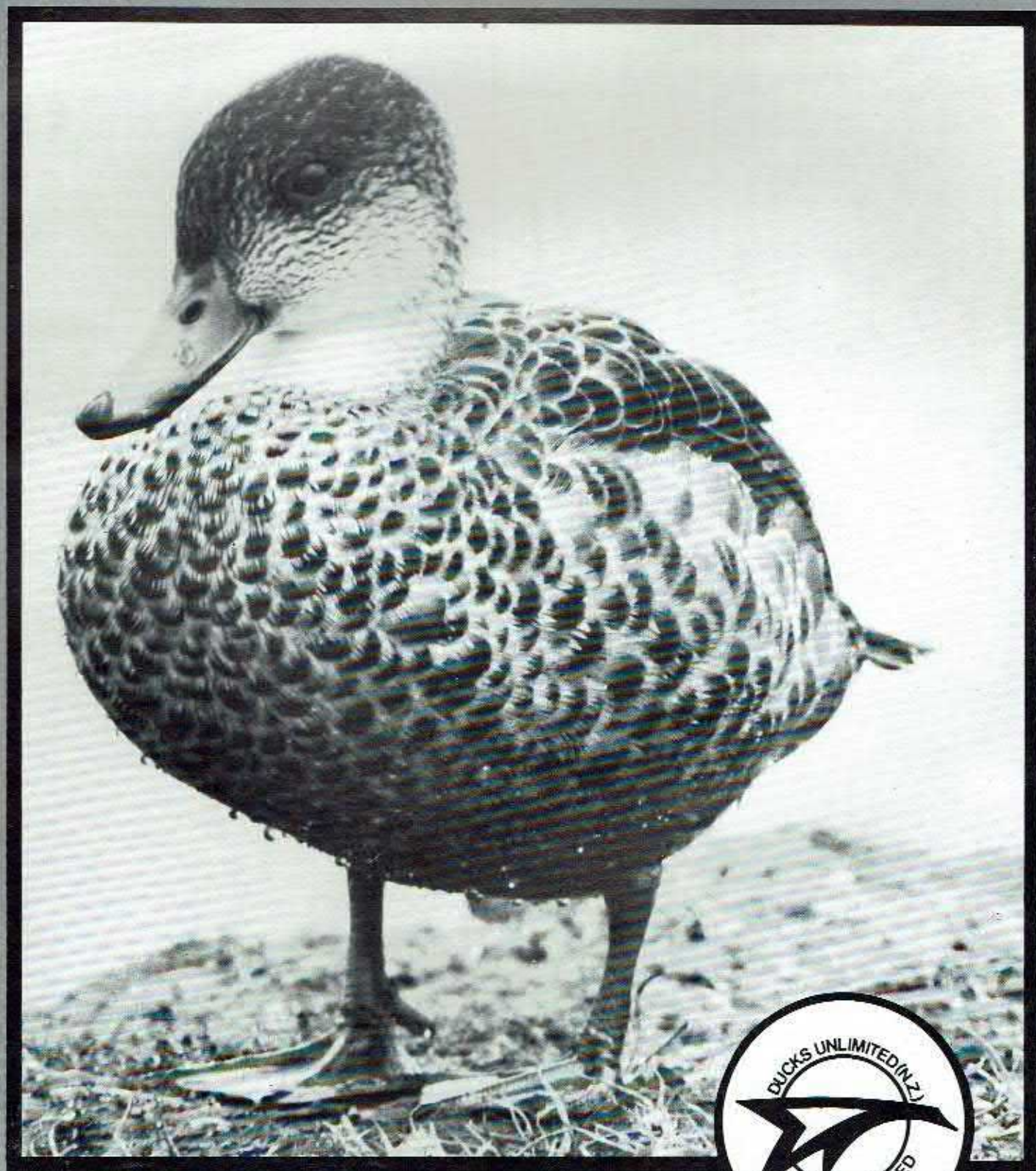


Flight

No 3/85 — ISSUE 45 — SEPT 1985

NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE

DUCKS UNLIMITED'S
QUARTERLY
WATERFOWL JOURNAL



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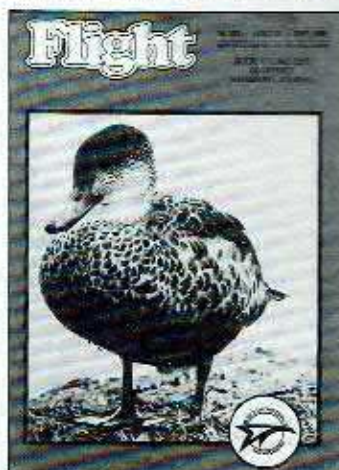
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COVER PICTURE: Grey Teal.
A super shot from Garry
Girvan's OM2 and 300mm lens
on Ilford FP4.

Photography: Garry Girvan,
Craig Walker.

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Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated is a private, non-profit membership organisation dedicated to the preservation, restoration, creation 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.

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HISTORY CREATED AT THE 11th DUCKS UNLIMITED ANNUAL CONFERENCE — THC TOKAANU 13th JULY '85

D.U. SALUTES HORRIE SINCLAIR

On Saturday the 13th July 1985 a record one hundred and forty members and guests, at the Ducks Unlimited 11th Annual Conference, witnessed what must surely be the most magnificent gesture ever made to a New Zealand conservation group; when, at 3.10pm, Horace Alexander Sinclair of Outram, Dunedin, formally gifted his 779 acre wetland property to Ducks Unlimited. The signing of the Sale and Purchase agreement, shown below, was recorded by TV's 'Country Calendar' film crew and shown on the 4th August, as part of a complete programme about Horrie Sinclair and what he has achieved over the last twenty five years. This superb programme showed by far the best film of wild waterfowl ever taken in New Zealand and also clearly showed the national importance of the Sinclair Wetlands.

(The programme was also the ultimate follow-up to the earlier D.U./Country Calendar programme and we have ordered video copies to go in our growing video lending library.)

The finalisation date of the Sale and Purchase agreement was the 31st July and the property title was transferred to Ducks Unlimited shortly after that date. Thus placing D.U. (N.Z.) on the world map in respect of privately owned wetlands of outstanding quality. Overseas authorities have recognised the Sinclair Wetlands as having a world ranking in the top twenty privately owned wetlands.

The wetlands lie between Lakes Waihoia and Waipori, just south of Dunedin, and have long been recognised as the best New Zealand wetlands in private hands.

