senior Field Officer and DU member, for his efforts in organising the turn-out of stand holders. With almost 30 people and 6 boats, the 40 boxes were erected in the record time of approximately 2 hours! A great exercise. Matthews Lagoon is a notable Grey Teal area and early usage of boxes is expected.



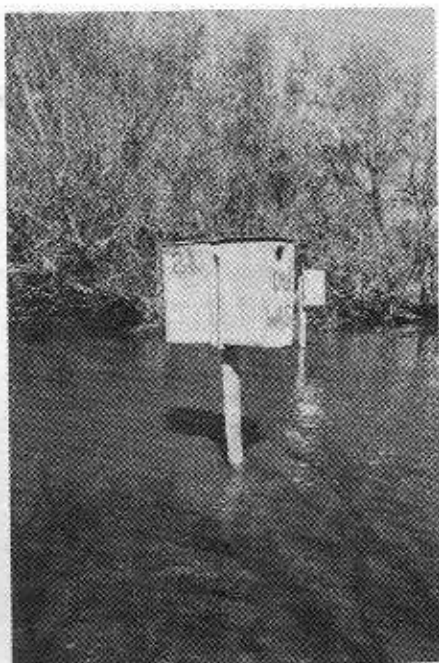
A heavily laden boat ferrying boxes
to the far side of Matthews Lagoon
in a joint DU and Wellington
Acclimatisation Society operation

MATTHEWS LAGOON WORKING PARTY

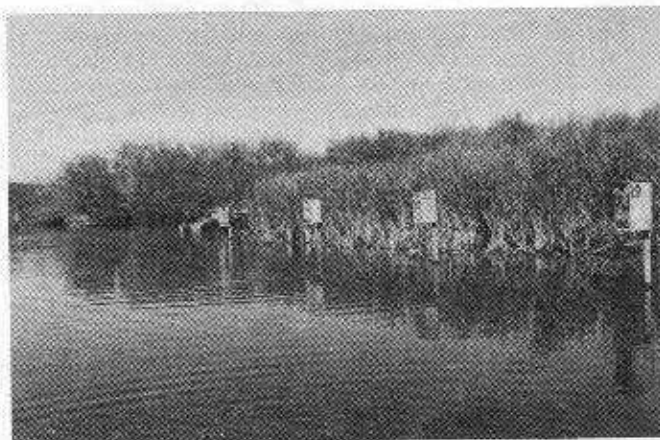
Photographs: Neil Hayes



DU member, Stan Jensen's trailer
specially built for the purpose



A definite saving on posts! This
idea has worked well in some areas



Some good keen men posing
for the camera



The finishing touches being applied

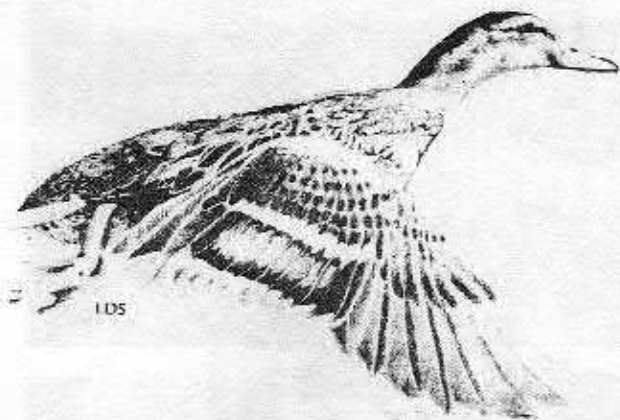
BLUE DUCKS

Mention was made in the March issue of "Flight" that Ducks Unlimited had been preparing comments concerning the building up of a captive stock of Blue Ducks in order (a) to study the bird and build up comprehensive knowledge, and (b) to enable a "bank" of Blue Duck to be established as a safety measure.

