



"FLIGHT"

NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE

DUCKS UNLIMITED (N. Z.) INCORPORATED
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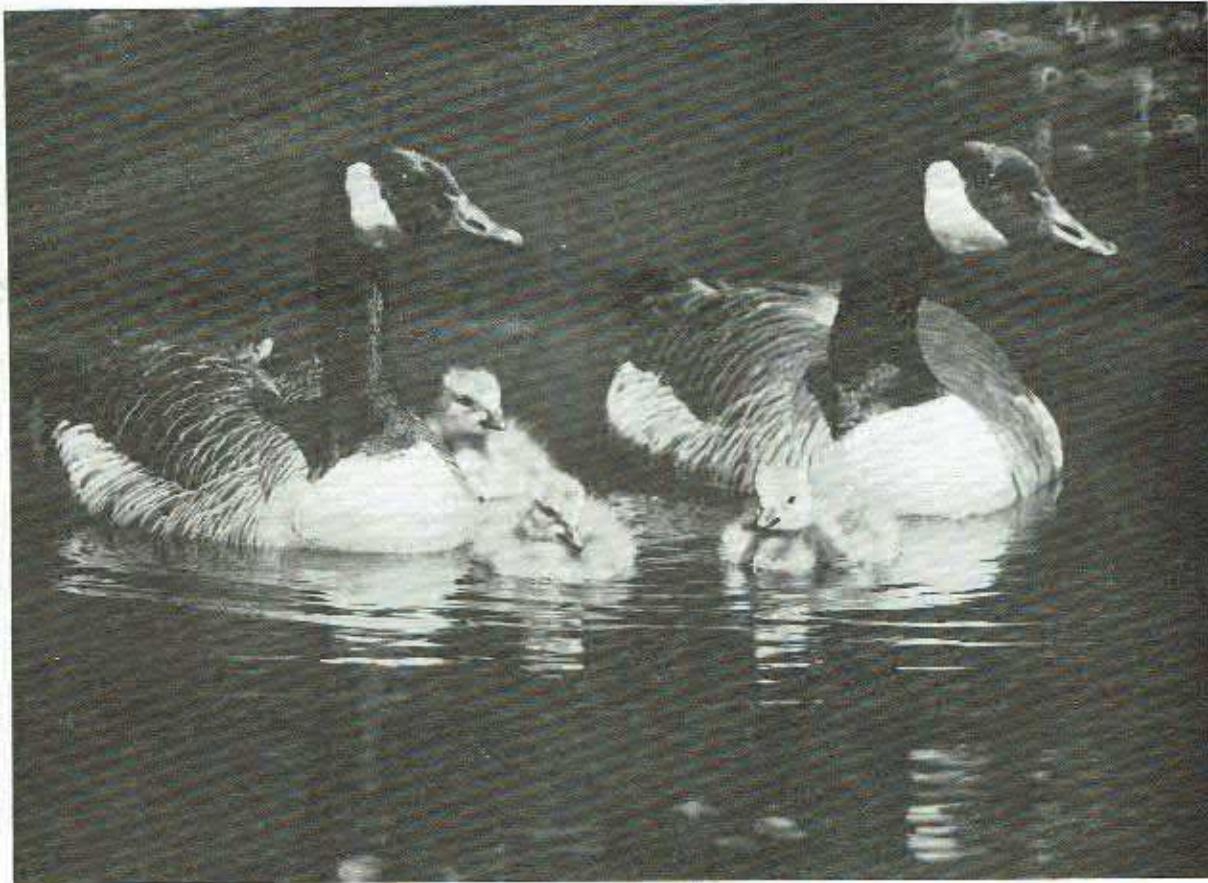
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FLIGHT 1/82 ISSUE 31 MARCH 1982

MR & MRS D.G. BELL
84 HOUCHENS ROAD
HAMILTON

Return



DU News

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Ducks Unlimited is pleased to announce that Bill Barrett of Melbourne has joined as a Life member. For many years Bill has been the "driving force" behind Australia's very successful nest box programme which is aimed at expanding the Chestnut and Grey Teal populations. It was mainly through his activities that DU New Zealand founder, Jack Worth, hit on the idea of trying nest boxes for Grey Teal here - with impressive results. In the June issue of "Flight" we hope to present an article on Bill Barrett and his activities,....in the meantime we welcome him and thank him for his most generous support.

Chestnut Teal Boxes
and young
Lake Horrie, Victoria:

(Swampy) Bill Barrett
tends young



NGA MANU TRUST OPENS ITS DOORS

On 16 December last, DU Secretary Neil Hayes represented your organisation at the official opening of Nga Manu Trust at Waikanae, north of Wellington. The Trust is a native bird sanctuary founded by Peter McKenzie and open to the public seven days a week. The grounds comprise some 10 hectares of native bush and wetlands - in the form of two large ponds. Peter McKenzie has worked hard for many years to bring the grounds to opening stage and his efforts are a fine example of what can be achieved. DU is pleased to have the Trust as Trade Members and the DU Board was pleased to assist with the establishment of a good waterfowl collection - made possible through the generous donation of waterfowl by Mr and Mrs Sig Bronger who provided a large number of Grey Teal; Neil Hayes who supplied Scoup and Paradise Shelduck, and the Wellington Zoo who offered through DU Canada geese, Black Swan and Paradise Shelduck. Many well known personalities in the conservation arena attended the opening which was performed by Dr Ian Shearer, Minister for the Environment. In his opening remarks the Minister emphasised the need to protect our few remaining wetlands and his comments were enthusiastically received by the 150 persons present.

Besides breeding rare birds, one of the main objectives of the Trust is to educate people to a greater appreciation of New Zealand's wildlife - both plants and animals - and apart from having many actual exhibits the Trust has a lecture hall, office and display area. DU wishes the Trust success. If members are visiting the Waikanae district, Peter McKenzie will be pleased to extend a welcome.