Of the 779 acres only 40 acres are paddocks and the wetlands support well over 60 species of birdlife; including, N.Z. Scaup, NZ Shoveler, N.Z. Paradise Shelduck, grey ducks, grey teal, mallard, occasional brown teal, Black Swan, Canada geese, fern bird, bellbird, tui, native pigeon, banded rail, and so on, and so on. It is paradise for all the species present. In association with the QEII National Trust, Ducks Unlimited has placed an Open Space Covenant on the Sinclair Wetlands — to protect the wetlands in perpetuity — and has also produced a comprehensive management plan, which covers both short and long term proposals, such as:

1. The erection of a Manager's residence,



The Magic Moment. Horrie signing on the dotted line, with the Hon. L. W. Gandar and Paul Pirani looking on.

Garry Girvan

with workshop, garage, boatshed and visitors accommodation.

2. The establishment of public education facilities, research facilities, walkways, hides, landscaped and fenced ponds with captive waterfowl, and so on.

Fencing, planting and habitat management work will also be carried out. Horrie Sinclair will reside on the property and will continue to manage the wetlands in exactly the same way as he has done for the past 25 years.

Obviously the Sinclair Wetlands management proposals will be an expensive exercise for Ducks Unlimited, but D.U. Directors are confident that its members and friends will support this vital work, by contributing very positively to the recently launched fund raising appeal. In fact shortly after the annual conference over \$10,000 had already been contributed by members. The QEII National Trust will also be contributing funds to the management of the wetlands and several other groups have also indicated that financial support could be forthcoming.

A fund raising target of \$100,000 has been set and Directors are confident that D.U. members will show why D.U. in its very short history has become such a major force in wetlands and waterfowl conservation. All donations will be tax deductible. If any member requires more fund raising pamphlets please let us know.

Horrie Sinclair again set the trend for yet another outstanding annual conference — each annual conference to date has clearly indicated the intense interest in the activities of Ducks Unlimited and such support is very evident in the fact that D.U. Treasurer, Garry Girvan, banked a massive and spectacular \$47,000 on the Monday morning after an incredible weekend.

The main auction produced an income of over \$31,000; boosted by \$16,400 being taken for the cased pair of Henry Atkin shotguns. The Cogswell & Harrison shotgun raised \$4,000 and the B80 semit-auto shotgun \$2,600. Paintings and prints again proved popular and an original painting of a pair of brown teal by Nancy Tichborne raised \$550.

D.U. (U.S.A) had again sent a fine set of limited edition waterfowl prints and these raised over \$2,000.

The silent auction proved as popular as ever and also raised over \$2,000.

Auctioneer Bill Wilkinson was, as always, fantastic and our overseas guests reckoned they were going to take him back to North America.

Our Sales Department also had a good weekend, thanks largely to the efforts of Diane Walker, and over \$3,000 was taken.

This year a substantial amount was raised by our five Chapters and the following

amounts were presented to Paul Pirani, prior to the commencement of the auction: Wellington \$3,000, Taumarunui \$500, Hamilton \$1,600, Eketahuna \$1,000 (population 600), Auckland \$1,300. A really outstanding contribution.

The Taumarunui Chapter, under the guidance of Chairman Gavin Brears, again ran a superb D.U. Clay Target Championship at the Taumarunui Gun Club on Friday 12th July and \$500 was raised at the shoot (results are shown elsewhere in this issue).

THC Tokaanu Manager and D.U. Honorary member, Keith Barnett, provided another quality annual dinner for a record 154. We congratulate and thank Keith and his staff for their efforts.

Thanks are also due to all the D.U. ladies who worked extremely hard to ensure a record income.

Winchester N.Z. again staged an impressive display of quality shotguns and this proved to be very popular. Ducks Unlimited is extremely fortunate to have such a close ally and supporter as Winchester N.Z., a company whose management fully appreciates that (as Horrie Sinclair keeps telling us) "Without habitat we have nothing".

The list of auction item donors shows the incredible support for what Ducks Unlimited is all about, and sincere thanks to the following for helping achieve another memorable occasion:

D.U. (U.S.A.)	Louie Denolfer Bill Clinton-Baker Ron Denny Anneke Borren
D.U. (Canada) N.Z. Wildlife Service Winchester N.Z. Ltd	Owen Mapp
Reloaders Supplies Ltd	Robyn Stewart
Kelly Rotorua Ltd Tisdalls Ltd, Auckland Broadhead Jewellers, Wanganui	Tom Caithness Mark Newcomb
Ohakune Sports Hangup Gallery, Parnell N.Z. Field & Stream Ltd, Auckland	Dr Tony Cutten
	Alan Hart Chris Hansen
	Stew Morrison, Canada

Ohakune Pharmacy	Mark Nicholson
Rover Products, Otaki	Neil Motion
Raetihi Hardware Hooson Industries, Wellington	Keith Barnett Garry Girvan
Dalgety Crown, Feilding	Bruce Wilde
Norfolk Gardens, Feilding	B. Pickworth
Hedley's Bookshop, Masterton	Jim & Pat Campbell Neil & Sylvia Hayes
Oldfield Sports, Mitre 10, Masterton	Allan & Jane Elliott Jim & Doreen Glover
King & Henry, Masterton	Sig & June Bronger Ted & Glenys Hansen
Halcyon Publishing, Auckland	Ian & Dawn Pirani Paul & Cheryl Pirani
Gaylord Donnelley, U.S.A.	Bill & Helen Avery
David Hagenbaumer, U.S.A.	Diane & Craig Walker
Don Eley Ken Lowry, Winchester Australia	
Brendan Coe Audrey Pritt D.U. Auckland Chapter	

We do hope we haven't missed anyone. A special tribute must be paid to Stewart Morrison, Executive Vice-President of D.U. Canada, who came to New Zealand specifically to address our annual conference. His address was outstanding and his words of wisdom invaluable to our efforts. A thousands thanks Stew and we hope to see you and your family out here again.

We would also like to thank Ralph Adams, Director of the N.Z. Wildlife Service, and Les Gandar, Chairman of the QEII National Trust, for being present at the signing of the Sale and Purchase agreement and for speaking about the importance of the Sinclair Wetlands. And a special thanks to Bill McLay, Vice-President of the South Island Council of Acclimatisation Societies, and Horries right hand man, who ensured that all the relevant documents were on hand for the meeting; Bill also witnessed the signing of the historic documents. ■

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D.U. NEWS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A subscription renewal form was enclosed with the March 'Flight' (thus saving around \$300 in postage) and the initial response to renewals has been very good. Another renewal notice is enclosed with this issue; if you have already paid please ignore it, but if not please send in your subscription as soon as possible and help D.U. keeps its subs one of the lowest of any New Zealand conservation group. A decal and receipt is now sent to all who renew their subs.

