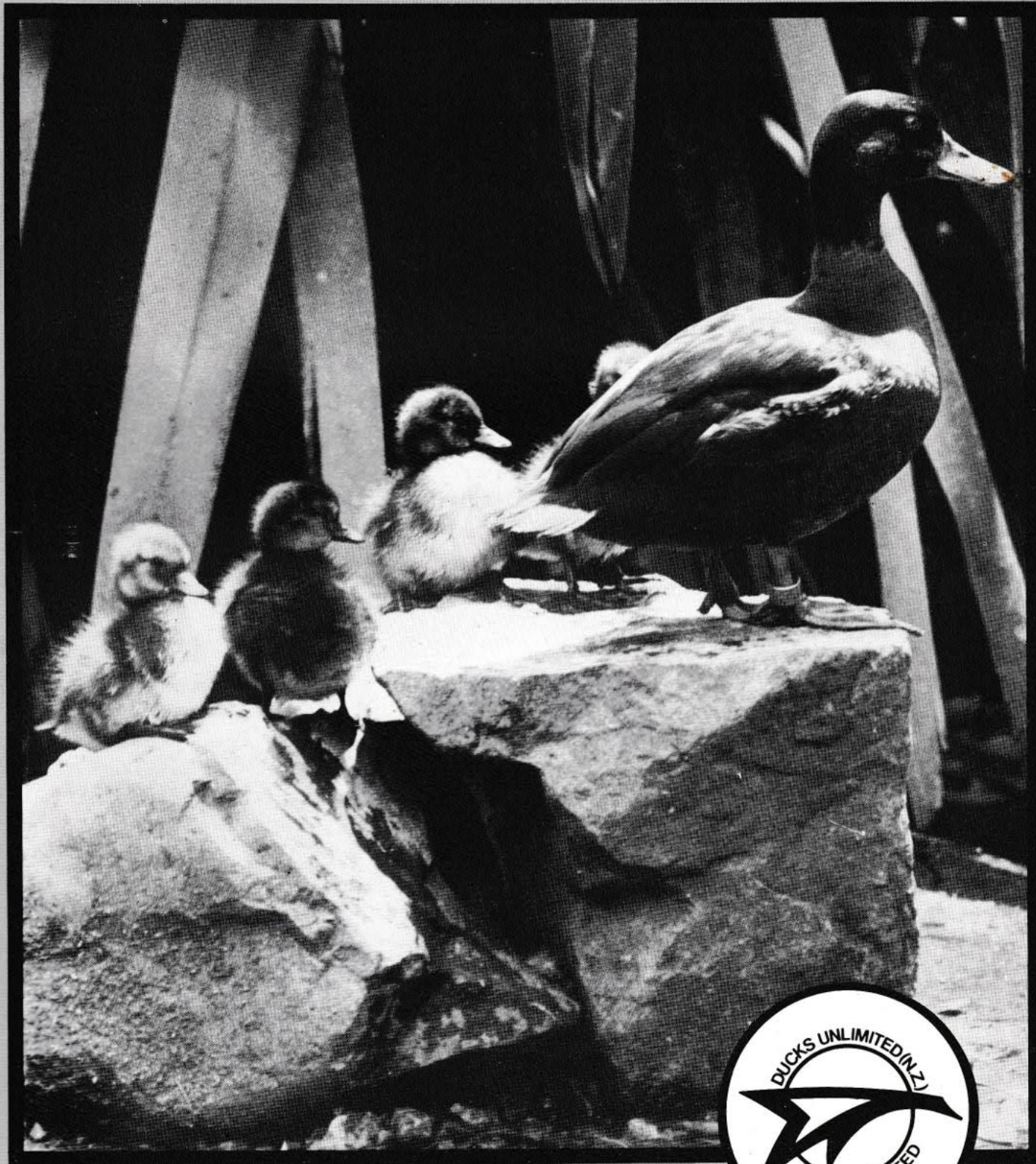


# Flight

No. 1/85 • ISSUE 43 • MARCH 1985

NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE

DUCKS UNLIMITED'S  
QUARTERLY  
WATERFOWL JOURNAL



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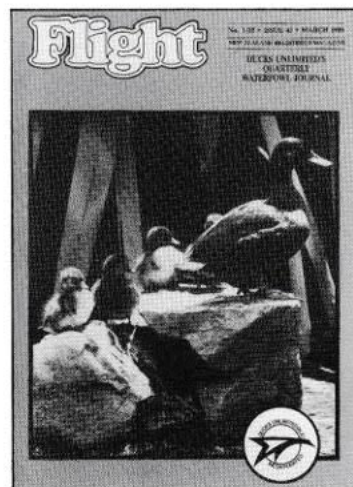
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### COVER PICTURE

NZ "Rock" Scaup with progeny taken on Ilford FP4 using an OM1 and ZUIKO 200mm, on a tripod.

Photography: Neil Hayes.



Ducks Unlimited (NZ) 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 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 at Wellington, New Zealand. The national headquarters mailing address is PO Box 44176, Lower Hutt. "Flight" is the official quarterly publication of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated reaching 1500 devoted members and friends concerned with waterfowl conservation. DU membership begins at \$5.00 pa for Junior to \$15.00 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 (NZ) Incorporated.

**"FLIGHT" IS PRINTED BY LITHOGRAPHIC SERVICES LTD, PETONE**

# EDITORIAL

## Constitutional Changes

After 10 years in existence the time seemed opportune for a review of the Ducks Unlimited Constitution, and in addition to the inclusion of Sponsor membership and the deletion of Supporter membership, some changes have been made to the objectives of Ducks Unlimited. We feel that these changes more clearly define Ducks Unlimited's important role in waterfowl conservation. The full objectives of Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Inc. now read as follows;

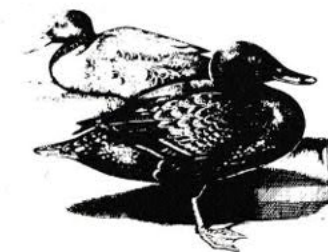
- To promote the conservation, propagation and study of waterfowl; in the wild and in captivity.
- To educate the public to a greater appreciation of waterfowl and wetland habitats.
- To acquire, create, preserve and manage wetlands for waterfowl.
- To establish areas for the display, propagation and acclimatisation of endemic, native, and ornamental waterfowl.
- To preserve associated wetland birdlife.
- To liaise with appropriate government departments, local bodies, conservation and wildlife organisations.

- To invest or use the funds of the Association in such investments or assets to carry out the objectives of the Association and in the payment of the costs and expenses of the Association, including the employment of officers, agents and servants as shall appear expedient.

- To do all such lawful acts and things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above mentioned objectives.