The Hayes "rebels"
being attacked at
the Nga Manu Trust



DU News

AUCKLAND ISLAND TEAL

To date very little study has been carried out on the Auckland Island Teal (*Anas aucklandica aucklandica*) - a duck closely related to the Brown Teal and found on the Auckland Islands. However this will soon change. Dr Murray Williams of the Wildlife Service is currently visiting the Auckland Islands specifically to study the teal over several weeks. He is concentrating on feeding habits, behaviour and movements. Dr Williams hopes to capture several teal and attach radio transmitters to them. Radio telemetry has been widely used in New Zealand for some years but has not been previously utilised to study the movements of waterfowl. Prior to Dr Williams' departure for the Islands, some experiments were conducted to determine the best way to attach a transmitter to a duck. Neil Hayes assisted with these experiments and transmitters were attached to two of his Grey Teal - see the photograph below. An area of the duck's back, approximately 25 mm square, was removed of feathers and transmitters glued onto this area. Latex cement was used to attach one transmitter and "super glue" was used for the other. The one attached by latex cement fell off after 10 days and the "super glue" transmitter after nearly 3 weeks (perhaps the manufacturer of "super glue" could use a duck in their advertising!) Dr Williams was pleased with these experiments as they also showed that the birds did not appear to be affected or troubled by the transmitters. Hopefully Dr Williams will address members at the annual conference on the outcome of his experiences with Auckland Island Teal.

Grey Teal, with transmitter glued in place (P.N. Hayes)



OPERATION 'WHIO'

Progress with Operation "Whio" has been very slow and the expected good breeding season among Blue Ducks held in captivity by DU members did not eventuate - in fact, no blue ducks were reared. The flockmating (natural pairing) of Blue Ducks has also been unsuccessful to date and the young birds reared, plus those caught by the Wildlife Service, have so far shown no sign of pairing. This seems to indicate that the species do not come into breeding condition until they are two years old. Obviously there is still much to learn about their captive management - experiences in 1982 with Blue Duck should prove interesting.

NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED DU RECENTLY ARE:

Baigent, Kent	F	Dillon, John T.	F	McLachlan, Dr C.M.S.	F
Barrett, Bill	L	Druitt, Peter	J	McLeod, Graeme	F
Bidlake, C.D.	F	Ell, Gordon	F	Neill, M.T.	S
Blanchard, B.R.	F	Garrick D.	F	Nichols, G.	F
Brown, Derek	F	Harper, Stuart	J	Randle, Gordon	S
Campbell, Kevin	F	Harvey, G.R.	J	Smith, Reg	S
Chitty, Pauline	F	Hilton, A.L.	F	Smith, Wayne	S
Chudleigh B.	S	Hodgson, Roy	S	Stevenson, Mrs T.	F
Cinlow, Peter	S	Huscroft, Andrew	J	Strachan, Douglas	S
Cooper, Joshua Matthew	J	Huscroft, Roy	S	The Isaac Wildlife Trust	T
Cronin, Roy	S	Lee, David	F	Walsh, Alan	S
Cunningham, L.T.	S	Lockley, Ronald	F	Wilson D.R.	S
Drexel S.A.	F	Lye, R.W.	S	Yeates, R.W.A.	F
		Merrilees N.W.	S		

(note: L = Life T = Trade F = Full S = Supporter J = Junior)

REMINDER - MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INCORPORATED ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JULY 1982 - TOKAANU

DATE: SATURDAY 10 JULY 1982
VENUE: T.H.C. TOKAANU MOTOR INN,
TOKAANU

The Eighth Annual Conference of Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Incorporated will take place in Tokaanu (one of New Zealand's popular tourist stops) on Saturday, 10 July 1982 - this is a reminder to keep the date FREE!

The formal Annual Conference will begin in the afternoon. Refreshments will be available during the meeting and at its conclusion. Guest speakers will address members - reports will be presented by DU project supervisors, visual displays, exhibits and slide presentations will be made - the Brown Teal Breeder of the Year Award will be made. Dinner will follow the afternoon's activities and the fundraising auction will commence at 7.30 pm.

A warm welcome is extended to all DU members and friends. This could be your opportunity to introduce your friends/family to Ducks Unlimited! There will also be opportunities to enrol new members, renew your own membership subscription, purchase items from the DU 'sale table' including T-shirts, lapel badges, waterfowl publications etc.

The auction promises to be the highlight of an interesting day - many valuable, exciting items have been committed for this event - outdoor equipment, waterfowl, ammunition, camouflage clothing, waterfowl art etc - this is Ducks Unlimited's major fundraising effort annually - YOU CAN MAKE IT AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS!

Formal notice of the meeting and details of conference will appear in the June FLIGHT, due for issue early June 1982. Watch for this issue!

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE INDICATOR	I/WE PLAN TO ATTEND THE 1982 CONFERENCE

	<u>NAME</u>
(To assist DU finalise catering with Tokaanu Motor Inn, please complete and return to DU Headquarters, P.O. Box 74 Hamilton)	<u>ADDRESS</u>

	<u>NO. ATTENDING</u>



OPERATION PATEKE - 1981/82 BREEDING SEASON PROGRESS

Up to the end of January 1982, Operation Pateke members had reared just over 60 Brown Teal for the season. Several clutches are still being incubated and hopes are high that we will brood over 80 birds by the time the season officially ends on 30 April. While this season has not gone as well as the previous one (when 101 birds were reared) we have several new Pateke participants who have reared Brown Teal for the first time and they look well set to rear good numbers in future. And, by next season DU hopes to have a few more new members participating - interest is currently very high. The Mt Bruce Native Bird Reserve has had a good season with Brown Teal, so far rearing over 50 birds.

RELEASE OF BROWN TEAL

DU's plans to use Matakana Island as the main release site for DU Brown Teal changed following Wildlife Service technician Andy Garrick's study of the island's wetlands in December - he reported that the food supply, in his opinion, was insufficient for dabbling ducks (his report can be found elsewhere in this issue). The DU Board has accepted Mr Garrick's opinion submitted at the completion of his investigation. DU thanks also Miss J. Gill who assisted with the study (Joanne is the daughter of "Pateke" supervisor, John Gill) and Mr and Mrs S. Bronger for hospitality extended to the team during their investigation.

Although DU's conditions governing the release of Brown Teal are fairly extensive, the opinion of Mr Garrick has highlighted the need to take special care when selecting suitable areas for the release of Brown Teal. The Board has decided that proposals to release Brown Teal at Waihola/Waipori will not proceed meantime, at least until more careful research has been completed to determine definite suitability for the species. In the meantime, all Brown Teal available will be placed at Puke Puke Lagoon, Foxton where the birds have already shown they can survive and breed - and over recent months two major liberations have taken place there. On 23 December 1981 the largest single release of Brown Teal occurred at Puke Puke - 25 birds were liberated. This was followed by a further recordbreaking release when 30 were given their freedom on 14 February 1982. The February release will probably be the last for the season and has brought the total of birds released this time to 72 - 67 at Puke Puke and 5 at Matakana Island. It is interesting to note that of these latter 5 birds released on 20 December 1982, one was found dead on the mainland opposite the island on 26 December.

