



**"FLIGHT"**

NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE

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FLIGHT 4/81    ISSUE 30    DECEMBER 1981



**"FLIGHT"**



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\* NO 4/81                    ISSUE 30                    DECEMBER 1981                    \*

\* IN THIS ISSUE:                    \*

\*                    \* BROWN TEAL BREEDER FOR THE YEAR AWARD                    \*

\*                                       ANNOUNCED                    \*

\*                    \* PRELIMINARY DETAILS - DU'S 1982 ANNUAL                    \*

\*                                       CONFERENCE                    \*

\*                    \* SUCCESSFUL BROWN TEAL BREEDERS                    \*

\*                    \* DU PROJECT REPORTS... AND MORE!                    \*

\*                                       \*

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THE COVER:  
 NEW ZEALAND GREY DUCK "CAPTURED  
 ON FILM" BY NEIL HAYES

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Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Incorporated is a private, non-profit membership organisation dedicated to the preservation, restoration and maintenance of wetlands habitat in New Zealand and to the propagation of the country's rare and prolific waterfowl as a valuable natural resource. The organisation was founded in May 1974 by a group of far-sighted conservationists and incorporated by them in June 1975 in Wellington, New Zealand. The national headquarters mailing address is P.O. Box 74 Hamilton and the registered physical address is 84 Houchens Road, Hamilton. "Flight" is the official quarterly publication of Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Incorporated reaching 800 devoted members and friends concerned with waterfowl conservation. DU membership begins at \$3 p.a. for Junior to \$12.50 for Full membership with provision for Trade and Life members. Membership of Ducks Unlimited carries with it subscription to this publication. To assure prompt delivery members who move are urged to forward their new address along with current membership details to national headquarters. Letters and contributed manuscripts and photographs should be addressed to the "Flight" Editor. Views expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily constitute those of Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Incorporated.

Produced by: Cheryl L. Pirani, "Branta", Kahikatea Flat Road, R.D. 2, Albany  
 Printer: Panicprint, 3 Lorne Street, Auckland  
 Photography: World Wildlife Fund N.Z., F.N. Hayes  
 Graphics: courtesy Ducks Unlimited Inc U.S.A.



Ducks Unlimited membership badges, sized 5/8" diameter, featuring the corporate symbol in gold/white/blue are available from DU Headquarters P.O. Box 74, Hamilton. Price is \$5 each.

## DU News

### NEW ZEALAND SHOVELER IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

An interesting comment was received by Ducks Unlimited from the Assistant Director at the Wildfowl Trust, Mike Lubbock; who said that the N.Z. Shoveler sent by DU in August were noticeably larger and the males more colourful than the Trust's N.Z. Shoveler. The implication here is perhaps that "new blood" was certainly needed!

### 1982 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, 10 July 1982 is the date Ducks Unlimited members and friends will assemble for the 1982 annual conference. The venue will be the Tourist Hotel Corporation's Tokaanu Motor Inn, at Tokaanu (near Taupo). This popular tourist stop is a perfect place for members to get together. Regrettably accommodation at the Tokaanu Motor Inn is fully booked for that particular weekend but other excellent accommodation nearby is available and we recommend members book early at any of the following: Rainbow Motel, Box 51, Tokaanu; Braxmere Motel, Box 11 Tokaanu, or Creel Lodge Motel, Taupehi Road, Turangi.

### BROWN TEAL BREEDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

At the DU directors' meeting in September 1981 it was decided that an award entitled "The DU Brown Teal Breeder of the Year" should be instituted. An appropriate certificate is being drawn up and a cheque for \$ 50, together with the certificate, will be presented annually to the member who rears, and transfers to Ducks Unlimited, the highest number of Brown Teal in any one season. Only through extreme diligence and considerable financial outlay is it possible to breed Brown Teal in captivity and the DU Board considers that reward and recognition is very desirable for such dedicated members. The first award will be made at the 1982 annual conference at Tokaanu.

### PUBLICITY FOR DUCKS UNLIMITED

Over the last few months, several DU directors have been addressing groups in various parts of the North Island; among them the monthly meeting of the Ornithological Society, the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society and to acclimatisation societies. These talks have attempted to show why Ducks Unlimited was formed; how the organisation is constituted; the organisation's aims and objectives, and achievements, plus full details of various DU projects, and audiences have seemed appreciative.

A feature article about the progress of Ducks Unlimited in New Zealand appeared in the September 1981 issue of the American Ducks Unlimited Magazine and has apparently created considerable interest among their 400,000 American members.

Here in New Zealand the Ornithological Society continues to provide news items about DU, New Zealand, in the "Ornithological News", as have "Rod & Rifle" and "Outdoor" magazines. We are certainly most grateful to these organisations for "spreading the word". Thanks, too, to the N.Z. Clay Target Association who have, for five years, published at no cost a Ducks Unlimited advertisement in their magazine "Gunshot". Such encouragement and generosity is outstanding.

### SALE OF NEW ZEALAND WATERFOWL

Ducks Unlimited would like to remind waterfowl breeding members that it is illegal to sell New Zealand waterfowl. However, permission can be obtained to recover transfer costs and when application is made to transfer N.Z. waterfowl from one breeder to another, application to recover the transfer costs should be made at the same time. All applications for transfers and cost recovery permission should be made to the Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs, Private Bag, Wellington.