Copies of the revised Constitution are available from Box 44-176 on request.

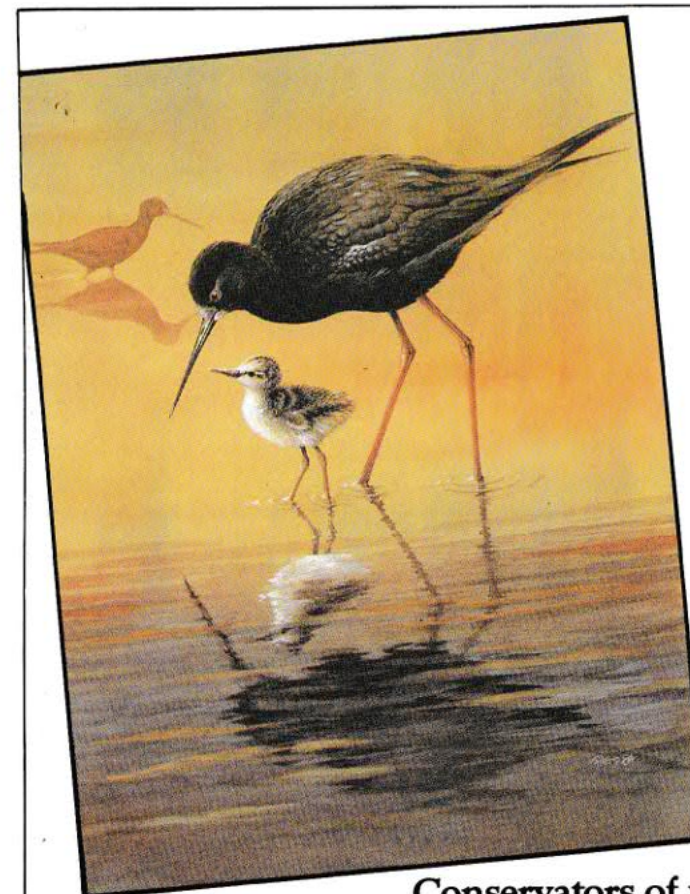
Neil Hayes



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## The Black Stilt

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by Piers Hayman 1985

Once widespread in New Zealand, the black stilt is now restricted to a few braided rivers of the South Island, where less than 40 adult birds struggle for survival. This courageous bird is now the world's rarest wader, and possibly the rarest endemic bird on the New Zealand mainland.

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Department of Internal Affairs  
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Conservators of your wildlife heritage



# D.U. NEWS

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

At its Board meeting last November DU Directors made a major decision when they decided to move DU's address from Hamilton to Lower Hutt. Hamilton had served DU well for ten years, but with the secretary, treasurer and membership secretary resident in the Wellington district the move to Lower Hutt is a logical one and is a move that will greatly assist DU's efficiency.

Another decision was made that should also increase efficiency in the Sales Department and the advertising of DU sales items will carry Diane Walker's (nee Pritt) address at Ohakune - P.O. Box 134. Diane, who recently married DU member Craig Walker, has handled DU sales items for a number of years.

## 1985 ANNUAL MEETING

As mentioned in the last 'Flight', Diane Walker is co-ordinating registrations and accommodation requirements for the 1985 Annual Meeting and if you haven't already registered please do so as soon as possible. Another registration form is printed in this issue. A \$20 registration fee is required and should be sent direct to Diane at P.O. Box 134, Ohakune. The full programme for the 12th, 13th & 14th July at THC Tokaanu will be published in the June issue of 'Flight'.

We are pleased to announce that Stewart Morrison, Executive Vice-President of Ducks Unlimited Canada, will be the guest speaker at the annual meeting. Stewart will be presenting details about the numerous projects undertaken by DU Canada.

We also hope that representatives from Ducks Unlimited (U.S.A.) will be present at the meeting.

As usual we are on the lookout for good quality auction items and if you have items you would like to donate please let Neil Hayes know. We are hopeful that 2 pairs of best quality English shotguns will be offered for auction.

## DU's 2ND INTERNATIONAL CLAY BIRD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2nd DU Clay Bird Championship will commence at 9.00am on Friday 12th July 1985 at the Taumarunui Gun Club Grounds. The programme for the championships is as follows:

- Event No. 1 DU (N.Z.) Skeet Championship - 25 targets.
- Event No. 2 DU (N.Z.) Sporting Championship - 20 targets. (High pheasant).
- Event No. 3 DU (N.Z.) Sparrows Championship - 15 targets.
- Event No. 4 DU (N.Z.) Double Rise Championship - 10 pairs of targets.
- Event No. 5 DU (N.Z.) 20 target points score Championship.
- Event No. 6 DU (N.Z.) Single Barrel Championship - 20 targets.
- Event No. 7 DU (N.Z.) Single Rise Championship - 25 targets.
- Event No. 8 DU (N.Z.) High Gun over 7 championships.

There will be prizes for A, B & C grades in all events.

Team events will take place on Saturday at 8.30am.

Each championship event will be limited to 60 entries.

Nominations close with Jack Worth, Ryburn Road, R.D.4, Ruakura, HAMILTON, on 5.7.85. Fees payable on the day. Please contact Jack if you need further information.

## NEW SALES ITEMS

DU Shoulder patches are now available. These carry the well known DU (N.Z.) logo and are available from P.O. Box 134, OHAKUNE, for \$8.50 each, including postage.

Also available are DU shirts and jerseys - see advert elsewhere in this issue. The popular booklet on Brown Teal, which DU first published in 1981, is now back in print (in a somewhat less expensive form) and is available at \$10 per copy. All sales items can now be purchased on your credit card.

## NEW CHAPTERS FORMED

Two new DU Chapters have recently been established - the Eketahuna Chapter and the Wellington Chapter. With Hamilton and Taumarunui DU now has four chapters in existence. Chapter rules and guidelines have recently been incorporated into DU's Constitution, but the main aim of the new chapters will again be to raise funds for DU projects. Funds raised will be presented to DU at the annual meeting at Tokaanu.

Glenys Hansen is running the Eketahuna Chapter and Derek Morrison the Wellington

Chapter. The Eketahuna Chapter has already been very active with a successful raffle completed and an outstanding sporting clay bird competition completed on Sunday 20th January.

The sporting clay shoot was held at the Eketahuna Gun Club which must surely have the best site in New Zealand for such a competition. Five clay bird traps shot birds out at great speed from on top of the 30m cliff and the 35 entries did their best to hit them. The total round was 25 targets and in the first round Mike Smith shot a fine 20, with Jim Campbell second on 18, and Brendan Coe, Ted Hansen and Neil Hayes all shooting 17 for third equal. In the second round Craig Walker excelled with a 21, Neil Hayes a 20, and Ross Rowden 17.