In addition to DU liberations, the Wildlife Service released 21 Brown Teal at Lake Koputara which is just south of Puke Puke Lagoon in January 1982. One of these birds, with green plastic leg band, turned up at Puke Puke in early February - a further indication that captive reared Brown Teal can survive in the wild.

FUTURE LIBERATIONS OF BROWN TEAL

At this stage the majority of opinion opts for release in future in the Manawatu - plans are in hand to erect a pre-release pen on the edge of Puke Puke Lagoon. For some time thinking has been developing that rather than release captive reared Brown Teal straight from the box, this should be done in a much more "gentle" fashion, by holding the birds in an aviary adjacent to the water onto which they are to be liberated. The ideal aviary should be one that allows the birds a good view over the lake, has an abundance of cover and also has a grassy area within it. There are two or three areas at Puke Puke Lagoon which cover these points quite well and hopes are high that an aviary can be erected before next season's liberations. A pre-release aviary may have a desirable, settling down effect on the birds and hopefully will tend to encourage them to remain in the area. It is proposed to feed the Brown Teal for the first week or so and the birds will then be gradually weaned off the artificial food a week before liberation.

Julian Hayes showing his Brown Teal release technique at Puke Puke



INSPECTION OF BROWN TEAL RELEASE SITES - MATAKANA ISLAND : REPORT BY A. GARRICK/J. GILL

INTRODUCTION

Since December 1980, 69 captive reared brown teal have been released (see Appendix 1) on one or other of the two main waterbodies (see Fig 1) at the northern end of Matakana Island in the Tauranga Harbour, by Ducks Unlimited, in accordance with the objectives of Operation Pataka. Following the liberations, Ducks Unlimited director, S. Bronger, visited the release sites but observed progressively fewer brown teal on each occasion (S. Bronger, pers comm). While not an encouraging sign it was considered that the birds were probably in cover as brown teal tend to be inconspicuous by nature. However, it was decided that a more intensive investigation should be made of the area to determine just how many teal were present, and the suitability of the habitat, and thus provide a basis from which future policy could be made regarding the island as an outlet for captive reared birds. As a result we spent three days on Matakana Island from 20-23 December 1981.

Our methods and findings were as below:

METHODS

- (i) All "wet" areas of possible value to waterfowl in the vicinity of the release sites were visited, with particular reference being given to any area that might be attractive to brown teal.
- (ii) Observations/counts were made at each area deemed as potential waterfowl habitat. Absolute counts were not attempted as the primary objective was to look and listen for brown teal.
- (iii) A qualitative assessment was made of each area taking into account the extent of open water, water depth, vegetation, extent of cover, food available, roost and nest site potential, and predators present.

RESULTS

Having inspected all "wet" areas (located from aerial photograph) it was decided to concentrate our efforts on the two main waterbodies, hereafter designated Ponds 1 and 2, as the only likely areas to support brown teal. Pond 3 (see Fig 1), while appearing as possible habitat on our photograph, when located was found to have been drained with no open water area remaining due to raupo encroachment.

(i) POND 1

Description: Northernmost waterbody consisting of about two hectares and surrounded by sparse pine forest. Predominantly deep with a relatively shallow (approx 30 cm) shelf along northern margin. Water clear to >50 cm with only very limited and scattered algal growth (indicators of level of enrichment). Sandy/silty base and surrounds with no inlets, outlets, pasture or soaks of any significance associated with impoundment.

At western end, vegetation comprised mainly of sedges and rushes - *Carex secta* (niggerhead), *C. maurica*, *Cyperus ustulatus*, *Juncus articulatus*, occasional *Muehlenbeckia complexa*, and in the water, *Typha orientalis* (raupo), the latter of which also extends along the southern margin of the pond. Along the northern margin, scattered sedges and rushes as already listed, plus *Baumea juncea*, occasional *Christella dentata* (fern) and *Polygonum hydrogiper*, and further out in the water, a 2-3 m wide belt of *Scirpus lacustris*. Only submerged aquatic vegetation consisted of very occasional *Potamogeton cheesemanii*. Grey willow (*Salix strosinera*), scattered flax (*Phormium tenax*), *Baumea juncea* and *Scirpus nodosus* at eastern end. Numerous tadpoles but diversity and abundance of invertebrates relatively low - some snails (*Limnaea* sp), waterboatman, water skaters, and damselflies/dragonflies. Considerable pig rooting and sign at north and eastern ends.

Waterfowl observations:

20/12	1430 hrs	- a few mallards, 1 shoveler, 2 scaup
21/12	0930 hrs	- 15 total mallards, scaup, grey ducks
	1800 hrs	- approx 10 mallards, 1 scaup, 1 pukeko, 1 shag
22/12	1500 hrs	- 1 scaup

(ii) POND 2

Description: Situated about 400 m to the south of Pond 1, Pond 2, surrounded by pine forest, comprises about six hectares of open water, the water being pocketed as a series of 'islands' within emergent vegetation consisting largely of raupo, *Scirpus lacustris* and niggerheads in the drier parts. Predominantly shallow, water clear as in Pond 1 and similarly, no water flow.