SINCLAIR WETLANDS FUND RAISING APPEAL

By now all members will have received a D.U. fund raising appeal pamphlet and the response has been great.

Various organisations have also been approached and the QEII National Trust has to date come up trumps with a guaranteed \$25,000 commitment towards the rangers residence complex. This is a magnificent contribution. Several large contributions have been received from individuals but any amount at all will be most welcome.

All contributions are tax deductible, within the terms of the letters printed below, and if you need further fund raising pamphlets please let us know.

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z.)

When D.U. revised its Constitution, earlier this year, copies had to be sent to the Department of Inland Revenue to ascertain whether D.U. was still eligible for charitable and tax deductible status. We are therefore please to publish the Department's reply, as well as the department's earlier letter to which this reply refers.

When claiming your tax refund you should include a xerox copy of these letters with your tax return.

Inland Revenue Department
Wellington 31.5.85

Dear Mr Hayes,

I refer to your letter of 15 April 1985 in which you advise changes to the rules of your society.

I am writing to advise that the proposed changes are acceptable to this Department and will not alter the charitable status granted by this Department on 6 October 1979.

Yours faithfully,

E. Pickering Director (Revenue)

Inland Revenue Department,
Wellington.
5 October 1979

Dear Mr Pirani,

Donations and subscriptions to Ducks Unlimited qualify for the purposes of sections 56A and 147 of the Income Tax Act 1976 (previously sections 84B and 126B of the Land and Income Tax Act 1954).

Under section 56A individuals may claim a rebate of 50 cents in the dollar in respect of donations and subscriptions to Ducks Unlimited up to a maximum of \$175 for all qualifying donations and private school fees. Under section 147 public companies may claim a deduction up to a maximum of \$1,000 to Ducks Unlimited. In respect of the aggregate of all qualifying donations a public company can claim the greater of:
- \$1,000, or
- 5 percent of the company's assessable income.

Ducks Unlimited is also approved for the purposes of the following Acts:

- Section 18 of the Stamp and Cheque Duties Act 1971 - exemption from conveyance duty.

- Sections 39A and 73 of the Estate and Gift Duties Act 1968 - exemption for estate and gift duty purposes.

- Section 61(25) of the Income Tax Act 1976 (previously) 86(1) (n) of the Land and Income Tax Act 1954 - exemption from income tax.

Yours faithfully,

D. R. Smart, Director (Revenue)

MEMBERSHIP

New Life Member. D.U.'s good friend Ken Lowry of Winchester Australia has become our latest Life member. Ken, who has been an enthusiastic D.U. supporter since Winchester established its own subsidiary in New Zealand, attended this year's annual meeting. Ken's support and that of Winchester N.Z. has been of very considerable assistance in establishing D.U. as a major wetland and waterfowl conservation group.
New Distinguished Members. Dr Kaj Westerskov, until recent retirement Professor of Zoology of Otago University, has joined D.U. as a Full member. Dr Westerskov has published numerous scientific papers and we are hopeful that 'Flight' will see articles from him in the not too distant future.

A Principal of Bioresearches Ltd, Mr G. C. Don M. Sc., has recently joined as a full member. Mr Don tells us that Bioresearches are currently undertaking post-hydro monitoring studies on the Wheao and Rangitaiki Rivers, and considerable emphasis is being placed on the hydro effects on three of our endemic waterfowl - the blue duck, brown teal and the scaup.

New Trade Members. The last couple of months has seen our Trade membership list continue to grow at an extremely healthy rate and the following have recently joined as trade members: Shooters Supplies Ltd., Christchurch, Niloe Industries Ltd., Petone, Gun City, Christchurch, Ballinger Firearms Ltd., Christchurch, P. F. Nola, Auckland, A. Coltart, Hastings, S. Gibbard, Wanganui, R. Basham, Sandringham, Neville Newcomb Ltd., Auckland.

New Sponsor Members. Mr D. K. Pritchard, Brian Falkner, Diane Walker have become Sponsor members for 1985-86.

Donations. D.U. is indebted to the following for recent donations: M. Dench, D. Brown, D. McLachlan, S. Borlace, W. McFarland, K.



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1986 ANNUAL MEETING

D.U. annual meetings have now outgrown THC Tokaanu — where we have experienced an incredible four years — and it has been decided to try THC Wairakei for the 1986 meeting. Wairakei will be able to accommodate all those attending under one roof and D.U. has taken the bold step of booking the whole of the hotel for Saturday 12th July 1986. Pencil in this date now. Further details will appear in the next 'Flight'.

PUBLICITY

A press release from D.U. followed the Country Calendar programme about Horrie's great gift to D.U. and news of the gift was reported in most city newspapers as well as many provincial papers.

Recent brown teal releases were also well reported in most papers and our brown teal project was well covered in a recent issue of 'The Landscape'; the official journal of the N.Z. Institute of Landscape Architects. This was a special issue devoted to wetlands and conservation and is an excellent publication. While not generally known to blow our own trumpet in our own magazine, the Editor of 'The Landscape', Boyden Evans, who is also the QEII National Trust's Landscape Architect, had this to say in a recent letter to D.U.'s secretary Neil Hayes:

"It became obvious to me when we were deciding on material to be included in the special wetlands issue that not to have a contribution from Ducks Unlimited would have been a serious error on our part. I say that because of what I regard as the tremendous contribution that Ducks Unlimited have made and are continuing to make to the protection of New Zealand's heritage. I have been impressed by the professionalism of Ducks Unlimited in all its operations and I am extremely pleased to be associated with your organisation in some small way."

Copies of this special issue of 'The Landscape' (36 pages), which contains much information about the management and protection of wetlands, is available from D.U. for \$6/copy including postage. In additional

publicity Allan Elliott and Neil Hayes were 'stars' in a TV1 'Close-Up' programme about the opening of the 1985 duck season. Part of the 15 minute programme was filmed on Allan's pond and both Neil and Allan were interviewed about hunting and conservation. Ducks Unlimited again received a good mention.

RAFFLES FOR FIREARMS

Several letters arrived from members asking why we didn't raffle the B80 shotgun (generously sent to us by D.U. (U.S.A.)) instead of offering it for tender — as it turned out no tender was accepted and we auctioned the B80 at the annual auction. But the fact is that it is illegal to raffle firearms in New Zealand. This, of course, is most unfortunate as D.U. could have easily raised \$10,000 by raffling such a magnificent firearm. Overseas, firearms are widely offered in raffles and large amounts of money is raised for wildlife management work. D.U. (N.Z.) did make representations to the Minister of Internal Affairs, but as a major amendment would be needed to the Lotteries & Gaming Act we didn't have any joy.