A highly successful barbecue was held after the shoot and all present had the opportunity to view the DU/Country Calendar programme, the Horrie Sinclair Swamp programme and to have a close look at the new DU Brown Teal display unit. DU gained seven new members during the day. All in all an outstanding success.

## MEMBERSHIP

Horrie Sinclair reached his aim of recruiting 100 members for DU several months under his projected period of two years. An outstanding effort. Horrie is now well into the next 100. An Editorial about Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) in the November issue of 'Rod & Rifle' also gave DU a good boost in membership and nearly 1,200 copies of the December 'Flight' were posted to members, and over 1,600 copies were printed to meet the demand. All a clear indication of a healthy growth rate.

## New Life Member

We are delighted to announce that Tony Reiger of Juneau, Alaska, U.S.A., has taken out Life membership. Along with Tony's cheque came the following letter;

"Dear Membership Committee, After being a member of D.U.N.Z. for the last several years I've decided to take the plunge and become a Life member. Perhaps it is with this decision that I can come the closest to identifying for myself the affection I hold for your beautiful and hospitable country and the responsibility

that D.U.N.Z. has in the future of your country.

I am an alien so this is no tax deduction for me and my family. I am a school teacher who has taken some of the extra earnings from a second job to make this payment, so it was no easily reached decision for me. But regardless of citizenship or class, as a fellow human being I have been touched by your people and your land on the two trips I've made to New Zealand. And of all of your land that meant the most to me were the precious wetlands. From the north of the North Island to the south of the South Island they were all special and unique with their common and not so common dwellers. To paraphrase a song 'I loved them all'. Please consider this Life membership part of a debt I needed to pay. With the fondest of good wishes, Tony Reiger"

We thank Tony for his fine support and for his comments - these certainly seem to make our efforts worthwhile.

## New Sponsor Members

Our new category of Sponsor member is proving popular with F.J. Atkins of Eketahuna, W. Morrison of Masterton, and R.B. Simmons B.D.S. of Rotorua, becoming Sponsor members for the 1984-85 period. An impressive Sponsor membership certificate has been produced, as has an impressive Life membership certificate.

## Donations

We sincerely thank the following members for recent donations; Mort Midgley, David Lee, Bill Morrison, and Joop Houtenbos of Castricum, Holland.

## 1985-86 Subscriptions

When considering changes to DU's Constitution Directors decided to eliminate the Supporter category of membership. After last year's circular to all members regarding subscriptions the vast majority of Supporter members became Full members and we hope that existing Supporters will opt for Full membership when renewal notices go out in April. The Full membership fee will remain at \$15; a figure which DU Directors hope to maintain for many years.

## New Trade Members

D.J. & V.M. Duncan Farms of Hunterville and

Broadhead Jewellers of Wanganui have recently become DU Trade members.

## DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.) INC

P.O. BOX 44-176, LOWER HUTT

### 1985 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THC TOKAANU

Saturday & Sunday

July 13 & 14, 1985

Plus the NATIONAL CLAY BIRD CHAMPIONSHIPS

JULY 12, 1985

At the TAUMARUNUI GUN CLUB

A \$20 registration fee is required and must be included with this form.

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I/WE WILL REQUIRE ACCOMMODATION FOR.....NIGHTS  
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SIGNATURE.....

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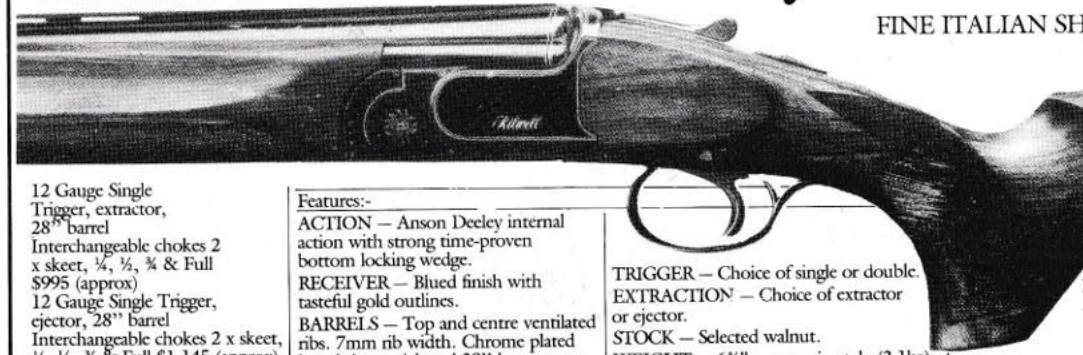
## NEW BOOK AVAILABLE



**\$21.50**  
(inc Postage)

New from DU sales section is one of the best books we have seen on wetlands management. Written by the experts of the International Waterfowl Research Bureau the book covers such topics as: management of Water Levels, Management of Vegetation, Creation of Wetlands, Creation of Artificial Nesting Sites, Prevention of Crop Damage, Endangered Species Management, and much more. 368 pages. Order your copy now, from:  
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**CONTRACT LET FOR MT BRUCE NATIONAL WILDLIFE CENTRE**

A contract for the building of the National Wildlife Centre at Mt Bruce has been let by the National Wildlife Centre Trust Board to Tohunga Whare Construction Company of Carterton to erect a building of approximately 4,000 sq feet using the Lockwood system.

The Centre will provide a very up to date service to the general public, schools, tour groups etc and incorporated in the Centre will be a shop, cafeteria, theatre for audio visual, video and film presentation, display areas, administration office and toilet facilities.

WWF-NZ has raised approximately \$260,000 (including grants) towards this project. It is estimated the completed complex will cost about \$497,000. It is also anticipated that further fundraising will be needed.

The National Wildlife Centre will help to preserve our national heritage. Colourful photographs, displays and live exhibits of New Zealand's native species will make nature a fascinating subject.

Visitors of all ages will be able to attend lectures and demonstrations on such absorbing topics as the rediscovery of the Takahe and the birth of a Kakapo chick.

In addition, the Centre will provide research facilities where Wildlife Service Officers can study rare and endangered species. This information is vital if we are to save birds like the Takahe and the Black Stilt from extinction.

The reserve at Mt Bruce was originally established as a haven for rare and endangered native birds.

Many such species have been brought here for protection and breeding. The rich native forest has also attracted wild birds like the Fantail and Rifleman.

Over the last six years, efforts have been made to open up the reserve to the public, thereby enabling it to develop as the national wildlife reserve for New Zealanders and for visitors from abroad.

The reserve already has open air picnic facilities. Visitors will soon be able to see displays before they walk out on a bridge through the trees and down into the native bush.