At the eastern end, narrow soaks (<25 cm deep) lead into the pond proper, the vegetation recorded here being *Potamogeton cheesemanii* (abundant), *P. crispus*, *Myriophyllum* sp and a little algae, and bordering these soaks niggerheads, occasional *Polygonum hydrogiper*, *Glyceria maxima*, *Agrostis stolonifera* and *Triglochin striatum*. While an attractive area there was no evidence to suggest even moderate use by waterfowl. Grey willows, cabbage trees (*Cordyline australis*), *Carex secta*, *C. maurica*, *Cyperus ustulatus* and *Baumea juncea* also recorded. At the western end of the pond, raupo *Scirpus lacustris*, niggerheads, and *Christella dentata*, and along the sides, flax. Noted in the main waterbody, occasional *Potamogeton cheesemanii* and in very small quantity, duckweed (*Lemna minor*).

continued - over

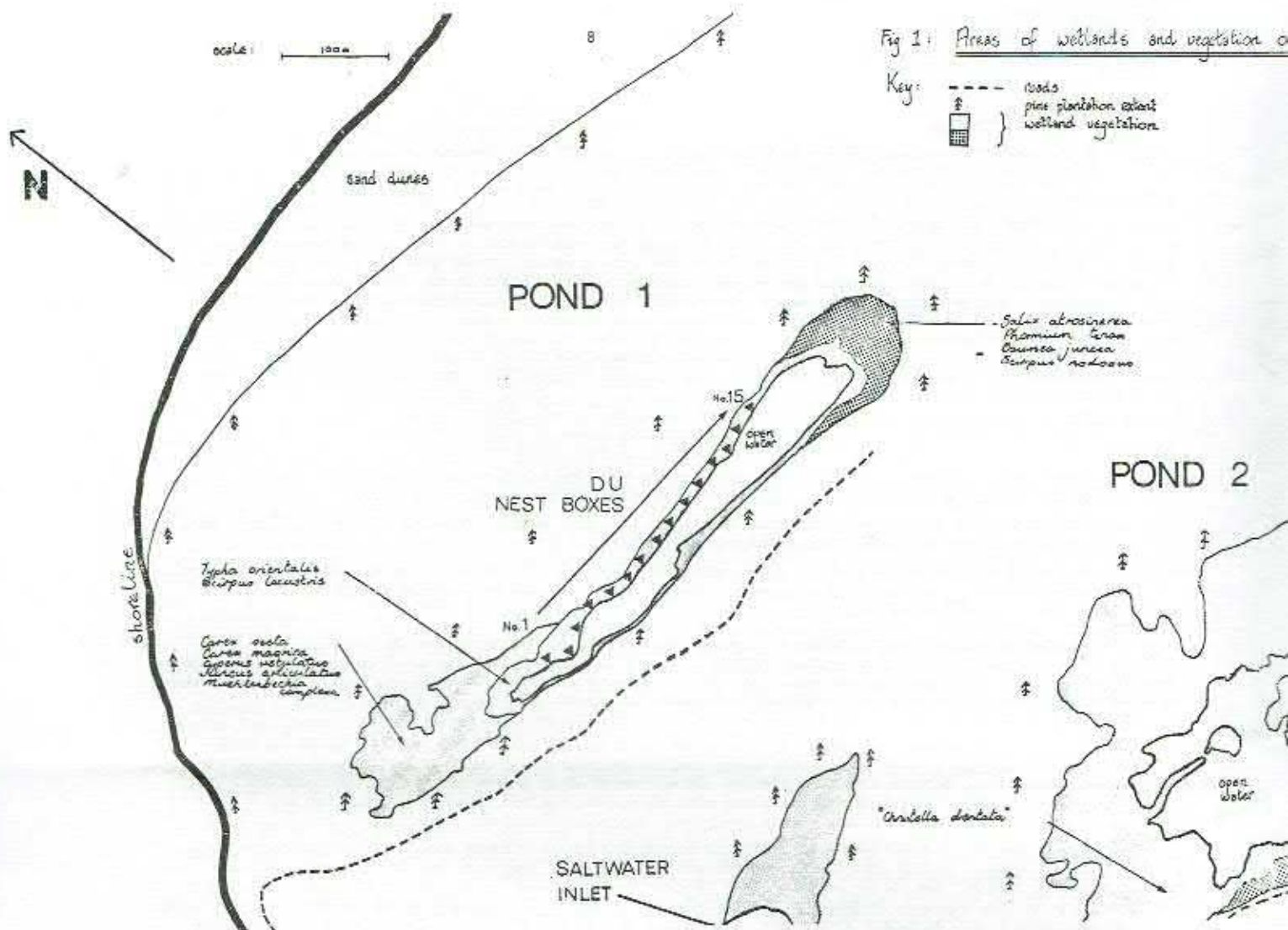


Fig 1: Areas of wetlands and vegetation on Matakana Island

Key:
 - - - - - roads
 [hatched box] pine plantation extent
 [symbol] wetland vegetation

(ii) POND 2 - contd

Tadpoles were numerous, conspicuous invertebrates included waterboatmen (which were abundant in the 'soaks'), water skaters and damselfly/dragonflies, and a few snails (*Limnaea* sp and *Gyraulus corinna*). Pig sign present and a possible cat scat.

Waterfowl observations:

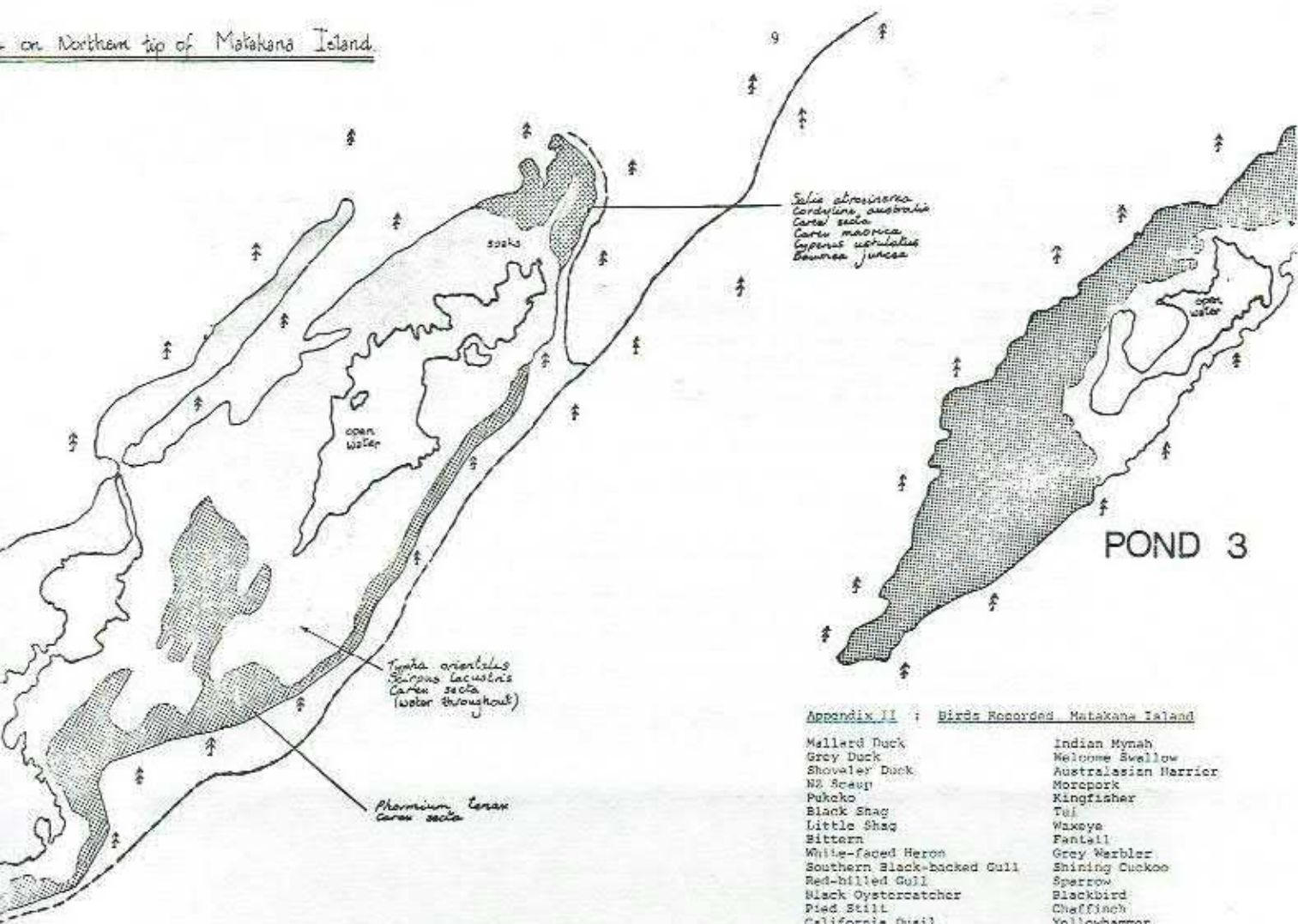
- 20/12 1400 hrs - several mallards including a brood of 6 Class V ducklings, 1 shoveler, 1 pukeko
- 2040 hrs (dark) - about 15 mallards, 2 brown teal, bittern booming
- 21/12 0645-0800 hrs - 20/30 mallards, 6V mallards, 3 grey ducks, 6 shoveler, 2 scaup, 2 pukekos, 2 bitterns, 2 black shags, 1 little shag
- 2000 hrs (dark) - no brown teal

CONCLUSIONS

Although our visit was of comparatively short duration we believe it was sufficient to determine that few, if any brown teal presently inhabit Matakana Island, assuming that the release sites and surrounding areas represent the only part of the island likely to support these birds. We base our conclusions not only on not finding any sign of the liberated birds (excluding the two teal sighted on Pond 2 which we consider were from the liberation some hours prior to the observation) but on the nature of the habitat. While it is not known precisely what habitat and conditions brown teal require in the wild, it would appear that substantial cover, sizeable roosts for social interaction and access to pasture/soaks for grazing/dabbling may be important elements.

Pond 1 appeared to be limited in all these respects. Pond 2, however, had plenty of cover and considerable 'edge' (vegetation/water interface - particularly advantageous to territorial birds) and roost site potential, but was again lacking in the food available.

on Northern tip of Matakana Island.



Appendix II : Birds Recorded Matakana Island

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Mallard Duck | Indian Mynah |
| Grey Duck | Welcome Swallow |
| Shoveler Duck | Australasian Harrier |
| Ng Scaup | Moropork |
| Pukako | Kingfisher |
| Black Snag | Tui |
| Little Snag | Waxeye |
| Bittern | Fantail |
| White-faced Heron | Grey Warbler |
| Southern Black-backed Gull | Shining Cuckoo |
| Red-billed Gull | Sparrow |
| Black Oystercatcher | Blackbird |
| Pied Still | Chaffinch |
| California Ouzil | Yellowhammer |
| Pheasant | |

Both release sites could be described as being oligotrophic and not highly productive, submerged and floating aquatic vegetation being very limited and as a result, the invertebrate fauna likewise. Furthermore, pasture is lacking and limited 'soaks' are available. In their favour, the release sites have limited human disturbance, no shooting, and a man on the spot. However, taking into account our findings as above, and in addition the fact that cats, stoats and certainly pigs may be present, we can only conclude that Matakana Island is not a suitable liberation site for brown teal. This is perhaps further evidenced by the recovery of a bird on 26 December 1981 on the road between Waihi and Pio beaches only 6 days after its release on Pond 2. We would recommend therefore that no further liberations be made on Matakana Island.

FURTHER COMMENTS

The nest boxes in Pond 1 were inspected on 21/12. Most were untouched except for 7, 8 and 11-14 which contained a mallard feather or feathers (NB holes large enough to accept mallards), and No 10 which contained a brood of three nearly fledged mynah chicks.

While the ponds may not be suitable for brown teal they appear to offer other values - a brood of scaup was seen on Pond 2, and a fern, tentatively identified as *Christella dentata* which is classified as rare, was found associated with both sites.

For interest we include also a list of all bird species noted during our study (Appendix I).

Appendix I : Brown Teal Liberations.

Date	No. of Birds	Site of Release
6/12/80	32	Pond 1
20/ 1/81	5	" "
16/ 2/81	8	" "
7/ 3/81	19	Pond 2
25/12/81	5	" "
Total : 69		

WILDLIFE RESEARCH LIAISON GROUP

One of the most important offshoots of the many inquiries into wildlife management in New Zealand has been the formation of the Wildlife Research Liaison Group. Ducks Unlimited has been invited to submit its thoughts on waterfowl research to this new group and it is expected these will revolve mainly around the need for research on Brown Teal.

The terms of reference of the Wildlife Research Liaison Group are:

OBJECTIVE To promote wildlife research in New Zealand

- A by facilitating and encouraging communication
- 1 amongst wildlife research agencies;
 - 2 amongst all scientists involved in wildlife research
 - 3 amongst such scientists and those responsible for wildlife management; and
 - 4 between such scientists and groups interested in any aspects of wildlife biology; and
- B by regularly reviewing current wildlife research programmes.

Wildlife research is defined as research carried out on any aspects of the biology of all animals which live in a wild state in New Zealand, including marine mammals but excluding fish.