CAROLINA'S SHOT

For the second game season running a pair of Carolina Wood Ducks were shot; this time at Grovetown, near Blenheim, during May. We know of no D.U. member in that area with Carolina's but not all people with Carolina's are D.U. members!!

EKETAHUNA CHAPTER HOLDS "SIMULATED FIELD" SHOOT (From Glenys Hansen)

The Eketahuna Gun club grounds was the venue for another Simulated Field shoot arranged by the Eketahuna Chapter on 30th June 1985.

With the weather much more suited to watching the Telethon, Allan Elliott, Ted Hansen, Jim Campbell, Chris Hansen and new member Francis Murray-Aynsley donned wet weather gear and set up 8 hand traps in various positions around a cliff overlooking a river, to provide 40 sporting targets for any shooter that was brave enough to go out in the very heavy rain to shoot them. To the amazement of everyone, 45 shooters turned up to see what Simulated Field shooting was

all about. Those that waited until after lunch to shoot their round, managed to keep dry as the rain had stopped and shooting was much more pleasurable. 32 shooters went around the field again to see if they could better their score.

Scores for the day

1st round	2nd round
29/40 G. Pilcher	35/40 Jim Campbell
Allan Elliott	29/40 Don Frewin
28/40 Mike Mitchell	T. Winter
27/40 Jim Campbell	28/40 M. Smith
Chris Hansen	J. Winter
26/40 Ted Hansen	27/40 Ted Hansen
	J. Court

Everyone had a very enjoyable day and with the profits of the day, plus the other fund raising efforts that the chapter has done during the year, the Eketahuna Chapter hopes to hand over \$1000 at the AGM at Tokaanu.

Thanks to the ladies for providing the afternoon tea. (\$1000 was indeed handed over at the AGM; a tremendous achievement. Editor)

NEW CHAIRMAN WWF-NZ

Mr R W Steele BCom, FCA was recently appointed as Chairman of Trustees of WWF-NZ. He succeeds Sir William Gilbert.

Mr Steele is also Chairman of Directors and Chief Executive of Cable Price Downer Group of Companies. A director since 1969.

Chairman of Bain Dawes (NZ) Limited, the Mount Cook Group Limited, James Cook Hotel Limited, New Zealand Casing Company Limited, Toyota New Zealand Limited.

A director of Crown Corporation Limited, NZI Corporation Limited, and Rangatira Limited.

A Trustee of the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research and a member of the Council of the National Museum.

A past president of the New Zealand Society of Accountants.

NEWS FROM D.U. (U.S.A.)

The D.U. (U.S.A.) President's report for 1984-85 reveals some interesting facts and figures about the growth and activities of Ducks Unlimited in the U.S.A. During this period just under \$50 million was raised by the 600,000 members and 3,400 committees across the U.S.A. Of the \$50 million only 2.8% was spent on administration; a massive



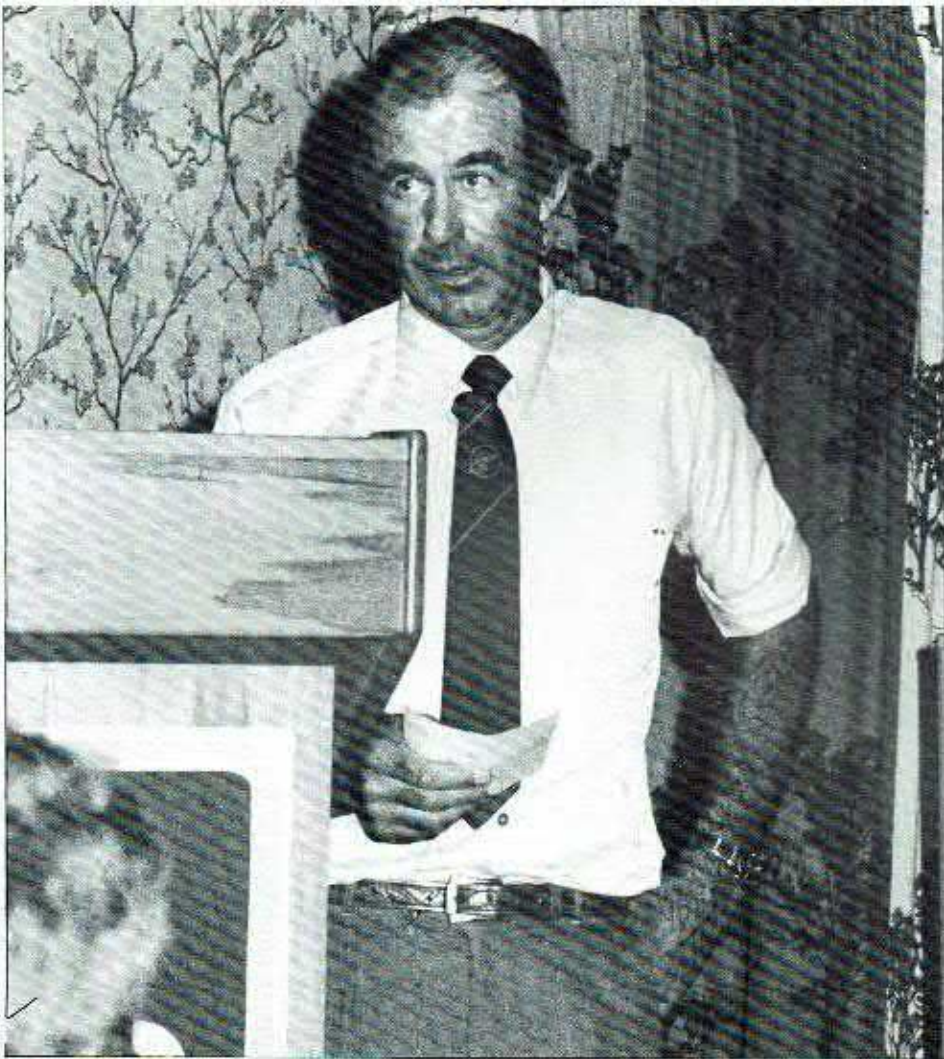
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Our new President Jim Campbell delivering a vote of thanks to outgoing President Paul Pirani. *Craig Walker*

74% was spent on conservation projects, and the remainder spent on membership services, education and field operations. Income came from the following sources; dinners 56%, 16.7% membership, 17.2% sponsorship, 2.8% from the state government, 3.2% from major sponsors and 4.1% from interest and others.

RESULTS FROM THE 2ND D.U. NATIONAL CLAY TARGET CHAMPIONSHIPS – TAUMARUNUI 12.7.85

Congratulations to the following winners, and to the organisers of D.U.'s second championships.