### NEW MEMBERS...THIS QUARTER DU WELCOMED THE FOLLOWING:

Abernethy F.	(F)	Chorlton, J.R.M.	(F)	McNeil, Shirley	(S)	note:
Allen, John	(S)	Hill, Peter	(S)	Morris, Chester	(S)	(F) Full membership
de Borst, R.P.	(F)	Irwin, Neville	(S)	Norris, A.D.	(S)	(S) Supporter membership

## REPORT ON OPERATION PATEKE (BROWN TEAL)

### SUCCESSFUL BROWN TEAL BREEDERS LAST SEASON

Successful breeders of Brown Teal last season (1980/81) ending 30 April 1981 were as follows:

John Gill	29
Ian Pirani	17
Murray Powell	11
Jack Worth	10
Murray Dench	8
Barry Rowe	8
Jim Glover	6
Lawrence Piper	5
Sig Bronger	4
Roy Dench	3
	<hr/>
	101

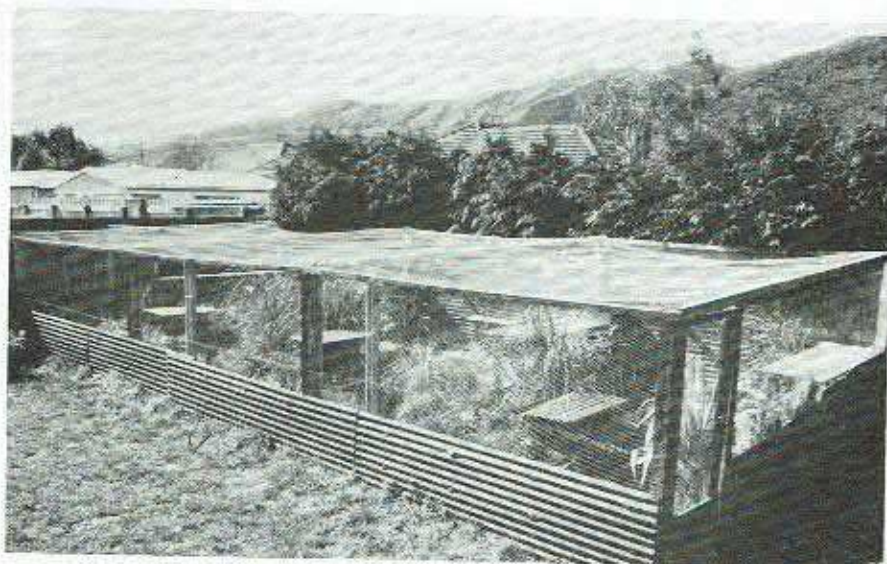
As previously mentioned - and widely publicised - this total was an all-time record. DU congratulates these members on their success and wishes them further success during the present season.

### 1981-82 BREEDING SEASON PROGRESS

Progress so far this season has been much slower than for the same period last year and all breeders have experienced some problems with initial clutches of eggs. However re-nesting is in full swing and we are confident that by the end of April next year total figures for birds reared will be very close to last season's record.

### BROWN TEAL AVIARY

This aviary was built to the specification set at the DU Brown Teal Management Seminar and is designed to accommodate 3 pair of Brown Teal, each in their own aviary.



### FUTURE RELEASE OF BROWN TEAL

This season three release sites are expected to be used. DU will continue at Matakana Island in the Bay of Plenty where, hopefully, some 30 birds will be released; the Wildlife Service will release its birds at Puke Puke Lagoon with some assistance from Ducks Unlimited, and your organisation will most likely commence the release of Brown Teal at Mr Horry Sinclair's property which is situated between Lakes Waiholā and Waipori near Dunedin. Horry Sinclair is DU's only honorary member and his property would easily rank as the best wetland habitat in New Zealand. There appears to be a small remnant population of Brown Teal in the area and, because of its size, it is an area where DU could release thousands of Brown Teal. Islands, lagoons, lakes, freshwater swamps and grass paddocks are a feature throughout the property - the sort of habitat favoured by Brown Teal! The first release at Mr Sinclair's property is expected to take place in mid December when 25-30 birds will be airlifted from Wellington for the purpose.

### PARTICIPATION BY DU MEMBERS IN OPERATION PATEKE

While Operation Pateke is making excellent progress with 40 pair of Brown Teal held by 18 members, DU still needs more members who are keen to join the project effort. Any interested members should first obtain a copy of DU's Brown Teal publication which contains all the information one needs to know about the project. A suitable aviary is, of course, essential and something along the lines of that shown in the photograph below is desirable. The DU project calls for 50 pair of Brown Teal to be held by members.

**DU MEMBERS!  
PURCHASE ENCHANTING GREETING CARD/NOTES AND BENEFIT DUCKS UNLIMITED.**

Joan Taylor, art teacher and well known member of the Hutt Art Society has produced reproductions of her larger etchings of natural subjects in greeting card and note form for sale. These gift packs were a "sell out" at the annual conference.