**WETLANDS DRAINAGE (The bad news)**

Recent Planning Tribunal and High Court decisions highlighted the need for specific

legislation to protect New Zealand's remaining wetlands.

In July 1983 the Tribunal turned down appeals against the granting of water rights (by the Waikato Valley Authority) to two farmers who intend to drain portions of the Whangamarino Wetlands. The appellants, the Auckland Acclimatisation Society and the Commissioner of Crown Lands, South Auckland, then took their cases to the High Court. The High Court judgement (September 1984) upheld the Tribunal's decision.

Only 16.5 percent of the original Waikato Basin wetland area remains. The Crown owns 4530 ha (of the total of 10,320 ha). Of the remaining undeveloped freehold wetland, the Auckland Acclimatisation Society owns 738 ha.

In the present case, one farmer wants to drain three areas totalling 121 ha around the northern end of the Reao Arm. The second farmer plans to drain 51 ha on the eastern side of the Reao Arm.

The High Court judge decided that the Tribunal was correct in ruling that "... in administering the Water and Soil Conservation Act 1967, the safeguarding of fisheries and wildlife habitats is not to be overlooked, but that promoting soil conservation and promoting the drainage of land are to be given greater general importance."

Both judgements held that the Act does not provide for the preservation of any complete ecosystem in perpetuity and that the 1981 wild and scenic amendment provides for protection of rivers, streams and lakes only. To come within the scope of the amendment, it would have to be shown that the whole of the wetland constituted either a river, lake or identifiable stream. The High Court judge stated: "There was no evidence before the Tribunal that what is essentially swampland could be so classified."

(Stella Daniell, Commission for the Environment.)

**DAIRY COMPANY GIVES SOCIETY SWAMP (The good news)**

The Bay of Islands Acclimatisation Society will soon take over 18 hectares of swampland donated to it by the Bay of Islands Dairy Company.

The land between Kawakawa and Moerewa will be retained as a wildlife habitat and opened to the public, says society president Mr Noel Birchall.

The Bay of Islands company offered the land about 18 months ago, but the past six months has been spent surveying the area and finalising details with the county council.

"We haven't run into any hassles with the council, but we've had a few delays in the surveying," says Mr Birchall.

"However, we hope to have everything sewn up within three months."

Mr Birchall says a number of ducks, pukeko, bitterns and herons already live on the donated land.

"We hope the land will be utilised by the public, and it is very likely it will be available for balloted shooting," he says.

"We also hope to make provisions for school groups or anyone else interested in observing the bird life."

The land will be kept in its natural state except for a few alterations to the water course.

(Courtesy 'Northern Advocate')

**MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT PROPOSED**

The Minister for the Environment has circulated a discussion paper entitled 'Environmental Administration in New Zealand' to all conservation and kindred groups. The Minister has sought comments on the Government's proposal to create a Ministry for the Environment. Ducks Unlimited has submitted written comments supporting the proposals, many of which are very much in line with past submissions made by DU. A really important function of the proposed Ministry will be the administration of the Town & Country Planning Act. If this happens we are sure to see protection of the natural environment being given far higher priority than is the present position. All too often in the past the Town & Country Planning Act has been administered in favour of development.

**SINCLAIR WETLANDS**

The initial draft of the Sinclair Wetlands Management Plan has been completed by Horrie Sinclair, Bill McLay, and Roger Sutton. DU is very much indebted to these three and to the QEII National Trust for their involvement in producing the draft. At the time of writing (mid-February) the draft is being studied by DU Directors who expect to have the plan finalised by early March. The plan incorporates the creation of an Open Space Covenant on the wetlands, the erection of a manager's residence, public education

facilities, creation of walkways, captive water-fowl displays, and so on.

Full details will appear in the June 'Flight'.

**DU DIRECTOR MARRIES**

DU Director Diane Pritt married DU member Craig Walker on February 16th. The wedding at Ohakune was attended by many DU members. Craig has things well sorted out; he will continue as Environmental Officer with Winstone's Afforestation while Diane continues to run the Pritt family farm. Best wishes to Diane and Craig.

**VIDEO TAPES**

The VHS video tapes of the DU/Country Calender programme and the Hidden Places Horries Swamp programme are also proving very popular. We have three copies of each tape and they are available on loan

— for no more than two weeks — from P.O. Box 44-176, Lower Hutt, for \$5.00.

**BLACK SWANS RECEIVED FROM WELLINGTON ZOO**

DU was very pleased to receive six Black Swans from Wellington Zoo in December. These were distributed to DU members in the Wairarapa. Our thanks to the zoo Director, Kerry Muller, and to DU member Melvin Pike for distributing the birds.

**B80 SHOTGUN**

The Browning B80 shotgun advertised in the last 'Flight' has created great interest. Tenders for the gun close at the end of March and a pretty good price could be achieved, but if the price is not felt high enough the shotgun is likely to be sold at the annual auction. Our thanks to Vern Wilson of Waikato Gunsmiths and Sports Centre for his work in promoting the sale of the B80.



CASED PAIR OF HENRY ATKIN SHOTGUNS FOR AUCTION

**CAROLINA WOOD DUCK**

There has been quite a demand for copies of the Wildlife Service report on Carolina's in N.Z. (available at \$4/copy from DU at Box 44-176, Lower Hutt) and there is obviously a lot of interest in the future of the Carolina in New Zealand. Ducks Unlimited has now provided the Wildlife Service with its thoughts on Carolina's and a copy of this letter is also available to members. DU has chosen not to promote the establishment of Carolina's in N.Z. but has sought to allow birds to be left full winged in collections on open ponds.

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# DECOYING DUCKS

by RONALD M LOCİKLEY

The excellent article on duck decoys published in the September 1982 edition of 'Flight' covers almost all I could say about British duck decoys. They were originally used for taking wildfowl for the table and market; but when I operated the Orierton Decoy, while living in Wales, as described in the book "Orierton, the Human and Natural History of a Welsh Manor" (Penguin Paperback), our small party of local naturalists released all the wildfowl we caught, leg banding them prior to release. Lying far out on the southwesterly peninsula of Wales, this site was strategic to attract hundreds of ducks on migration through the British Isles during the winter. The decoy lake was really too large — some 18 acres — a disadvantage in that it was hard to adequately screen such an area of water with trees and bush, in order to shelter the wildfowl from unauthorised human activity.