SKEET	H/O G. Webber "A" V. Ball "B" M. R. Dench "C" R. Hickey
SPORTING	H/O S. Weston "A" R. Young "B" J. Corbett "C" T. Ewens
SPARROWS	H/O G. Webber "A" K. Andresen "B" C. Walker "C" E. Petersen
D/RISE	H/O A. Munden "A" B. McDonald "B" J. Wilkinson "C" B. Redmayne
PTS/SCORE	H/O R. Young "A" R. Mikkelsen

S/BARREL

- "B" S. Munden
- "C" B. Redmayne
- H/O W. Becroft
- "A" D. Devcich
- "B" C. Walker
- "C" B. Redmayne
- H/O W. Becroft
- "A" G. Brears
- "B" A. Munden
- "C" E. Petersen
- "A" R. Young
- "B" A. Munden
- "C" B. Redmayne

S/RISE

HIGH GUN

NEW ZEALAND DU TEAM

- B. McDonald
- R. Mikkelsen
- W. Becroft
- G. Brears
- R. Young
- V. Ball
- N. Burrows
- C. Worth
- K. Tucker
- G. Nichol
- WINNING CHAPTER TEAM
- TAUMARUNUI (Defending Champs)
- K. Tucker
- N. Taylor
- J. Walker
- G. Brears
- J. Dempsey

In the near future the D.U. (N.Z.) team will be competing against a D.U. Canada team – in a postal competition.

ART EXHIBITION BY D.U. MEMBERS

Lower Hutt was recently privileged to be able to view works of art by three Ducks Unlimited members, when Owen Mapp, Anneke Borren, and Robyn Stewart exhibited their work at the Dowse Art Museum, from early August to early September.

Owen is a specialist bone and ivory carver; Anneke (Owen's wife) and Robyn are superb potters. All three very generously donated items of their work to this years annual auction. The exhibition proved extremely popular and was another indication of the wealth of talent amongst D.U. members.

VIDEO TAPES

VHS video tapes of the D.U./Country Calendar programme and the Hidden Places Sinclair Wetlands programme are available on loan from box 44.176, for two week periods and \$10 to cover postage and packing. We hope to also have the Horrie Sinclair/Country Calendar programme available also; at no extra cost.

DU SALES DEPT. NEW ITEMS

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Swiss Army knives engraved with D.U.'s name and logo	\$30
Bic ball point pens engraved with D.U.'s name and logo	\$6
Duck Head lapel pins	\$5
Camouflage Parker roller pens engraved with D.U.'s name and logo	\$20
Wine glasses (best crystal) with D.U.'s name and logo. Per set of 6	\$75
Beer tumblers (best quality) with D.U.'s name and logo. Per set of 6	\$75
8" Diameter magnetic D.U. logos	\$40/pr

Use DU Order Form.

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z) INCORPORATED

Held at THC Tokaanu on Saturday 13 July 1985 at 2pm

WELCOME

The President welcomed members to the conference, specifically mentioning Mr Stewart Morrison, Executive Vice President of Ducks Unlimited Canada, and his wife and son; Hon L.W. Gandar, Chairman of Queen Elizabeth II National Trust; Messrs R. T. Adams, T. Caithness and J. Cheyne of the N.Z. Wildlife Service, D.A. McCulloch of N.Z. Acclimatisation Society, former directors of Ducks Unlimited, Television New Zealand "Country Calendar" film crew and gave special thanks to Mr K. Barnett, proprietor of the THC Tokaanu for the excellent conference arrangements.

PRESENT

Were the President, (Mr P.B.C. Pirani), Vice President (Mr J. Campbell) and 140 financial members of Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Inc. Apologies were read from a list provided by the Secretary and included Sir William Gilbert, Mr & Mrs G. Barlow, Mr & Mrs Q. Phillips, Mr & Mrs Whittle, Messrs I. Jensen, M. Midgley, C. Hewson, M. Harrison, M. Ford, R. Denny, Dr P. Quinn, P. Nola, F. Bennett, D. McNeil and W. Pritt. Apologies were sustained on the motion of Messrs A. Elliott/J. Campbell. The President introduced key D.U. officers to the members and remarked that it was the eleventh conference of the group and his final as President.

MINUTES PREVIOUS CONFERENCE

On the motion of Messrs B. Coe/A.T. Flexman it was resolved that the Minutes of the Tenth Annual Conference held on Saturday, 14 July 1984 at Tokaanu, having been circulated to members in "Flight" issue September 1984, be taken as read and confirmed; there being one matter arising relating to the publication "World of Shooting".

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The President referred briefly to his annual report published in the June 1985 issue of "Flight" magazine and to the Annual Accounts therein. He remarked how the Board structure and operations of Ducks Unlimited had changed and developed in the 11 years since establishment; since the first meeting called together by Mr J. Worth to talk about the formation of D.U. in New Zealand. He commented that the early team had been very enthusiastic and that that enthusiasm continued to the present day. He said the name "Pirani", through his brother, sister in law and wife, had been linked with the organisation from the beginning and said that while there would still

be family involvement, the leadership now passed to Mr J. Campbell, the newly elected President and his Vice President, Mr M. Newcomb.

The President further commented that among D.U. members there was a strong desire to gain a seat on the Board and this was healthy. He believed the present directors comprised the most experienced and aggressive D.U. ever had. He observed wryly that in years past the President had advised fellow directors what had to be done, and usually this was carried out. Today, he commented, his fellow directors were far more questioning, there was more input, and this was an extremely healthy sign. He personally looked forward with much confidence to the next ten years and confirmed that D.U. was "here to stay". Eleven years ago D.U. had sometimes been referred to as a "bunch of avid aviculturists" — he said it now had the respect of all major government, quasi-government and private environmental groups because it "got on with the job in

hand". Ducks Unlimited had been the subject of much envy from other groups because of its high public profile — the President said he always answered that this was because D.U. didn't just talk about what it was going to do; D.U. undertook its work, did it well and was totally unified in its determination to achieve its goals.

The President called for comments on the published Annual Accounts. A member questioned the listing of Wellington Chapter funds as a liability in the Accounts. The Treasurer advised that at balance date the amount was recorded as such in the books as it related to the use of credit card facilities at a recent fundraising event and at year end all transactions had not been completed, hence it appeared as a liability but would be reversed in due course. The Secretary commented on the generosity of various publications with free advertising, stating the figure reflected in the Accounts was an understatement of the true position. There being no further questions the President moved the adoption of the Income



Stew Morrison answering questions after his fine address.

Craig Walker



Bill Wilkinson in full cry. Bill was in his element when selling the 'Best' English shotguns for \$16,400.