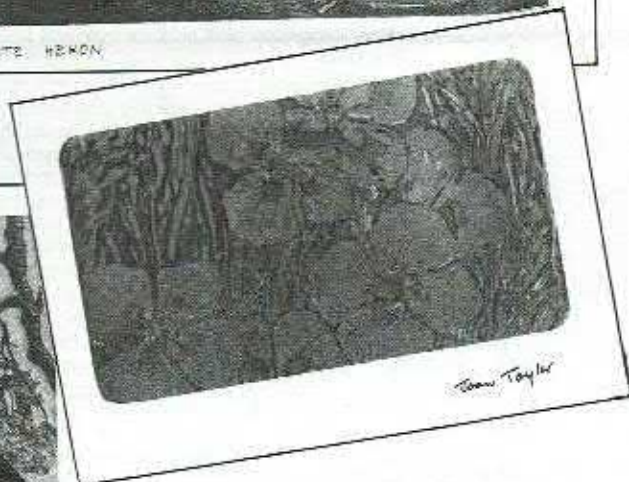
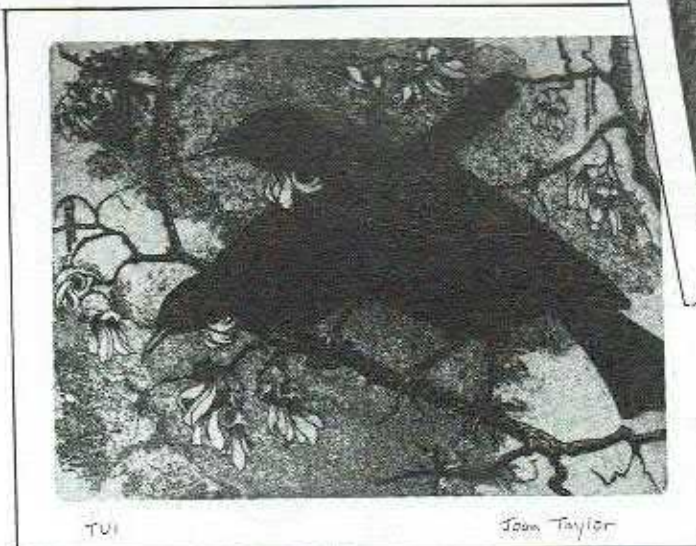
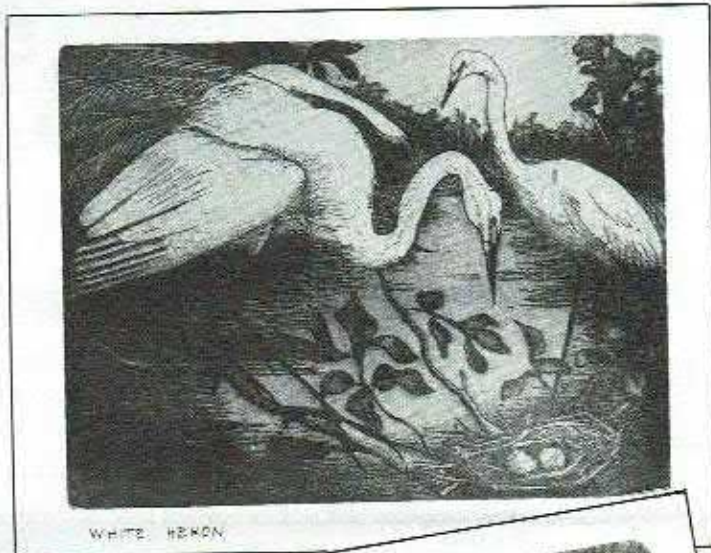
Packs contain 6 cards with envelopes, either assorted pack of 6 individual bird or floral studies, or 6 of one type of floral or bird study - depending on your preference. Cards are blank inside for you to write your own message. These delightful notes, in subtle colours, also make fine gifts.

Bird cards are \$ 2.50 for pack 6  
Floral studies are \$ 2.00 for pack 6

Orders can be placed directly with

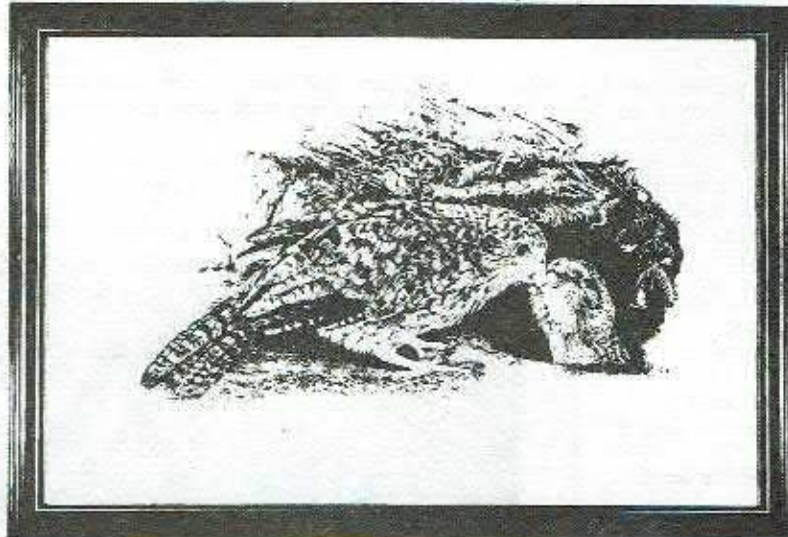
Joan Taylor  
66 Lake Road  
Devonport  
Auckland 9

A percentage of Joan Taylor's earnings from the sale of these delightful cards to DU members will be donated to Ducks Unlimited to benefit waterfowl.



# Kakapo and Chick

by Merrilyn Jaquierey



A special reproduction in full colour.  
Overall size 760mm x 560mm — price \$8.00 (Unframed).

The original of this reproduction by internationally acclaimed wildlife artist Merrilyn Jaquierey has been painted in the finest ornithological detail, 2/3 natural size, and colour as exact as possible.

Merrilyn Jaquierey has been greatly assisted by unique photographic records kindly supplied by Don Merton of the New Zealand Wildlife Service. Proceeds from the sale of this reproduction will benefit the World Wildlife Fund's project to provide an accomodation hut in the South of Stewart Island. This hut will provide essential shelter for the research team who will be working in the Kakapo area for a number of years.

The indigenous New Zealand Kakapo is the largest member of the parrot family in the World. Flightless and nocturnal it has many behavioural CURIOSITIES WHICH ARE NOT fully understood. Once widespread in New Zealand, the Kakapo has withdrawn to remote wilderness areas - the only breeding colony known to survive being in the remote and inhospitable South of Stewart Island. Highly endangered, the Kakapo's survival depends on present efforts to control the introduced predators to which it is so vulnerable - particularly the feral cats on Stewart Island.

To WWF-NZ  
P.O. Box 12-200  
WELLINGTON NORTH



Please rush me ..... copies of the WWF-NZ Reproduction of Merrilyn Jaquierey's 'Kakapo and Chick' painting as presented to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh: International President of WWF.