It was also an expensive business keeping the catching pipes in order, renewing the reed screens, buying the grain, and buying the consecutively numbered duralumin rings to mark the ducks with. Since the paid decoyman had retired we were all volunteers, giving more than our spare time to the daily winter work. This consisted of checking the state of the population of ducks resting by day on the pond and at the entrances to the four catching pipes, which could only be done if the ducks were not to be alarmed and fly off, by peeping through the slits in the two metre high reed screens. You must never show yourself or make any noise. The old paid decoyman, Greenslade, used to carry a burning peat in his pail when on his rounds, believing that the smell would disguise human B.O. (But can ducks smell so acutely?) He would keep a peat fire burning in the stove outdoors to maintain this 'natural aroma'. We had no time for this caper, and didn't think it effective anyway.

Having decided that it looked a good duck catch prospect for the night, you returned silently just before dusk, when the ducks (after resting all day) were getting hungry, and many were well up the netting of the pipes, feeding in the shallow water on the wheat or barley (the only grain that sinks to the mud and will not blow away at the surface — like oats). This was the moment — just before flying time — when you showed the 'fox'; that is you signalled your trained Corgi dog (fox like) to run in and out of the series of pop-holes, facing away from the entrance, all the way to the narrow end of a pipe — see Fig. 1.

Ducks are intensely curious, and, believing they are safe as long as they are swimming, they quite eagerly follow the dog up the pipe. Then comes the moment of truth; unseen by the ducks on the open pond, because you are hidden by the curve in the pipe, you show yourself to the birds already in the pipe. These birds will then flutter up the pipe and into the catching pen, see Fig 2, or box, at the end of the pipe. A dog is not absolutely essential, but a dog does lure more ducks into the pipe, particularly if the dog is properly trained. We often had to work the pipes without a dog.

The work now becomes strenuous as you now have to carry the quacking captives to the store shed hidden in the bushes, to examine them, identify the species, book them down individually (some might have already been ringed elsewhere in Europe), ring them and release them one at a time.

Depending on how many ducks were caught the ringing and identification operation could take several hours. Then back to the pipes to re-bait them with grain for tomorrow. Re-baiting is done at night when shoveler, mallard, teal, and wigeon (the dab-

blers) have gone out to feed in the fields and estuaries. Tufted, pochard and scaup (the divers) may still be present and re-baiting must be done without disturbing the remaining birds.

It is customary to keep a few tame "call ducks" resident around the pipe entrances; these having been hand reared, wing clipped, and are tame enough (and smart enough) not to be lured into the pipes. A call-duck was a specially bred all white species with good quacking qualities and was widely used in many European decoys. See Fig 3.

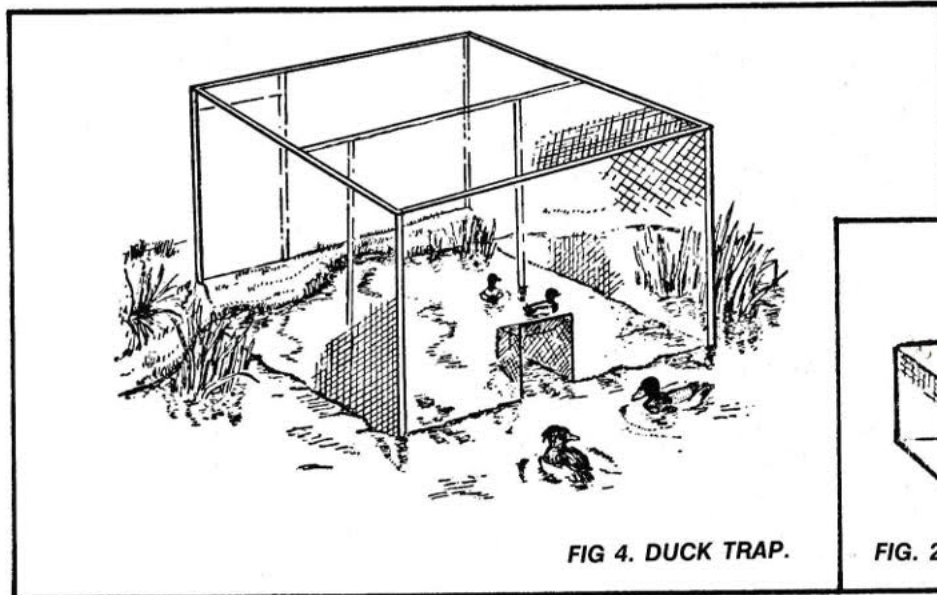


FIG 4. DUCK TRAP.

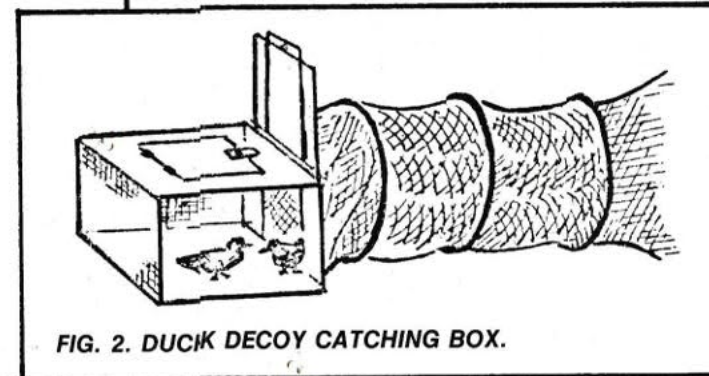


FIG. 2. DUCK DECOY CATCHING BOX.