Craig Walker

& Expenditure Account and Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31 March 1985. Secunder was Mr J. Campbell.

AUDITORS

It was resolved that the Auditors, Messrs Deloitte Haskins & Sells be re-appointed for the 1985/86 year. (Messrs A. Elliott/C. Walker)

ELECTION — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The President conveyed his thanks to the Board of Directors for support during the year. Messrs F.S.S. Bailey, B. Coe, J. Glover and M. Timms, elected members' representatives being eligible, offered themselves for re-election. The President called for further nominations. None were received. It was resolved that the four directors be re-elected to the Board (Messrs A.J. Wilks/C. Walker.)

RULES

The President advised that a copy of the Rules of Ducks Unlimited, which had recently been amended, was available at the meeting for perusal by any financial member present.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The President stated that a signed copy of the Audited Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1985 was available at the meeting for perusal by any financial member.

REPORT ON OPERATION PATEKE

Mr F.N. Hayes outlined the year's key activities commenting that it had been

another excellent year for the project. 127 Brown Teal had been reared by members and brought the total reared in captivity to over 670. Mr R. Munro of Invercargill had made an outstanding contribution to the project, rearing an impressive 24 birds to win the "Breeder of the Year" Award — his fine effort illustrating the value of the D.U.-developed flockmating technique. He congratulated all other members who participated mentioning specifically Messrs W. Sanderson, W. Clinton-Baker, D. Brenkley, Otorohanga Zoological Society and Wellington Zoo, commenting that a full list of successful breeders would be published in "Flight".

The captive rearing successes over the past two seasons had enabled 171 Brown Teal to be released in Northland since August 1984. Follow-up operations had shown a healthy and encouraging survival rate. He expressed D.U.'s thanks to the Whangarei branch of the Wildlife Service and to local farmers who were very enthusiastic. Special thanks were given to Mr J. Campbell who had erected a Brown Teal holding aviary on his property which enabled D.U. to hold birds reared at one location.

Mr Hayes said interest in Operation Pateke remained high and the forthcoming season would see more than 30 members holding over 60 pair Brown Teal. The Brown Teal display unit was completed during the year, made possible by a grant from the Environmental Council — this had been widely used and of great value.

Brown Teal research on Great Barrier

Island was proceeding well with Mr G. Dumbell reporting extensively and regularly on his progress. Early findings indicated a very healthy Brown Teal population on the island, number just over 1,000 birds, with birds also appearing to be long-lived, Mr Dumbell having trapped birds first banded in 1976.

Mr Hayes said the research, which was financially supported by D.U., the Wildlife Service and the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, was vital to the long term survival of the species. He concluded with the comment that Operation Pateke which incorporated every facet of wildlife management had gained international as well as local recognition and was a tribute to all who had taken part with such enthusiasm and determination.

PRESENTATION OF "BROWN TEAL BREEDER OF THE YEAR" AWARD

The President presented Mr Ron Munro with the award, congratulating him on rearing 24 Brown Teal and endorsing the Project Supervisor's comments on the fine effort.

SIGNING AGREEMENT — SINCLAIR WETLANDS

The President outlined the background to D.U.'s involvement in the Sinclair wetlands and Mr H.A. Sinclair's contribution to D.U. affairs since the 1970s. He said that a long term management plan had been finalised, in conjunction with the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust and he briefly summarised this, commenting that full details had been published in the June 1985 issue of "Flight" magazine.

The President called on Mr R.T. Adams, Director, N.Z. Wildlife Service to comment on the Sinclair Wetlands. Mr Adams said he

would like to put the question of wetlands in perspective in relation to the situation some 30 years ago when he first became involved in wetland conservation. He had been shocked at the devastation in terms of waterfowl habitat which had occurred throughout most of the country in the last 20 years. He painted a grim picture of lakes which had completely changed in character, and of depleted waterfowl populations; swamps which had disappeared, and said that records indicated there was only 10% of original wetlands left in New Zealand.

Mr Adams said the last really good wetlands were located in the southern part of the South Island and without doubt the Waipori/Waiholia complex of associated wetland was the "last gem" in New Zealand and able to be retained in something like its original state. Mr Adams said the wetland which Mr Sinclair had presented to Ducks Unlimited was probably one of the finest examples of wetland left in the country and that the gift, in which the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust would assist with management, should be respected and the area around it closely watched. He warned against insidious encroachment of this and other wetland, stating that industrial development and pollution could occur "overnight" and D.U. must be constantly awake to the dangers.

The President introduced Hon. L.W. Gandar, Chairman of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust. Mr Gandar expressed his delight that Mr Sinclair had gifted the wetlands to Ducks Unlimited because he considered the Trust had basically the same objective: it wished to see the Sinclair Wetland remain intact and, where possible, its ecological and landscape qualities improved. He outlined the background to the Trust which was set up in 1978 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen and established by an Act of Parliament in 1977 to provide, enhance and protect open spaces, and he said the words "open space" took a little bit of defining. Under the Act is stated "Any area of land or body of water that serves to preserve or to facilitate the preservation of any landscape of aesthetic, cultural, recreational, scenic, scientific or social interest or value" which was a very wide mandate.

Mr Gandar described how the Trust received certain sums of money from Government grants to do its work and also received subsidies and donations; it accepted gifts of property, it could manage and develop real estate, and accept monetary gifts which were subsidised by Government. He said the Trust was limited only by its resources in what it could achieve in open space.

Mr Gandar said the Trust was delighted to offer its assistance to D.U. in the development of the Sinclair Wetlands and he described the form in which they offered help and which had been accepted — in two ways; financially, and to give D.U. the vehicle for the perpetual preservation of the wetland. He described the system of covenants used the Trust to achieve this where a covenant was registered against the

land title which bound the present and any subsequent owner to manage the area in a specified way with the Trust as permanent trustee. He said this covenant was the only security the Trust had, if it needed one, for the injection of grants by way of cash to D.U. to develop the area.

Mr Gandar indicated the Trust's areas of interest were based on a foundation idea: so much of the forests of New Zealand had disappeared and it was felt the Trust should save what was left, on private land if possible, but the Trust had gone much wider and was looking at wetland, tussock grasslands, particularly important rock formations or formations of the countryside itself which added to the beauty of the countryside. He said the Trust had entered into a number of covenants, now exceeding 500.

Mr Gandar described work undertaken before such covenants were entered into; he outlined the constitution of the Trust and the way members of the Board were appointed, and commented on membership observing at the same time that he considered D.U. members should also be members of the Trust because their objectives in the preservation of wetlands for recreation needs were no less important to the Trust than they were to them (D.U. members) — he felt their membership would be immensely valuable.