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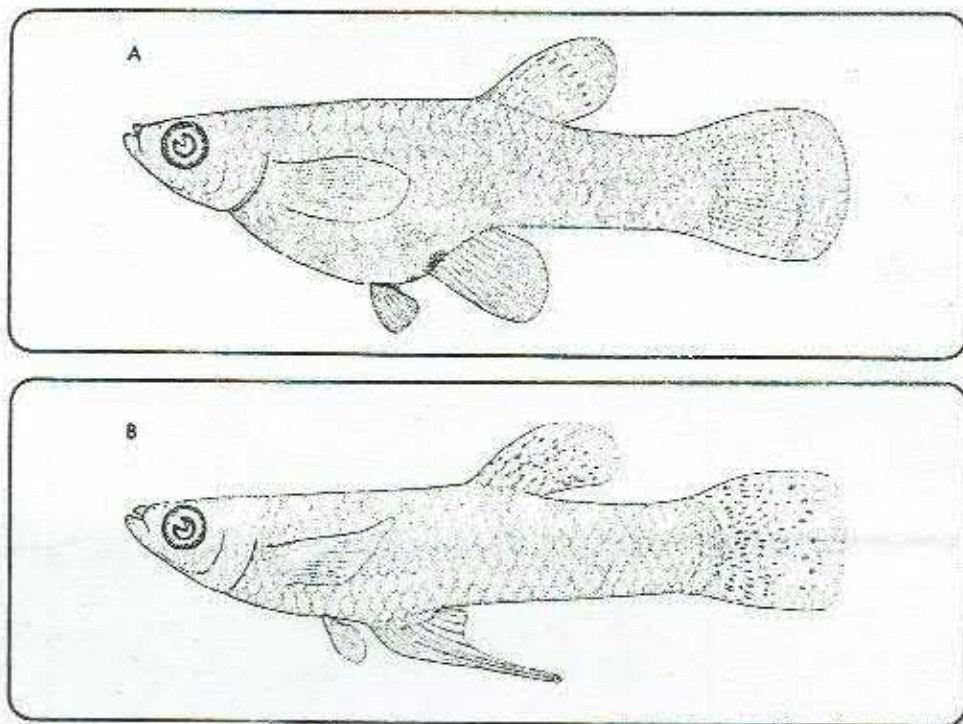
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NEW ZEALAND FRESHWATER FISH - CONTD

GAMBUSIA AFFINIS (the mosquito fish)

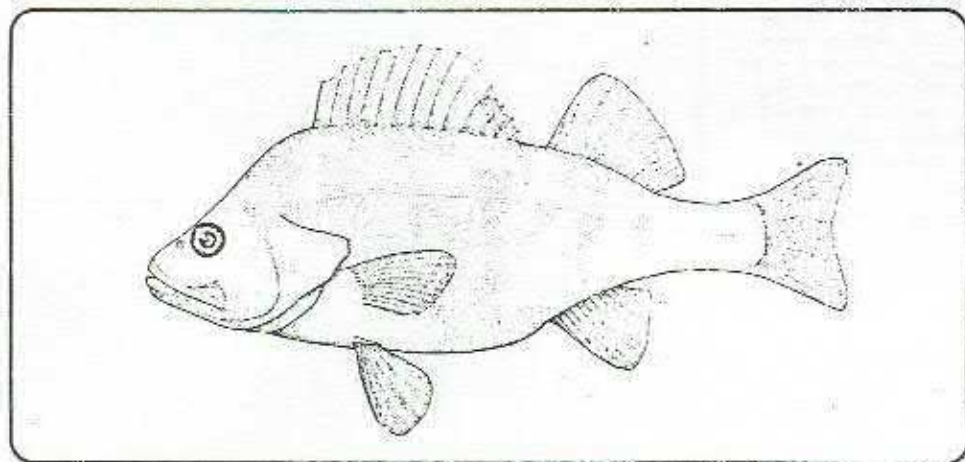
This species has been introduced world wide for the purpose of mosquito control. Initial imports were from Hawaii in 1930 but its original home was the southern states of the U.S.A. It is of the family Poeciliidae or live bearers, the adult female bearing up to 200 live young depending on her size and number of spawnings.



Mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) A. female 28mm T.L.; B. male 16 mm T.L.

PERCA FLUVIATILIS (the perch)

Successful importations of perch occurred in 1968 from Australia. They quickly became established in the eastern South Island, Wellington, Wanganui and Taranaki. Spawning occurs in spring and the developing young live in shoals, although adults are solitary.



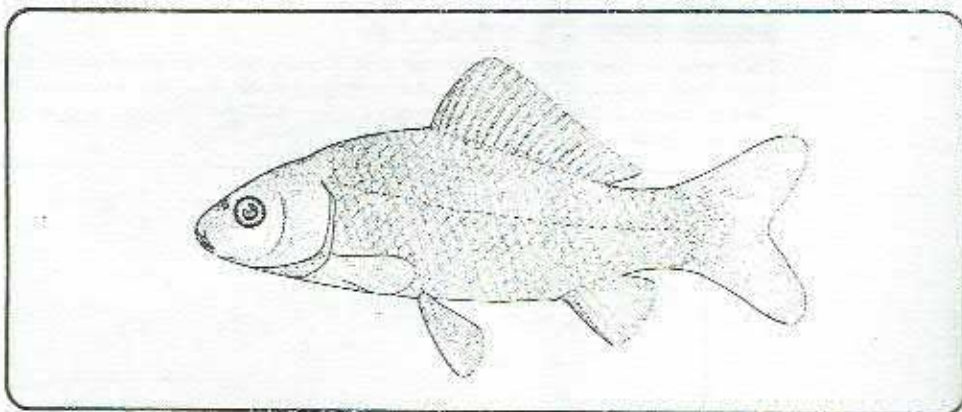
Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) 368 mm L.C.F.

NEW ZEALAND FRESHWATER FISH - CONTD

CARASSIUS AURATUS (the Goldfish)

Under the name *Cyprinus carassius* the first introductions were in 1864 and 1868. Goldfish are now very widespread and thoroughly established. They occur predominantly in still waters and can stand low oxygenation. The fish are omnivorous and spawn in the summer. The Goldfish is longlived and grows to a length of about 300mm.