The steady decline in the Blue Duck population is causing some concern, although at this stage the species is in no immediate danger. DU believes the time to take a close look at this species is NOW! Your organisation was therefore delighted to learn from the Wildlife Service that they are enthusiastic about establishing a Blue Duck project along the lines of our present Operation Pateke (Brown Teal) where birds are reared in captivity and released into suitable areas. At the moment there are few Blue Ducks in captivity so initial work will involve the building up of a reasonably sized captive population. DU has been asked to compile a list of persons who wish to be involved in the project. Progress with this new programme will be reported at regular intervals. The whole concept is very exciting to contemplate!

As a follow up to the study carried out by Jan Eldridge in 1978, another American scientist Dr Frank McKinney will arrive in October to spend several months observing Blue Duck. DU will again offer financial assistance with transport and accommodation costs. Dr McKinney also hopes to have a look at DU's Brown Teal and the Grey Teal nest boxes.

LETTER TO THE FLIGHT EDITOR



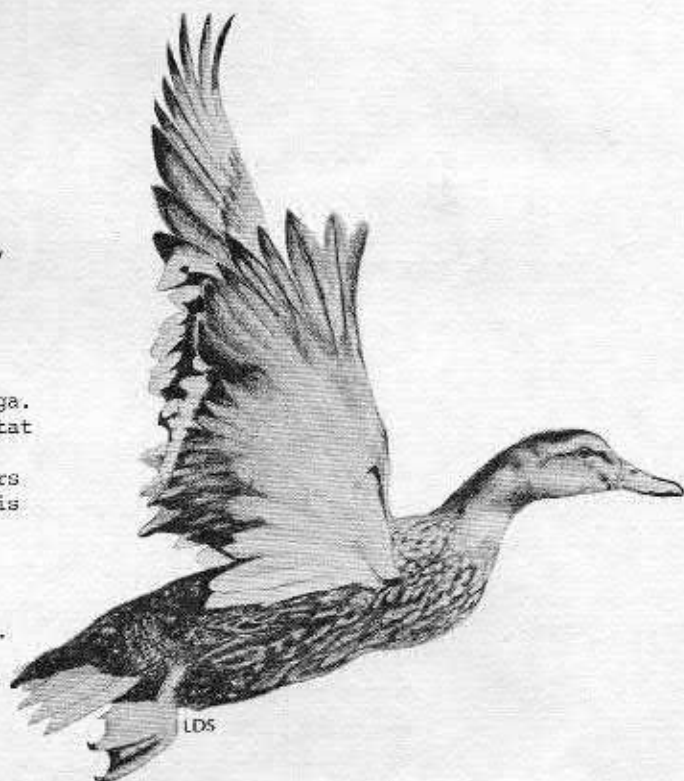
 * Letter to the Editor, FLIGHT *
 * 12 April 1980 *
 * from R.J. Cook, Heriot *
 * Sir: *
 * As a matter of interest perhaps to other *
 * readers of the article on page 10 of the *
 * most recent Flight "A View from Audubon" *
 * by John Anderson. *
 * The poem that leads the article in is *
 * slightly mis-quoted from the original. *
 * The first line should read: *
 * "The law condemns the man or woman" *
 * And by condemns it meant either hanging *
 * on the gallows or transportation to the *
 * colonies (i.e. Australia). The poem *
 * itself has nothing whatsoever to do with *
 * hunting, shooting or fishing, or any *
 * sport at all. The poem was written as a *
 * result of the U.K. Enclosures Act circa *
 * 1800 where Common Land available to *
 * villagers, peasants, serfs or whatever *
 * agricultural countryfolk were referred *
 * to in those days, was annexed by big *
 * landowners for their own use, so denying *
 * the humbler people grazing for their pig, *
 * cow, sheep or geese. *
 * Waterfowl habitat is lost by shortsighted *
 * agricultural drainage which equals greed, *
 * just that pure and simple. *
 * Sincerely, etc. *
 * *****

BROWN TEAL LIBERATION SITES

While there is no real evidence to support the theory, Ducks Unlimited believes that the main reasons for the demise of the Brown Teal (currently only about 1,000 survive) are excessive shooting and introduced predators - stoats, ferrets, feral cats etc.