Mr Gandar commented on the management agreement and the discussion document prepared by the Trust for Ducks Unlimited which set out the possibilities for the Sinclair wetlands. He said the Trust and D.U. executives had come to agreement on the management plan and a committee had been formed, an organisational body comprising an equal number of representatives from the Trust and Ducks Unlimited. The Trust had agreed to meet expenditure involved in this management and development on a 50/50 basis with Ducks Unlimited so its contribution would be quite considerable. Mr Gandar said he represented a large number of wellwishers who indirectly were delighted with the final settlement of this wetland and the financing of it.

The President thanked Mr Gandar for his comments and for the contribution the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust would be making to the development and management of the Sinclair Wetland. He then called on Mr Sinclair to address the meeting.

Mr Sinclair spoke briefly, commenting that it was a proud day for him; he was delighted to be signing the agreement and he thanked everyone involved for making the gift possible.

Questions followed concerning project costs and plans and drawings were presented to the meeting and commented upon. Long term plans were outlined relating to provision for educational facilities and display areas for birds along the lines of the Slimbridge facilities in the United Kingdom.

The President briefly outlined how it was intended to raise the D.U. share of funding — by a system of pledges by which members and friends could pledge funds to the project. He said further details of this fundrais-

ing will be published shortly.

The President, Hon. L.W. Gandar and Mr H.A. Sinclair then signed the formal agreement. Television New Zealand's "Country Calander" film crew were present and recorded the signing for a further television programme on the Sinclair Wetlands.

PRESENTATION: BILL BARRETT TROPHY

Mr J. Campbell referred to the contribution made by Mrs Cheryl Pirani since Ducks Unlimited's establishment; as a general and membership secretary, director, producer of "Flight" magazine and conference organiser over the years. He said the organisation was indebted to her for her efforts and enthusiasm, and presented the Bill Barrett Trophy to her for 1985.

GUEST SPEAKER: MR D.S. MORRISON

The President introduced Mr D. Stewart Morrison, Executive Vice President of Ducks Unlimited, Canada to the meeting; he outlined Mr Morrison's background from 1970 when he was appointed General Manager to the present day, noting his appointment as Executive Vice President in 1977. Mr Morrison was a commerce graduate, with experience in hunting and waterfowl resources and he had brought DU Canada through difficult days and rapid expansion said the President.

Mr Morrison said it was pleasing to renew acquaintances with those from the New Zealand organisation he had met in the past and to make new friends. He mentioned the role D.U. Canada played in assisting former director of D.U. New Zealand, Mr Dudley Bell to gain experience with their organisation; he commented on his association with Mr R.T. Adams, and followed this with a stimulating address and slide presentation:

"As Executive Vice President of Ducks Unlimited Canada — an organisation that exists to make sure ducks thrive in North America — it is my pleasure to talk to you about water fowl on my continent and share with you some of the things we have done in Canada to keep the birds flying.

As you well know, North America encompasses a wide range of climatic zones since it stretches from the Arctic Circle in the north to latitude 15 degrees north at the extreme south end of Mexico.

Obviously then, the continent's climate ranges from Arctic where summer is counted in days, through temperate and subtropical to tropical. Add to this some massive water and wetland systems such as the swampy Mississippi Delta, the Great Lakes, nearly 50,000 miles of coastal habitat, and large northern lakes, rivers and marshes and you have the ingredients for the existence of a wide variety of waterfowl number well over 100 million birds that can move for thousands of miles to different habitat conditions, each suited to a particular phase of the birds' life patterns.

If only the nomads of this world had the same mobility and choice of environment,



Ron Munro of Invercargill receiving the Brown Teal Breeders Award. 'Country Calendar' cameraman Andy Coleman looking on.

Garry Girvan

man, like the North American ducks and geese, never would have settled down. So, in North America, we see twice each year a mass movement of birds from wintering grounds in the south to temperate zone and sub-Arctic breeding grounds in the north and back again in the autumn. The near-80-million ducks, of 36 species; six and a half million geese of seven species and 150,000 swans of two species don't exactly blot out the sun during these migratory periods, but they do provide some pretty spectacular sights as they fly in flocks overhead, or congregate on the ground to feed or exchange information while on route.

As you know, these birds tend to fly the same routes back and forth with their travel choice dependent on where they find preferred nesting habitat and suitable wintering habitat. The routes are also determined by geographical features such as the Rocky Mountains barrier that squeezes certain populations along the Pacific Ocean; the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers that provide resting and feeding areas in mid-continent, and the Appalachian Mountain chain in the east that influences the habitat along the Atlantic Coast.

Partly for management purposes and in reflection of the locations of migratory routes, North America has been divided into four zones called Flyways. The Flyways are the

Pacific, Central, Mississippi and Atlantic. The Pacific Flyway is used mainly by Pintail, Mallard and Wigeon ducks and geese that spend summers in Alaska and the Western Arctic and winters in the pleasant climates of the States of Washington and Oregon and farther south along the Pacific Coast to the southern end of Mexico.

The Central and Mississippi Flyways are the routes to wintering areas in the southern United States, the coast of the Gulf of Mexico and in northern South America. The Mallard is the most important species in the Central and Mississippi Flyways.

The Atlantic Flyway is characterised by the Black Ducks but also carries many Ring-necked ducks as well as Common Goldeneye and geese such as Greater Snow Geese.

This mass movement of birds is, as mentioned, dictated by the quality of habitat at each end of the run — but most particularly by the breeding habitat. While breeding ducks may be found throughout the temperate and sub-Arctic zones they tend to concentrate in certain large areas.

Dominant among the breeding grounds are the Western "Prairie" provinces of Canada and the four "Plains" states in the U.S.A. — North and South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota. Recent surveys show that about 55 per cent of the waterfowl breeding

population is located in this region. Here we find some very special features — such as the so-called Potholes of the Prairies — small water filled depressions by the hundreds of thousands, some of which dry up over the summer, but many of which hold about one metre or less of water during the entire summer season.

Just to the north of the dry Prairie belt are the rolling Parklands characterised by more trees, rolling hills, and larger and somewhat deeper depressions — also numbering in the hundreds and thousands. These potholes and small lakes are rich in nutrients, warm up quickly in the spring and are a good source of plant and animal life that please the palates of Mallards and Pintails.

North, a further step from the Parklands, are some massive river deltas offering thousands of square miles of marsh where water levels vary with the level of spring runoff on the river. There is a Ducks Unlimited project on the Summerberry Marsh and the 350,000 acre Cumberland Marsh, both on the Saskatchewan River Delta — a river that starts in the Rocky Mountains and cuts across the Prairies and Parkland for 1,200 miles.