FUNCTIONS OF RESEARCH LIAISON GROUP

- to exchange information on and review wildlife research programmes
- to encourage research on wildlife
- to identify the research aspects of problems facing wildlife
- to advise wildlife research agencies on the co-ordination of research programmes
- to encourage liaison between wildlife researchers and organisations responsible for wildlife management
- to encourage dissemination of information on wildlife research at a technical and non-technical level
- to report on wildlife research programmes to the Permanent Heads of relevant Government Research Agencies
- to identify any deficiencies in existing wildlife research and make appropriate recommendations to Permanent Heads of relevant Government Research Agencies

COMPOSITION OF GROUP

Director, Ecology Division, DSIR (Dr R. Sadleir)
 Director, Protection Forestry Division, PFI, NZPS (Mr J.V. Morris)
 Assistant Director Research, Wildlife Service, Internal Affairs (Dr M. Crawley)
 Senior Scientific Officer of Department of Lands & Survey (Mr P. Dingwall)
 Non-Government nominated representative of Royal Society¹
 Invited member from private sector (National Executive, Acclimatisation Societies)¹
 (note: 1 = 3 year term)

PROCEDURES

The Chairmanship shall rotate two yearly.

Servicing of the Group shall rotate with the Chair.

Servicing for the Royal Society representative shall be carried out by DSIR and that for the private sector by Wildlife Service.

Each nominee shall appoint one alternate for occasions when attendance is impossible. The group shall have power to co-opt additional members when it is deemed desirable. In its role as a review agency, the Wildlife Research Liaison Group shall establish ad hoc expert committees whose members are to be appointed because of their specific expertise in the area to be reviewed. Such persons may consist of members of the Wildlife Research Liaison Group and co-opted additional members.

The group shall meet no less than twice a year and will meet more often when required.

Full records of each meeting shall be forwarded to the Permanent Heads of each wildlife research agency.

* * * * *

REPORT ON OPERATION GRETEL (GREY TEAL)

One report only this issue - from the Waikato site (Mountley).
Inspection conducted by Mr and Mrs Lou Bell.

Inspection 22 November 1981

Number of eggs laid at this time, is 124. with 99 from previous inspections hatched. There were a number of late abandoned nests with only 9 nests with an average of 11 eggs each being incubated at the time.

From inspections on 1/8/81 and 6/9/81 and this last one, on 22/11/81, there has been established a 68% hatch success for the 1981 breeding season at Mountley. This compares favourably with previous years - where 1979 was 51% and 1980 50%. The success appears to have been brought about by raising most of the boxes above flood height. L.D.

REPORT ON OPERATION BRANTA (CANADA GEESE)

Operation Branta has made further excellent progress with the largest-ever transfer of geese by Ducks Unlimited from the South Island taking place during December 1981 and January 1982 (two shipments totalling 50 birds). The majority of these birds came from Peacock Springs Wildlife Park in Christchurch. Neil Isaac, Managing Director of Isaac Construction Company Limited founded Peacock Springs some 16 years ago and the quarries left after shingle extraction on his property were used to develop a system of lagoons. Peacock Springs recently joined DU as Trade members. Special thanks to Mr Isaac and his Wildlife Park Director, Sharon Walker, for their significant contribution to Operation Branta.

DU also thanks Peter McLeod of Christchurch for his fine work in crating and freighting the birds, and Ian Buchanan, Senior Field Officer with the Wellington Acclimatisation Society for his continuing efforts with the distribution of geese in the Waikaranga. Also special thanks to Wellington Acclimatisation Society for a very generous financial contribution towards "Branta" costs.

Garry Girvan, who "captured" the cover photograph, is also responsible for the one below:



12
IS YOUR CALL
ALL IT'S
QUACKED
UP TO BE?



IF IT IS, DON'T MISS HOOT-N-ANNY 82 AND THE DUCK-CALLING CONTEST!

THE WAIKATO FUNDRAISING CHAPTER'S 2ND HOOT-N-ANNY FEATURES:

DUCK PLUCKING CONTEST	CONTINUOUS BUFFET SUPPER (10PM-MIDNIGHT)
DUCK CALLING CONTEST (SOLO & GROUPS)	BAVARIAN BAND
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BEST DRESSED DUCKSHOOTER PRESENT	MONSTER UNRESERVED AUCTION
OLDEST DUCKHUNTER PRESENT	ENTRY FEE OF \$ 15 INCLUDES WINE/BEER

WHERE: TE RAPA RACECOURSE WHEN: SATURDAY 17 APRIL 1982


HOSTS: WAIKATO CHAPTER OF DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INCORPORATED

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TELEPHONE: 54 991

MURRAY CHRISTOFFERSEN 71 AURORA TERRACE, HAMILTON
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CONTEST ORGANISER: MURRAY DENCH 21 CLEMATIS STREET, HAMILTON
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ALL WELCOME.....MAKE UP YOUR PARTY.....SECURE YOUR TICKETS IMMEDIATELY! REMEMBER -
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duckshooter's
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PLEASE SEND ME.....COPIES OF
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FISH AND FOWL SERIES No. 1

BOOK REVIEW - "THE DUCKSHOOTER'S BAG" BY MURRAY WILLIAMS (AVAILABLE FROM DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC: \$7 COPY)

reviewed by P. Neil Hayes. 123 pages, 62 illustrations

The education of waterfowl hunters is an important part of wildlife management, and this new book by DU's good friend, Dr Murray Williams of the Wildlife Service, should go some way towards educating New Zealand duckshooting readers in many aspects of waterfowl management. While the book really deals only with waterfowl that may be shot during the New Zealand shooting season, it will also provide good reading for all DU members. Each of the first seven chapters discuss specific waterfowl species - Black Swan, Canada Goose, Paradise Shelduck, Grey Duck, Mallard, Shoveler and Pukeko - and considerable information is given on such topics as population sizes, breeding behaviour, nesting habits, food and habitat requirements, and the position in respect of hunting. The remaining chapters discuss waterfowl management, game season regulations and the importance of wetlands. Dr Williams' scientific writings have always been in an "easy to read" informative style and this book, his first, is no exception.