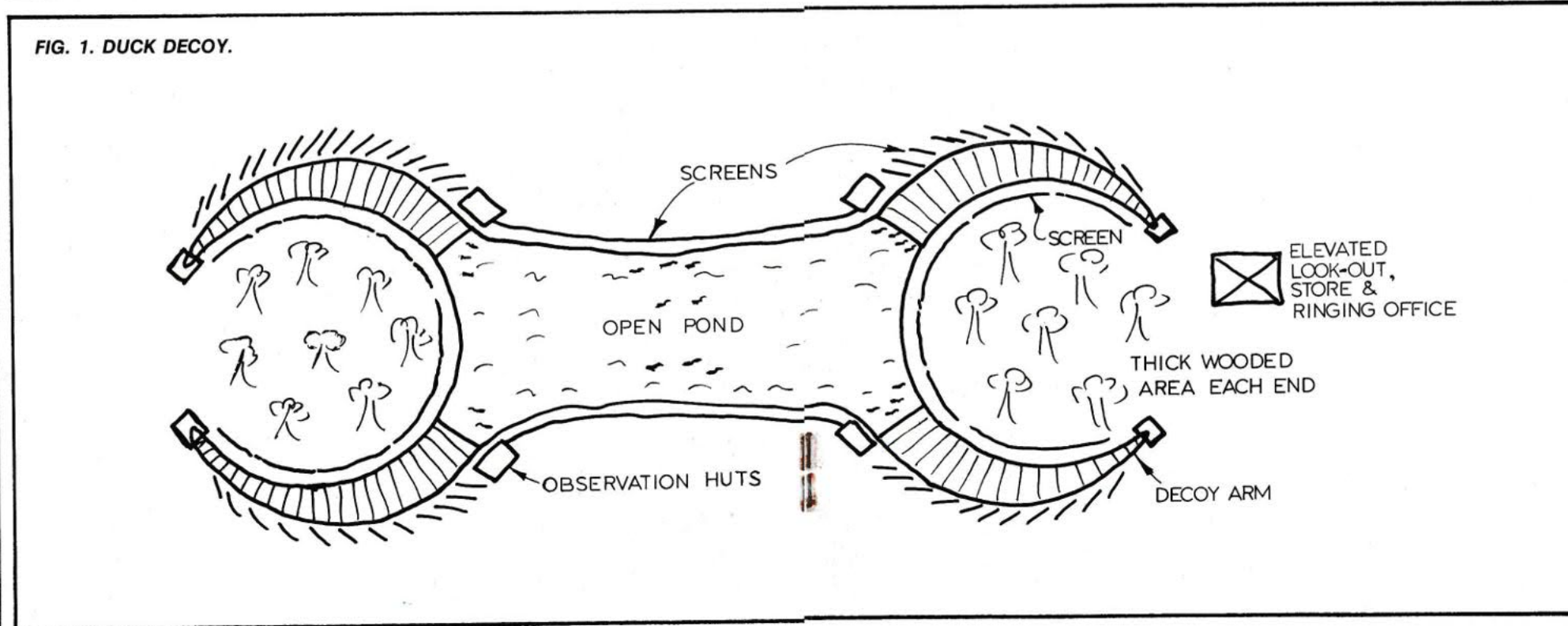


FIG. 1. DUCK DECOY.

Decoying is a scientific sport which satisfies man's urge to hunt, but is without harm to the quarry. Sometimes we had unusual captures — moorhens, coots, snipe, woodcock, rails, water-rats, and once an otter (which tore a hole in the hoopnet!)

Eventually a new owner of the Orierton Decoy decided to convert the wetland, which was also used for swimming and canoeing in summer, into a trout hatchery, which meant it became useless as a decoy. However, he did allow us to keep a few automatic duck traps at first — for during the new regime the migratory ducks came flying home on winter days to rest after feeding, but in much smaller numbers.

These automatic traps are probably ideal for use in New Zealand, on small wetland reserves, since they involve little maintenance, or attendance. The accompanying illustration is self-explanatory. The trap, which can have more than one "lobster-pot" entrance, is placed on the edge of a pond

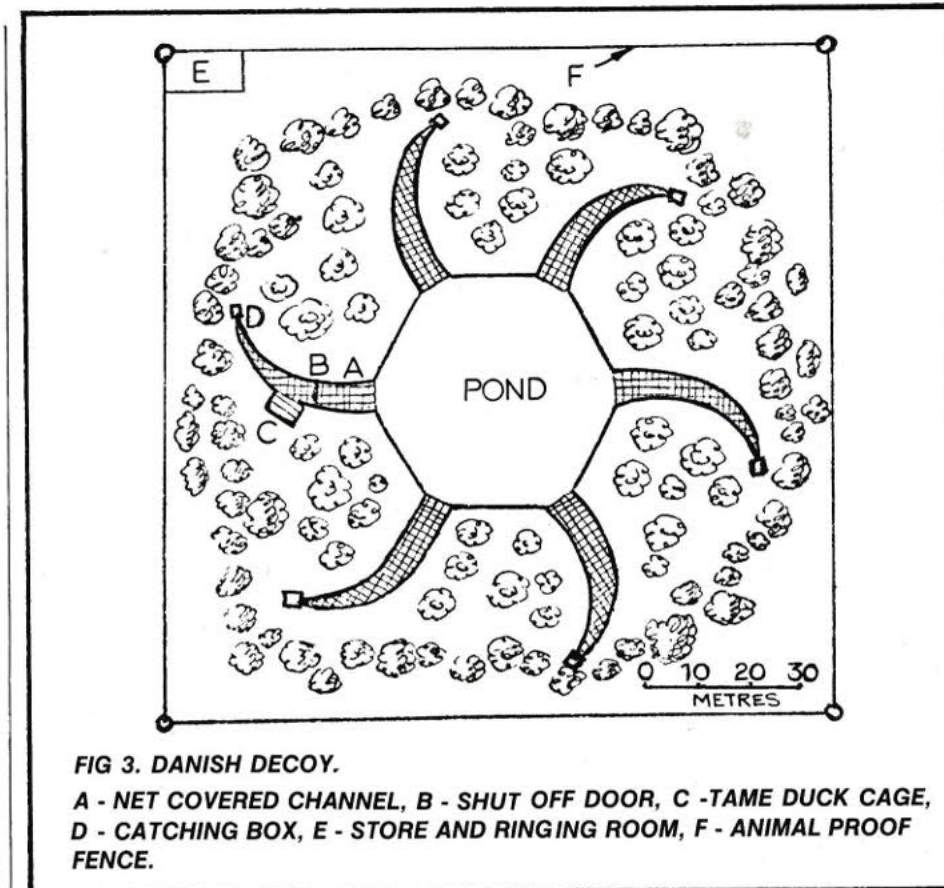


FIG 3. DANISH DECOY.

A - NET COVERED CHANNEL, B - SHUT OFF DOOR, C - TAME DUCK CAGE, D - CATCHING BOX, E - STORE AND RINGING ROOM, F - ANIMAL PROOF FENCE.

with most of the structure in the shallow water. The traps are baited with wheat or barley, and once inside the ducks are usually

stupid about trying to get out.

The automatic trap is preferably not less than 2m high and is 4m by 4m square, but size can be extended to suit the conditions. In larger traps more entrances will be needed.

When removing the ducks from the trap a funnel and catching box, as illustrated, will be needed. The detachable box is normally left with its inner door open, so the ducks become used to it. The box is positioned on the landward side of the trap, just above flood-water level.

It is important to site the automatic trap in a sheltered place on a pond of no more than one hectare. In summer when not in use for catching the human entry door (on the land side) is left open and the lobster-pot funnel can be removed. If the trap is baited at regular intervals during the summer the ducks will get used to going in and out of the trap, and will be more readily fooled when the trap is eventually set to catch them. Again your approach to the trap must be hidden so that observations can be made without the birds seeing you.

A duck trap must certainly have absolute quietude to be successful and many private ponds in New Zealand would lend themselves ideally for trapping and ringing work.