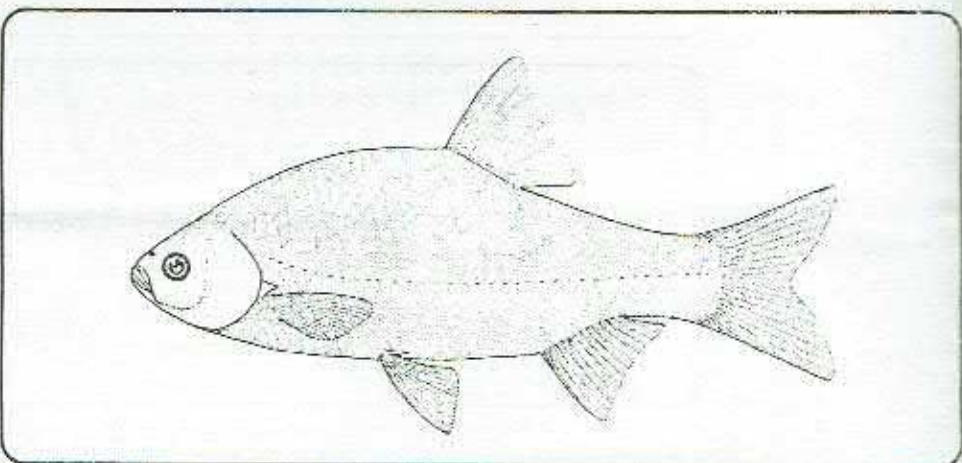
Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)



SCARDINIUS ERYTHROPHthalmus  
(the rudd)

Introduced supposedly in 1967 (Auckland Star June 1971) by a Mr Smith of Massey, into many farmers' ponds north of Auckland. It is now possibly wider spread from the Waikato river northwards. A size of 200-300mm has been sampled in N.Z. The fish is a carnivorous feeder on insects and crustaceans either at the surface or midwater. A distinguishing feature between Rudd and Perch is that the Rudd lack teeth.

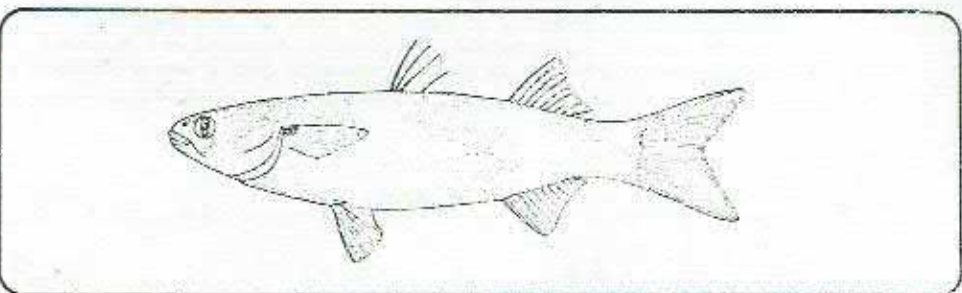
Rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*)



MUGIL CEPHALUS (the grey mullet)

It is found throughout the world in warmer coastal seas and rivers running into them. The fish reach about 500mm in length. In some rivers the mullet can be seen moving upstream in shoals, often leaping from the water as they travel. They feed on organic matter and debris. Gill nets harvest good numbers in the Waikato River.

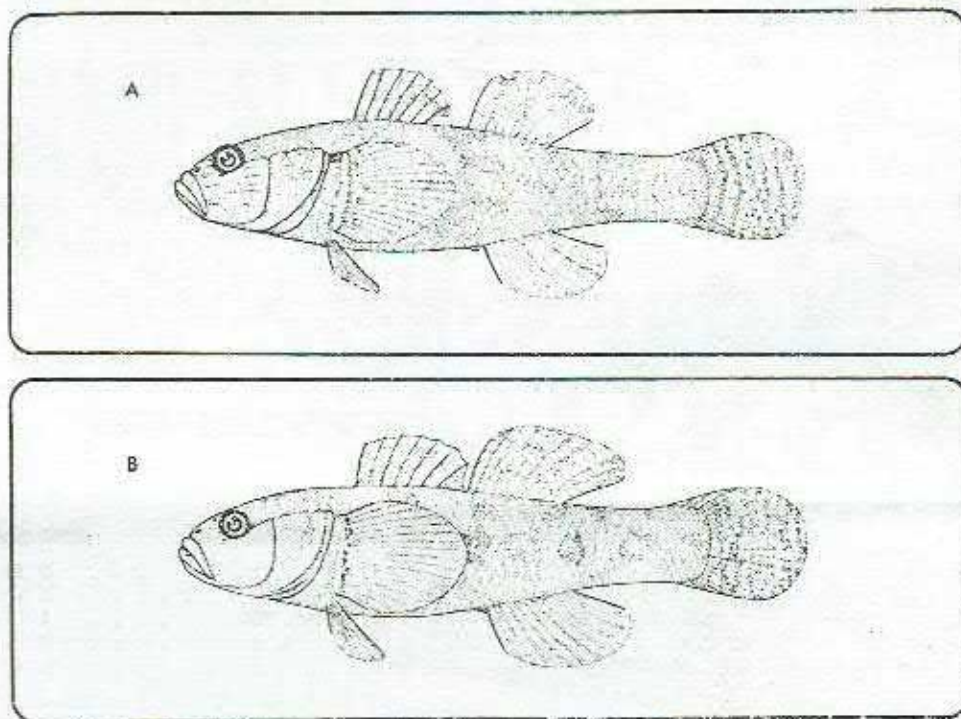
Gray Mullet (*Mugil cephalus*)





NEW ZEALAND FRESHWATER FISH - CONTDGOBIOMORPHUS COTIDIANUS (the common bully)

The bully seems to occur in most lakes except for some in upland and alpine Canterbury. The fish are bottom living, on the open lake bed, mostly in the shallows. They establish territories on and under rocks near the lake margins. The nuptial melanic males guard their primitive nests until the eggs hatch. The larvae are planktonic and the larger young and adults form a food resource for trout in many lakes.



Common Bully (*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*) A. female 106mm; B. male 112mm T.L.