DU readers will be a little disappointed that the organisation is not mentioned in the book, but this may be because DU is primarily concerned with rare species. However, because DU financed and organised the transfer of over 200 Canada Geese from the South Island to the North since 1977, one would have thought that, to be specific when discussing the species in New Zealand, this fact should have warranted mention. And, in a brief paragraph on Grey Teal in New Zealand, DU is not mentioned - which is most surprising when the organisation has, to date, erected over 600 Grey Teal nest boxes which have so far produced around 6,000 hatched eggs. However, these omissions - while disappointing - do not detract from the excellent reading in "The Duckshooter's Bag" and the book is highly recommended. Available at only \$ 7 per copy, including postage, from DU headquarters, this publication is excellent value.

How is it possible
for ducks
to be fooled
by the
crude imitations
used by hunters?

contributed by member Shirley Goodwin

History was made on Stewart Island last March



The first Kakapo chick seen this century. Kakapo 'Nora' feeding her chick 'Snark'.

For the first time in living memory, men watched while the Kakapo population increased by three.

The wildlife team on the island described the find as "mind boggling".

The N.Z. Wildlife Service team have good reason to pat themselves on the back. Since 1977, when they discovered a community of fifty of the rare birds on Stewart Island, they've been working hard to preserve the species.

The discovery of the three chicks was an indication of how important the team's work in eradicating pests, tagging and studying the birds has been.

The Kakapo needs your help too

The wildlife team, whose good work became so evident recently, need somewhere to live while they study and protect the Kakapo. The World Wildlife Fund has set the Project Kakapo target at \$25,000 to build and equip a hut with basic living and research facilities.

Because all materials must be flown into the remote and rugged regions of Stewart Island by helicopter, the cost of construction will be high. But it's the first step on the road to survival for this unique and delightful New Zealand bird.

Build the hut or see the Kakapo fade into myth — the choice is yours.

Support Project Kakapo

Less than a hundred Kakapo remain — a bare few in Fiordland, and the small colony in an almost inaccessible part of Stewart Island.

The Kakapo's survival is dependent on your support.

The World Wildlife Fund has committed \$25,000 to supporting the Kakapo. It needs your help to raise the money. *Without your help the Kakapo will die.*

How much do you know about the Kakapo?

Probably next to nothing, because little is known, even by trained naturalists and researchers, about its life cycle, its habits, its rituals, its young — even its life span.

The Kakapo is as big as a goose, booms like a bittern, climbs trees, digs holes and looks very like an owl. The bird remains one of nature's riddles. Flightless, nocturnal, the Kakapo is the world's biggest and strangest parrot. It has a separate sub-species classification all of its own.

With moss green body feathers and bronze wings, the Kakapo waddles as it walks. It looks for all the world like a plump and stumpy Charlie Chaplin as it beats feeding tracks across dense scrubland in southern Stewart Island.

Tearing moss and grass roots from the boggy, peaty ground, its food is held in long claws and nibbled with a powerfully hooked beak.

But for all its apparent armament, the Kakapo is a placid, docile creature, certainly no match for the killers of the bush.

Wild cats and dogs maintain a reign of terror

Mauled skeletons of members of Stewart Island's Kakapo community are sad relics of the havoc caused by predators imported by the early Pakeha settlers. The biggest threat comes from the wild cats, whose agile speed makes the slow-moving Kakapo easy prey.

The New Zealand Wildlife Service team will send their specialist in wild cat eradication, to Stewart Island — but like other members of the team, he needs shelter. The donation you make will house this man and others like him, who may need to spend up to ten years studying, learning and keeping the last Kakapo colony in New Zealand alive. The current research team is living under canvas in conditions of extreme hardship in the same remote corner of the island where the Kakapo's have retreated.

To keep the research team, the Project Kakapo hut must be built. Otherwise the Kakapo cannot be protected.

Where do I send my donation?

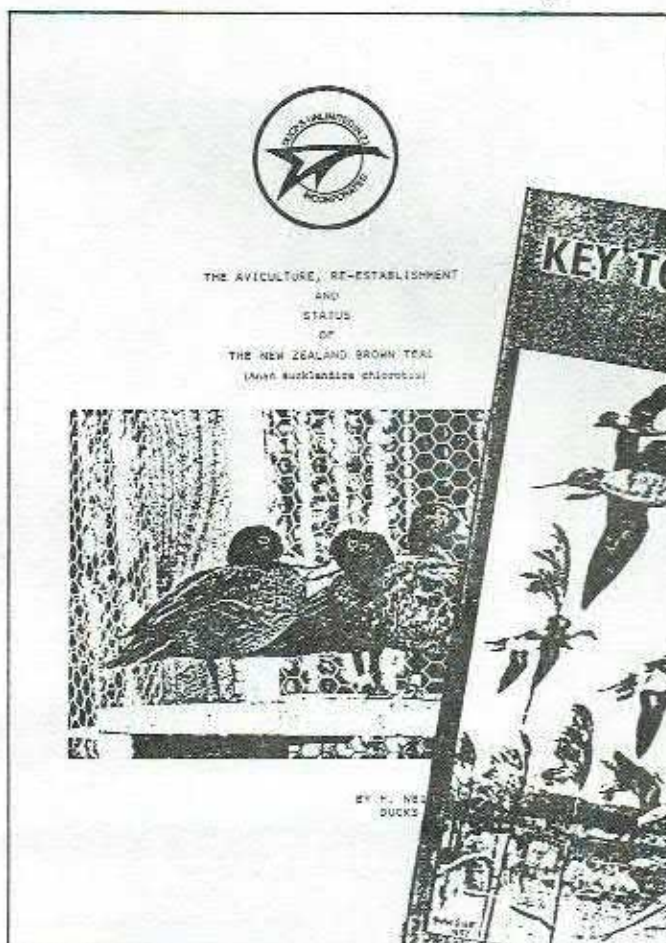
Please help save the Kakapo by sending a cheque, postal note or money order to:

**Project Kakapo, World Wildlife Fund
P.O. Box 12-200
WELLINGTON NORTH**



A receipt will be posted to you — and all donations are *tax deductible* within the prescribed limits. The money you give to Project Kakapo will be used *only* for Project Kakapo.