(N.B. Special permits from the Wildlife Service are needed in New Zealand before any trapping or ringing work can be undertaken. Editor.)



# PROJECT REPORT

## CAPTIVE REARED BROWN TEAL WELL ESTABLISHED IN NORTHLAND

Neil Hayes took the opportunity while holidaying in Whangarei during January to have a good look for some of the 96 Brown Teal released in Northland by DU last August — 42 at the Mimiwhangata Farm Park and 56 at the Matapouri Estuary. Neil is delighted to report that 35 Brown Teal were sighted on the main ponds at Mimiwhangata and 20 were sighted at the Matapouri. All birds appeared in excellent condition, with drakes in eclipse plumage — indicating that they had survived the critical moult period. So some five months after release it certainly seems that

our captive reared birds are well established in Northland.

The number of birds at Matapouri is very encouraging as wild Brown Teal have not been seen very often at Matapouri. Matapouri was a well known Brown Teal roost site in the old days, but grazing around the roost area plus lack of real protection seems to have been responsible for the birds disappearance. Things have now changed, however, and the estuary now has a protective status and the DU financed fencing of the roost site has reverted the area to something like what it must have been some

years ago. Additional fencing work is being done and eventually the habitat will be totally secure.

Further releases will take place at Matapouri in July/August of this year.

At Mimiwhangata DU was always confident that a good number of teal could reside in the area, which is in close proximity to Northland's teal stronghold and roost site — Helena Bay. The Mimiwhangata Farm Park is administered by a Trust, and while the general public has access all activities are strictly controlled. The aims of the Trust are to show how a modern farm may be suc-

cessfully developed in park-like surroundings in such a way as to enhance all the beauty of Northland's traditional coastal scenery.

Large areas of bush have been retained; the foreshore has been fenced off from grazing stock; many pohutukawa and other trees have been planted; and a number of ponds are being built to provide safe habitats for wildfowl. At the same time, a marine park has been established to make possible the conservation of the many forms of life in the coastal waters for the enjoyment of the increasing numbers of people now being attracted to Mimiwhangata.

No dogs, cats or domestic animals are permitted in the park and no firearms are permitted. With such a philosophy Mimiwhangata looks likely to become a classic case of successful farm management



THE DU FINANCED FENCE — NOTE HEAVY VEGETATION ON RIGHT HAND SIDE — AT THE MATAPOURI ROOST SITE.



BROWN TEAL ARE NOW WELL ESTABLISHED AT MATAPOURI.

being successfully integrated with wildlife conservation, and the two large man-made ponds at Mimiwhangata have already shown their value to the Brown Teal conservation

THE MATAPOURI BROWN TEAL ROOST SITE — WITH A PAIR IN THE DISTANCE.

programme and could well set the trend in Northland. The key to the long term survival of the Brown Teal in Northland could well lie with the establishment of well fenced farm ponds throughout the region.

We congratulate the Mimiwhangata Farm Park Trust on its achievements to date.

We also congratulate the Wildlife Service on its successful habitat restoration and protection work in Northland.



**THE BROWN TEAL HOLDING AVIARY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT JIM CAMPBELL'S.**



**1984-1985 Breeding Season and Management Plans**

Another very satisfactory result looks likely from this season's Brown Teal captive breeding programme, but the final figure is unlikely to reach last season's all time record of 147 birds reared, but should be over 100.

With the success of our birds in Northland it seems likely that all birds from this breeding season, apart from those retained for flock mating and breeding purposes, will be released in Northland. We had hoped to release 30, or so, in January but sufficient birds were not available at that time. It now seems certain that all birds will be held over for a July/August release.

Last year the Mt Bruce National Wildlife Centre very generously held just about all our Brown Teal over the winter period, but this year DU will be doing its own thing and a magnificent holding aviary has been erected on the property of DU Vice-President, Jim Campbell — see photo of the aviary under construction.

John Cheyne, officer in charge at Mt Bruce and the Wildlife Service representative on the DU Board of Directors, has been a tower of strength in this further stage of operation 'Pateke' and we thank John for his fine contribution to the project. Jim Campbell's contribution is also outstanding and for some time now Jim has been a tower of strength in all DU activities.

**Brown Teal Research**

Humble apologies to Brown Teal Researcher Grant Dumbell for giving him the wrong Christian name in the last 'Flight'. (This was

caused by an over-active computer — the Editor's brain — and steps have been taken to place it under control!!)

**Brown Teal Display Unit**

A very generous grant from the Environmental Council has enabled DU to construct two portable Brown Teal display units, to be used at meetings and similar gatherings.