DUCKS UNLIMITED SALES OFFERS

WE HAVE COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING AVAILABLE:

- \* "THE INCUBATION BOOK" BY DR A.F. ANDERSON BROWN \$ 32  
*246 pages detailing all aspects of game bird and waterfowl egg incubation*
- \* "A COLOURED KEY TO THE WATERFOWL OF THE WORLD" BY SIR PETER SCOTT \$ 10  
*This publication enjoys wide popularity.*
- \* "THE AVICULTURE, RE-ESTABLISHMENT AND STATUS OF THE N.Z. BROWN TEAL" \$ 6  
BY F. NEIL HAYES - *this is Ducks Unlimited's first major publication.*  
*It is an excellent, informative, easy to read reference book demanding a place on the bookshelf of DU members and those interested in Operation Pateke*

DUCKS UNLIMITED HAS STOCKS OF THE FOLLOWING AT DU HEADQUARTERS:

- \* DUCKS UNLIMITED LAPEL BADGES \$ 5
- \* GREY TEAL NEST BOXES (KITSET), EASY TO ASSEMBLE \$ 10

REMINDER

PACKS OF GIFT NOTES/CARDS AND WORLD WILDLIFE FUND-NZ PUBLICATIONS ARE DETAILED ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE. PLEASE ORDER DIRECT WITH THE APPROPRIATE ORGANISATIONS.

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WEAR A DU SPORTSMAN'S CAP!



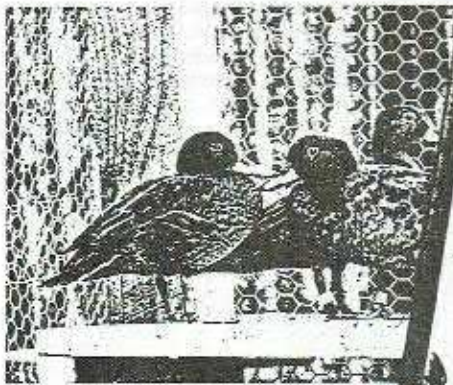
The Hamilton fundraising chapter of DU has produced a sportsman cap every DU member will want to wear! Sturdily constructed from cotton in three colourways, this cap is useful for all year round wear. The crown is brown, sides are tan with the words "Ducks Unlimited", flanked by leaping mallards, and the "visor" brim is olive green. DU caps are \$ 4 each and available from:

Mrs Gail Barclay, DU Chapter Secretary  
37 Fairview Street, Hamilton.

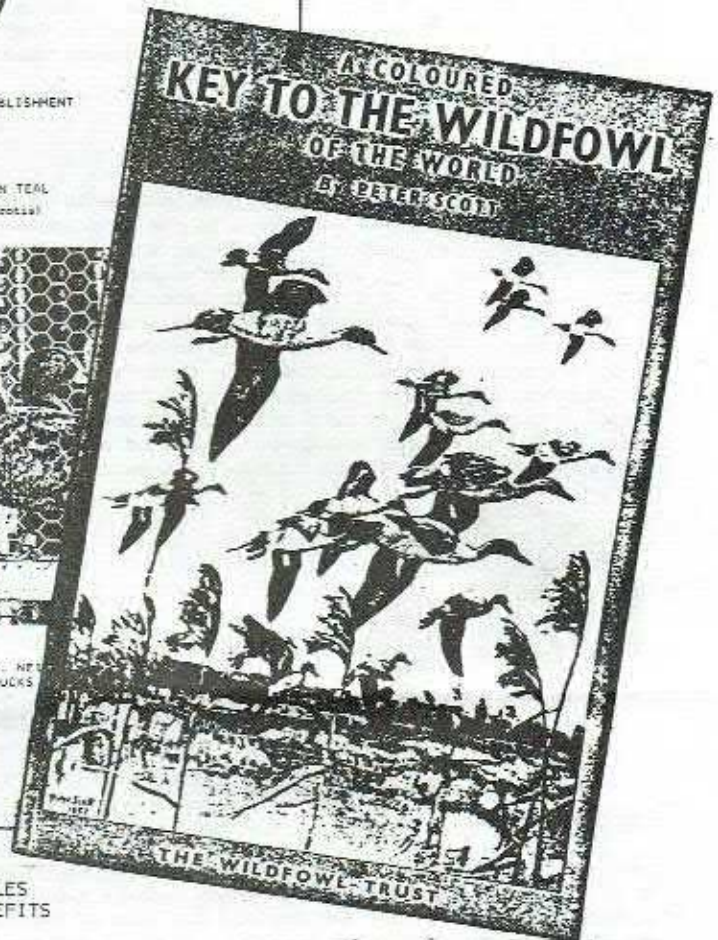
One size fits all - made in New Zealand.




THE AVICULTURE, RE-ESTABLISHMENT  
AND  
STATUS  
OF  
THE NEW ZEALAND BROWN TEAL  
(*Anas wucklandii* chlorotis)



BY P. NEAL  
DUCKS




DU MEMBERS: A PERCENTAGE OF SALES  
OF DR MURRAY WILLIAMS' BOOK BENEFITS  
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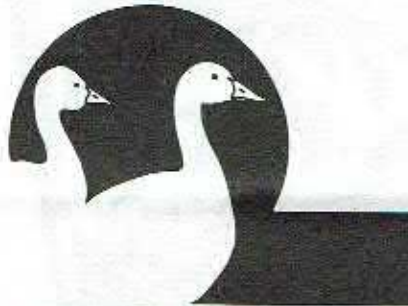
OPERATION GRETEL (REPORT ON THE GREY TEAL PROJECT)

EGG PRODUCTION IN GREY TEAL NEST BOXES

Operation Gretel is currently in its sixth season and, to date, close to 600 boxes have been erected around the country. Figures to hand indicate that, with this season's production, between 5,000 and 6,000 eggs will have hatched in Grey Teal nest boxes since the project began. With this sort of production it is not surprising that the Grey Teal population in New Zealand is showing a healthy increase!