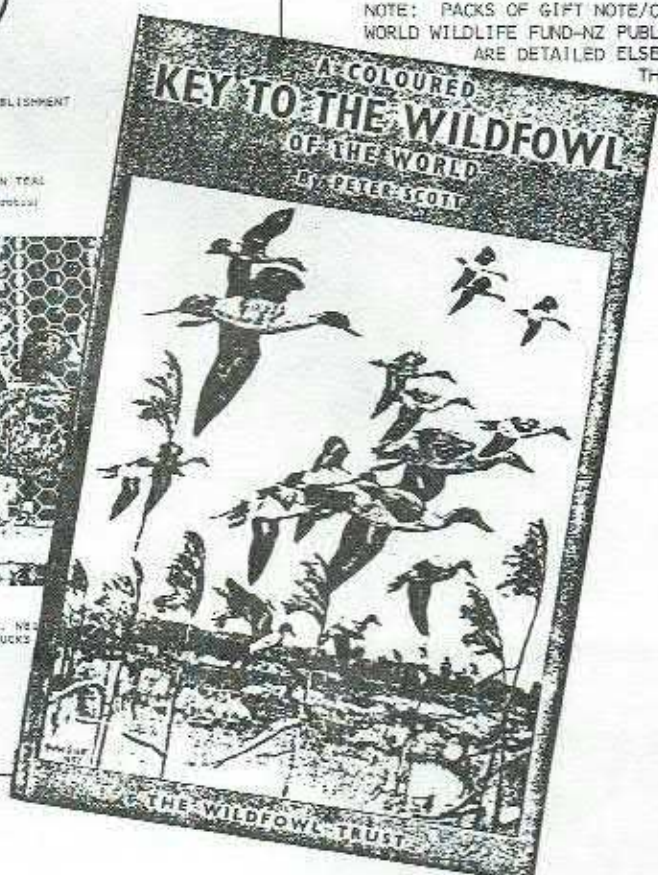
The Kakapo will live - with your help - if given now.



DUCKS UNLIMITED SALES OFFERS

DETAILED BELOW ARE PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE FROM DUCKS UNLIMITED HEADQUARTERS.

NOTE: PACKS OF GIFT NOTE/CARDS AND WORLD WILDLIFE FUND-NZ PUBLICATIONS ARE DETAILED ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE



DU SALES OFFERS

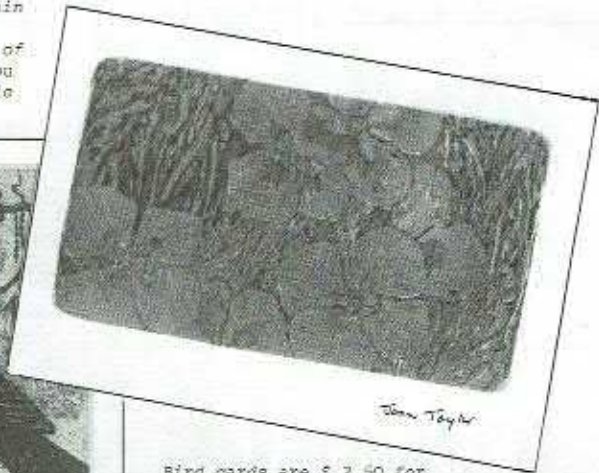
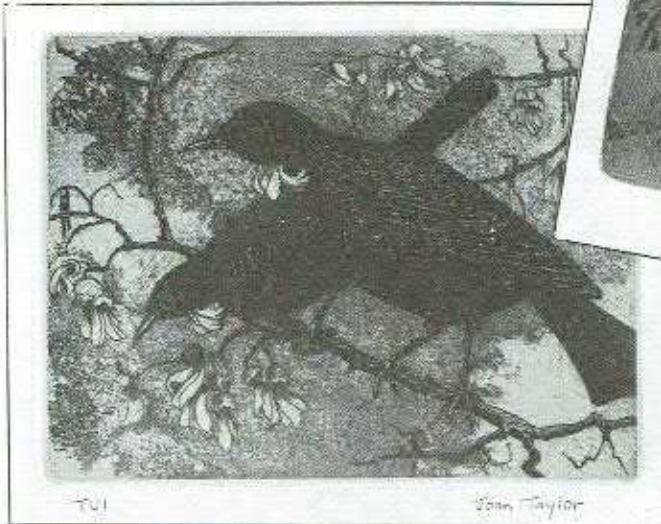
- THE INCUBATION BOOK BY DR A.F. ANDERSON BROWN \$ 32
- A COLOURED KEY TO THE WATERFOWL OF THE WORLD BY SIR PETER SCOTT \$ 10
- THE AVICULTURE, RE-ESTABLISHMENT AND STATUS OF THE NZ BROWN TEAL BY F.N. HAYES \$ 6
- THE DUCKSHOOTER'S BAG BY DR MURRAY WILLIAMS \$ 7
- DUCKS, PONDS AND PEOPLE BY JOHN SWIFT (NOW BACK IN STOCK!) \$ 7.50
- DUCKS UNLIMITED LAPEL BADGES \$ 5
- GREY TEAL NEST BOX (KITSET) EASY TO ASSEMBLE \$ 10

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** THE DUCKSHOOTER'S BAG . . . . . $ 7 ** **
** DUCKS, PONDS AND PEOPLE . . . . . $ 7.50 ** **
** DUCKS UNLIMITED LAPEL BADGE(S) . . . . . $ 5 ** **
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** ADDRESS . . . . . ** **
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Bird cards are \$ 2.50 for pack of 6. Floral studies are \$ 2.00 for pack of 6. Orders can be placed direct with

Joan Taylor
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(a percentage of Joan Taylor's earnings from the sale of these delightful cards to DU members will be donated to Ducks Unlimited.)

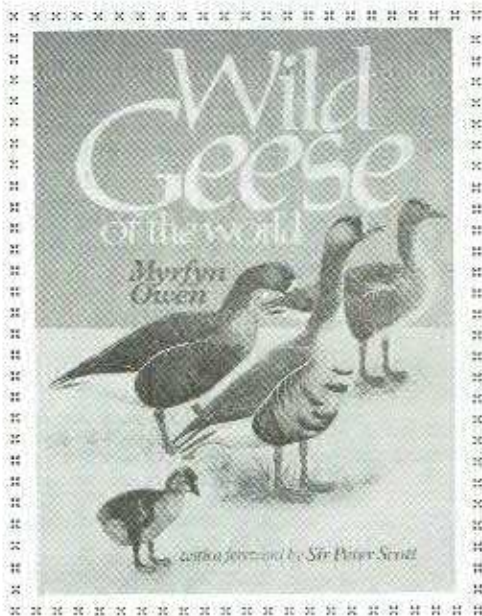
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