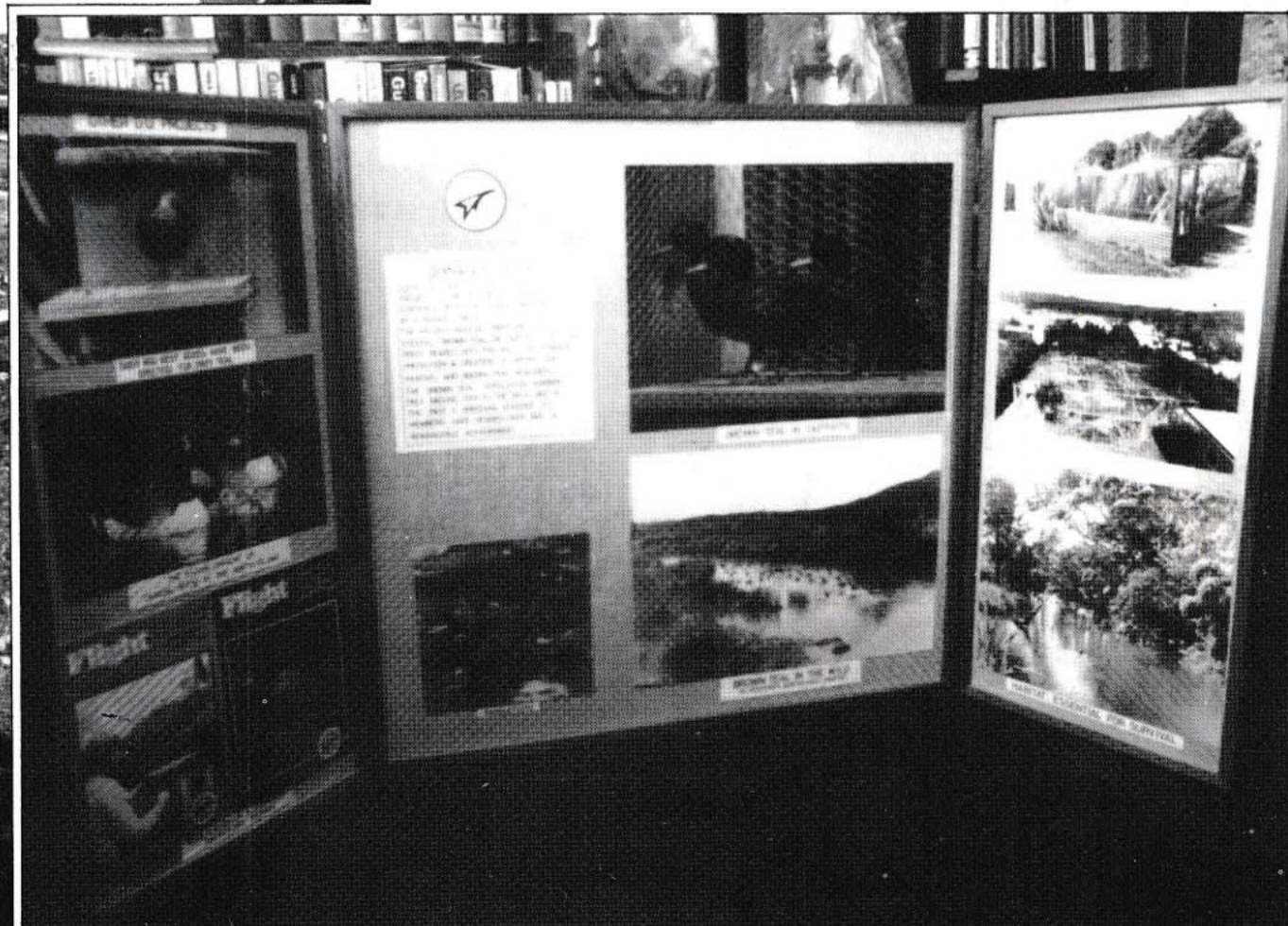
**OPERATION WETLANDS**

**DU to create waterfowl habitat in the Wairarapa**

The draining of wetlands for the purposes of agriculture has always been a source of concern to Ducks Unlimited in New Zealand. While accepting the fact that farmers make their living from productive land and that agriculture is still the cornerstone of the country's economy, it is always exciting to see rural land being set aside as wetland habitat.

A case in point is the development of waterfowl habitat at the Boggy Creek property in the southern Wairarapa. This magnificent property fronts Lake Wairarapa on the eastern side and has a majestic outlook over the lake to the Rimutaka ranges. Some of the property is still in its original state of Raupo and willow — minus the water and with financial assistance from DU farmer Mark Pearce will be creating over twentyfive acres of waterfowl habitat. A grey teal nesting box programme will be started as soon as possible and DU is excited at this

**THE BROWN TEAL DISPLAY UNIT.**







most generous and farsighted decision of Mr Pearce. A large part of the future of wetlands, artificial or natural, lies in the hands of responsible farmers and DU congratulates those involved and looks forward to a continuing contribution from the rural community.

### OPERATION 'WHIO'

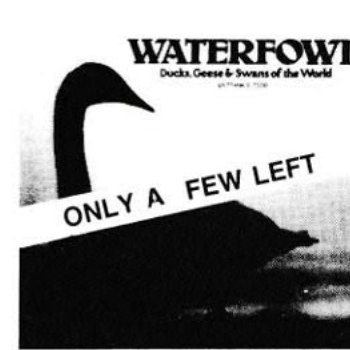
#### DU Supports Blue Duck Study on the MANGANUI-A-TE-AO

DU has sent \$500 to Massey University to assist a Blue duck research study on the Managanui-a-te-ao River. The one year study is being carried out this year by two research workers, Diane Noda and Patricia Stanton, from the California State Polytechnic University at Pomona. The study will be concerned with the territorial activity of banded Blue ducks on the river and will also attempt to determine the food preferences of the species. The Central North Island Wildlife Conservancy is also supporting the research with a quite substantial grant.

#### National Population Survey Underway

The Wildlife Service has recently launched a nationwide population survey on the Blue duck. If any members see Blue ducks in the wild please let the Wildlife Service know at head office - Department of Internal Affairs, Private Bag, Wellington.

#### THE AREA SET ASIDE FOR HABITAT CREATION IN THE WAIRARAPA.



**Waterfowl: Ducks, Geese & Swans of the World** by Frank Todd. This is the ultimate in waterfowl books and a must for all DU members. 400 pages covering the status of the world's waterfowl, their aviculture and general management. Also contains excellent chapters on photography and on hunting and conservation attitudes. Price \$49.50.

#### The HAWAIIAN GOOSE

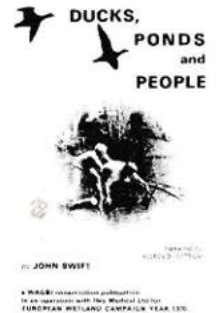


Janet Kear & A.J. Berger

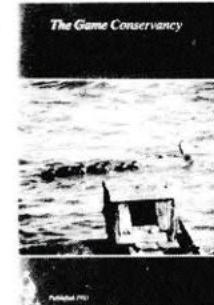
**The Hawaiian Goose** by Janet Kear & A.J. Berger. This outstanding book is an absorbing account of the world's most successful waterfowl conservation project. 154 pages covering the entire Hawaiian Goose project, which has seen the population rise from 30 birds to over 2,500. Price \$22.50.



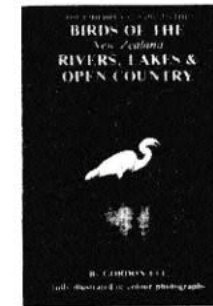
**A Coloured Key to the Waterfowl of the World** by Peter Scott. 96 pages with coloured plates and notes detailing the status of the waterfowl of the world. Price \$10.00.



**Ducks, Ponds & People** by John Swift of B.A.S.C. 112 pages provide a guide to the management of small lakes and ponds for waterfowl. (DU's best selling book.) Price \$10.00.



**Wildfowl Management on Inland Waters** by the Game Conservancy. 100 pages covering the construction of habitat for waterfowl, planting, loafing and nesting rafts, nests and propagation. Price \$10.00.



**The Children's Guide to the Birds of the New Zealand Rivers, Lakes and Open Country.** New from DU sales division is this delightful booklet written by DU member Gordon Ell. This 32 page booklet provides details about birds most likely to be seen on our rivers, lakes and open country and contains 27 superb photographs by well known photographer Geoff Moon. It is a must for the kids. Price \$5.



New from DU sales division. A greetings card showing our rare Brown Teal in pen and ink by Wellington artist Pamela Mathews. There are ten cards and envelopes per pack. Four cards are in a plain finish, three in a silver finish and three in a bronze finish. Very high quality and only \$5 per pack incl p&p.



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

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