GOOD NEWS FROM DUNEDIN

The "good news" from Mr Horry Sinclair in Dunedin is that two of his Grey Teal nest boxes have been used for the first time. This is the third season since the boxes were erected, so this is encouraging and hopefully from now on there should be a rapid increase in box usage over the next few seasons. In a very interesting and detailed report on his particular wetland paradise, Horry said that the first successful hatching occurred in the presence of Professor R.A. Ryder of Colorado State University who is here on sabbatical leave. Professor Ryder has done much work on Carolina Wood Duck nest boxes in the United States and has been having a very close look at DU projects while in New Zealand. Horry's report is punctuated with remarks such as "thousands of Grey Teal throughout the wetlands" and "it appears to have been an excellent breeding season to date". Apart from Grey Teal using the DU boxes, there are "many Grey Teal nests in the Nigger-heads, many now hatched and gone; dozens of mallard nests about, many clutches of goslings, numerous clutches of cygnets in the grass paddocks and several Black Teal about".



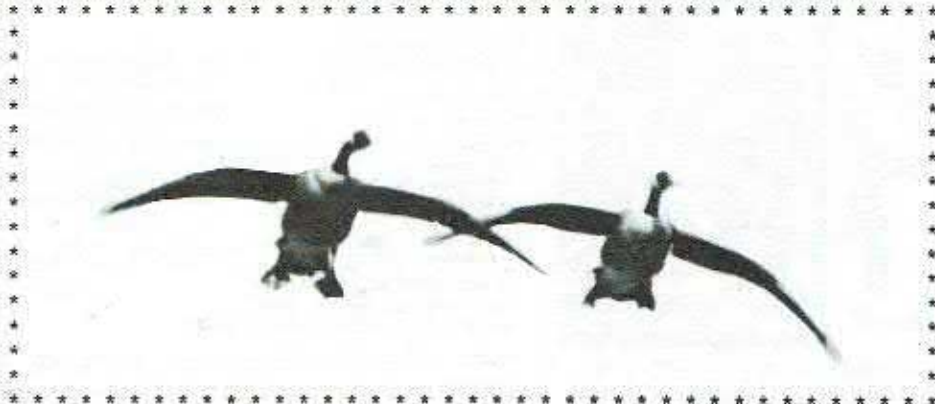
REPORT ON OPERATION BRANTA (CANADA GEESE)

BREEDING PROGRESS

The breeding season for Canada geese in the North Island appears to be progressing well. DU Director, Jim Campbell of Masterton reports ten females sitting on his property and that his neighbour and DU member, Rex Rayner, has hatched two broods successfully, this being the first possible year of production for Rex. Both Jim and Rex have large man-made lakes and the geese have established a flight path between the two properties, with groups of twenty or so being seen trading back and forth.

TRANSFER OF GEESE FROM THE SOUTH ISLAND

Ducks Unlimited expects to transfer Canada geese from the South Island to the North Island in December. Mr Peter McLeod of Christchurch will again be arranging the crating and transfer of birds which, this year, are expected to come from a major South Island breeder.



photography:  
Neil Hayes

## SPECIAL BOOK OFFER FOR DU MEMBERS

"WILD GEESE OF THE WORLD"  
BY DR MYRFYN OWEN

SPECIAL OFFER TO DU MEMBERS...  
\$ 51 POST PAID (NZ RETAIL \$ 53)

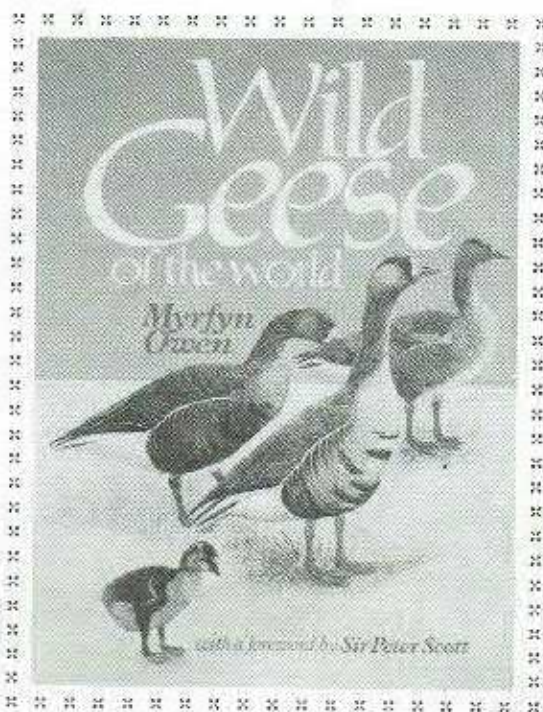
DU MEMBERS: ACQUIRE THIS VERY SPECIAL BOOK AND HELP BOOST DU FUNDS AT THE SAME TIME! AS WELL AS OFFERING A DISCOUNT TO DU MEMBERS, THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND-NEW ZEALAND HAS OFFERED TO PAY DUCKS UNLIMITED COMMISSION OF 40% OF THE NET PROFIT FROM ORDERS ATTRACTED FROM THE PROMOTION IN "FLIGHT" (THIS IS APPROXIMATELY \$ 5 PER COPY). THESE COMMISSION EARNINGS WILL BE PLACED DIRECTLY "IN THE FIELD" TO BENEFIT NEW ZEALAND WATERFOWL.

The author, Dr Myrfyn Owen, is a Conservation Research Officer for The Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire, where he has worked since 1967. Dr Owen has drawn widely on a multitude of sources including his own research to provide a comprehensive and systematic account of our present knowledge about wild geese, their life cycle and the ways which they adapt to the changing environment.

The species and their variations are fully described in the first part of the book, through summaries of the known details of, for example, summer and winter distribution, numbers, migration, breeding habits, food, plumage, identification and ageing. Many of these aspects are illustrated by the accompanying line drawings, maps and tables. The second part of the book synthesises and analyses such aspects as the social and sexual behaviour of geese, summer biology, population dynamics, conservation and exploitation. The species, and particularly the subspecies, are illustrated in the specially commissioned watercolour paintings by Joe Blossom.

Although some of the author's analyses are speculative they will stimulate interest in and work on the basic biological problems, on the understanding of which our attempts at goose conservation and management must depend. The book will be of particular interest to the keen amateur and professional ornithologist, wildfowler, wildfowl biologist and conservationist. It is an invaluable work of reference containing all the important information about geese and providing a fascinating account of the evolutionary and ecological basis for the major differences and similarities between species.