DU considers therefore that for its hand-reared Brown Teal to stand a reasonable chance of establishing themselves in the wild, it must release the birds into the most suitable areas; areas which preferably are not shot and where there are low numbers of ground predators. With this in mind, DU has been discussing suitable areas with the Wildlife Service. This topic will also be discussed in detail at the Brown Teal Management Seminar in Auckland on 11 July 1980 at Gateway Lodge, the day prior to the annual conference.

In the meantime the Wildlife Service has, at the suggestion of Ducks Unlimited, tentatively approved the release of DU Brown Teal on Matakana Island, off Tauranga. Matakana Island, which appears ideal habitat for the Brown Teal, has several suitable lagoons and estuaries, low predator numbers and little or no waterfowl shooting. DU is also fortunate in having one of its directors, Mr Sig Bronger, resident at Matakana. Sig is a prolific breeder of Brown Teal and also has the necessary facilities to hold birds prior to release. If the proposal proceeds, DU Brown Teal will be making their home at Matakana later in 1980.



BROWN TEAL PROPAGATION

The March issue of FLIGHT reported on the breeding results for the 1979/80 season. Since the breeding season officially ended, various members have reported that their Brown Teal are "at it" again. Sig Bronger has another 14 on the go, John Gill a further 3, and Barry Rowe has 5. This certainly indicates that with a good pair of birds and favourable facilities, Brown Teal will breed all year round. With such continuing success we could easily see 30 to 40 DU Brown Teal being released this year.

BROWN TEAL AT SLIMBRIDGE

A "stop press" item - a very excited letter has just been received from the Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge reporting that both Brown Teal females sent by DU last year had laid a clutch of eggs and in total 8 eggs were fertile!

- ** 30 May 1980 Wellington Director, Neil Hayes, has just learned from the Wildfowl Trust that they have hatched three Brown Teal. "Both females sent to them by Ducks Unlimited last July have laid and between them had eight fertile eggs - more are due to hatch soon." Neil Hayes comments further that "such early success is quite fantastic - most newspapers in the U.K. carried a story on the breeding".

* * * * *

BROWN TEAL MANAGEMENT SEMINAR: DETAILS

Neil Hayes, Director and Brown Teal Seminar Chairman has circularised Brown Teal breeders with the Agenda for the forthcoming meeting to be held on Friday, 11 July 1980 at Gateway Lodge, Auckland. Participants will assemble for morning tea at 10.00 am.

Neil comments "Naturally the success of the Seminar will be entirely dependant on the input by persons attending and we hope that prior to the meeting, participants will work through the Agenda and compile as many notes as possible on each topic, plus any other details which are relevant." Participants have also been requested to bring along 35mm slides of their Brown Teal facilities.

Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated wishes to thank Mobil Oil New Zealand Limited for financial assistance towards the costs of the Seminar, by way of a Mobil Environmental Award for 1979.

For the information of our members, the following is the Agenda:

AGENDA: BROWN TEAL MANAGEMENT SEMINAR - GATEWAY LODGE, AUCKLAND

10.30 am - Friday 11 July 1980

PART (A) - BACKGROUND MATERIAL

1. Population figures and distribution of wild Brown Teal - Dr M.J. Williams
2. Possible reasons for the decline of the Brown Teal (general discussion)
3. Aims and objectives of Operation "Pateke" - F.N. Hayes and I.H. Pirani
4. Population figures and distribution of captive Brown Teal - F.N. Hayes
5. Proposed scientific research - Dr M.J. Williams

PART (B) - BROWN TEAL AVICULTURE

1. Incompatibility of Brown Teal with other waterfowl - and Brown Teal
2. Establishing pairs
3. Facilities
 - (a) design, size and construction of aviary
 - (b) design, size and construction of ponds in aviary
 - (c) plants and cover to use in the aviary
4. Diet and food requirements for adult Brown Teal
5. Nest sites and nesting facilities
6. Removal of eggs and incubation methods
7. Diet and food requirements for Brown Teal ducklings
8. Cleanliness
9. Keeping birds in good condition throughout the year
10. Sexing Brown Teal
11. Pinioning Brown Teal
12. Transfer of Brown Teal within New Zealand
13. Liberation sites and liberation policy
14. Financial assistance towards breeding expenses
15. General

"FLIGHT"

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