Orders may be placed with the World Wildlife Fund-New Zealand. Delivery can be expected approximately four (4) months from receipt of order - as the book is published in the United Kingdom. To other than Ducks Unlimited members, the N.Z. retail price is \$ 53 per copy. The book is available only on order through the publisher's representatives i.e. it will not be sold in retail bookshops.



ORDER FORM: "WILD GEESE OF THE WORLD"

TO: WORLD WILDLIFE FUND-NEW ZEALAND  
P.O. BOX 12-200 WELLINGTON NORTH

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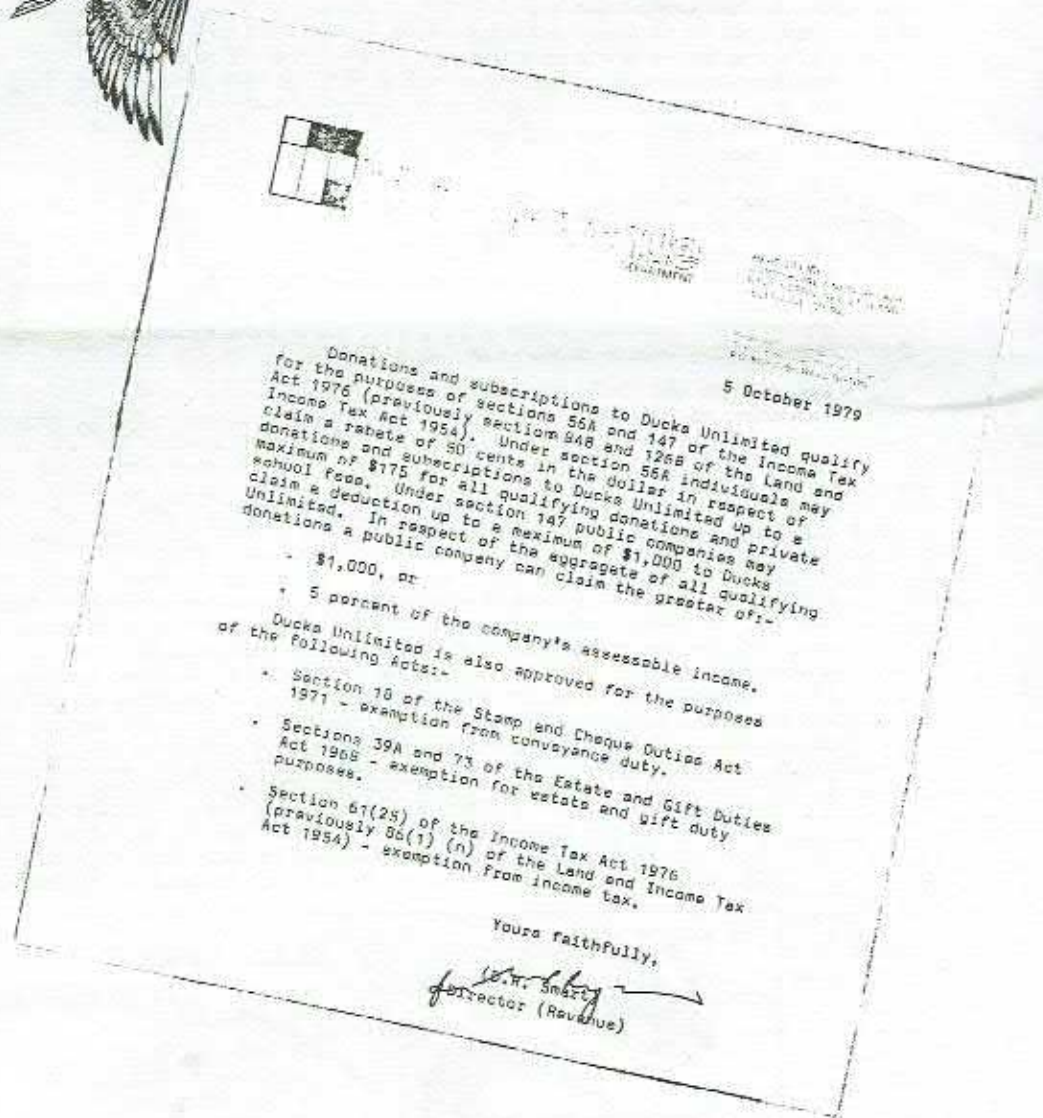
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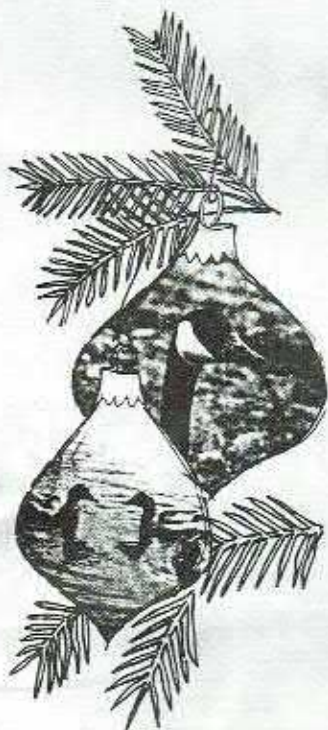


From time to time DU receives inquiries from members as to the tax concessions they receive when they make a contribution/donation to Ducks Unlimited. Below is a copy of advice from the Inland Revenue Department stating the tax deductibility rating of donations and contributions made to our organisation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



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

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NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

Type of subscription (Tick where applicable)	Life \$500	Full \$12.50	Supporter \$7.50	Junior \$3	Trade \$20
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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:

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

Type of subscription (Tick where applicable)	Life \$500	Full \$12.50	Supporter \$7.50	Junior \$3	Trade \$20
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

My payment for \$ ..... is enclosed.

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## A Gift For ALL Seasons

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My payment for \$ ..... is enclosed.

Donor's Name: .....

Address: .....

*A Gift For  
ALL Seasons*

This Season . . . give a gift membership  
to a friend or relative so that they too  
may understand the goals and aims of  
Ducks Unlimited.