Almost 30 per cent of the waterfowl nest in Alaska, on Canada's Mackenzie River Delta and the Yukon Territory. In the mountainous province of British Columbia about 1 per cent of the continent's ducks nest mainly in river marshes, mountain valleys and inter-mountain plateaus. In Eastern Canada

small ponds along short, but water filled streams provide the best habitat. Wood ducks and Black ducks are common in this kind of countryside but Mallards are moving into the region in greater numbers to repopulate areas where man's developments have scared off the shy duck species. Toronto is the most populous in Canada in human terms, but in terms of waterfowl only 9 to 10 per cent of the breeding pairs set up nests here. Canada's Maritime provinces offer mainly small ponds whose main contribution to the overall waterfowl population is Black ducks.

The timing of the mass movement of flocks up and down the migratory routes is obviously influenced by the weather variations from year to year — north in the spring, when the snow leaves the northern breeding grounds in the spring and the ice leaves the lakes and marshes — and south in the fall (autumn) again when the storms and cold of an approaching winter, in combination with the shortening days, makes loitering a risky business.

As a general rule, migration to the nesting grounds begins in March and continues into April and May. Mallards are early if they can arrange it, while Ruddy ducks are late arrivals. Mallard broods are common sights on the Prairies in early June. After a July/August period of moulting and growing-up, adults and young become restless to move back south in late September and October. This is often a time to see North America's waterfowl in spectacular numbers as they concentrate in staging areas across Canada. Geese, of course, attract the most attention at this time and people travel for miles to watch in wonderment at tens of thousands of Snow geese along the St Lawrence. Actual migration may take several weeks as the birds move deliberately toward the warmer wintering marshes. By November there are few fliers left on the routes, except for the odd straggler.

Survival of North America's waterfowl population is dependent more on man's behaviour than the adaptability of the various duck and goose species. We all know that most men give short shift to the needs of nature's creatures as economic expansion is given foremost importance. Wetland habitat is being lost in North America at a rate of 4-500,000 acres a year, including uplands around ponds as man drains marshes for farm expansion, or for creating house subdivisions or industrial parks. Hydro-electric dams flood out vast areas of deltaic marshes or river marshes in some of the prime northern breeding areas. Farmers clear and burn upland nesting cover that both Mallards and Pintails depend upon.

At least half of the potholes available to ducks at the turn of the century have now disappeared. In some districts the loss is over 90 per cent.

Prairie farmers adopted summerfallowing, a land management practice of keeping fields completely clear of crops and vegetation as a means of practicing moisture control. They have been losing soil and water in



D.U. Sales Section had a great weekend. Craig Walker

the process, but the practice has become near-traditional activity. Use of wide tillage machinery pulled by 300 HP four wheel drive tractors has hastened the loss of wetlands. Farmers drain the potholes rather than try to manoeuvre the equipment around them. Recent droughts in Western Canada have dried up many potholes and given farmers the chance to finish them off for good during the four years of drought.

Nesting pair number dropped by nearly 50 per cent in the harder hit drought zones by 35-40 per cent overall across the Prairies. As less upland areas and marshes have been available to the nesting females, there has been a tendency to concentrate nests in smaller and smaller areas. They then become more vulnerable to predators such as skunks, raccoon, and fox.

It was in circumstances somewhat like these — maybe even not quite so bad — the Ducks Unlimited was formed in both the United States and Canada. In 1937 and 1938 sportsmen who clearly saw that waterfowl here were in danger of being drastically reduced put their brains and dollars together and organised Ducks Unlimited Inc., and Ducks Unlimited Canada. The task was to restore the right mix of wetland conditions to protect nesting ducks to give them a chance to establish nests and to give the broods a chance to grow.

Our money was collected, and is still collected, from conservationists — most of them sportsmen — and from private firms. They invest in engineering works that will ensure water and nutrients in virtually restored or recreated marshes. That was almost 50 years ago — 50 years of building water control structures, dikes, water carrying channels and opening up plant clogged marshes.

In drought-prone areas of the Prairies we have improved water storage streams to produce marshes that serve double duty as flood control and irrigation projects for cattle and crops. We have organised a widespread education campaign to show farmers how they can protect upland nesting cover, yet improve their incomes through better water and soil management. We promote this under the "Health of the Land" slogan. In ranching country we have placed large scale demonstrations on grassland to promote pasture rotation — a practice quite new to Canadian farmers in Western Canada. This provides us with better nesting cover.

Predator control is an important consideration in waterfowl management. In Canada, Ducks Unlimited tackles the

predator problem on wetlands by building nesting islands in our projects. Ducks Unlimited has spent \$216 million to date to build projects mainly in Canada and to educate persons about wetlands. In 48 years we've developed nearly 2 million acres of wetlands in places like southern Ontario, the Bay of Fundy in Eastern Canada, estuaries near the Pacific Ocean in British Columbia. In the St. Lawrence River valley in Quebec, a traveller will encounter several Ducks Unlimited works and the visitor to some northern communities in Western Canada will be stunned at the scope of our \$5 million 350,000 acre project — one of several on the deltaic marshes.

Ducks Unlimited Canada acquired several allies from the outset so that it might gain access to wetlands without draining away its funds through land purchase. Farmer-landowners have given us access to their lands. We do not buy wetlands, while Governments have reserved Crown lands and sometimes shared resources to get major projects built. Ducks Unlimited Canada has special agreements with all Provincial Governments, plus the Government of the Yukon Territory, to invest funds over a stated period of years for waterfowl habitat conservation. These agreements have several names such as "Wetlands for Wildlife" in British Columbia, "Wetlands for Tomorrow" in Alberta and "Heritage Marsh Program" in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Others are simply known as 5 or 10 year agreements. In many instances, these have included other conservation groups such as naturalists.

Along with the 2 million acres of wetlands developed, our co-operative efforts have resulted in over 3.5 million acres of land reserved for wetland conservation. There were 2,631 active projects at the end of 1984.

Our funds are raised mainly through banquets and after-dinner auctions with items of interest to the sportsmen such as waterfowl paintings, decorative decoys, guns and assorted collectibles. Last year in Canada we worked with 157 volunteer committees, including ladies' committees, that each organised a banquet auction and often other events as well. Over 42,000 Canadians contributed \$2.8 million last year. That's a very good performance when one thinks that only five years ago fewer than 7,000 Canadians made contributions.

Up to 1979, Ducks Unlimited Canada was considered the builder of wetlands works

and its U.S.A. twin, Ducks Unlimited Inc., was the financier. In 1985 there were over 4,000 U.S.A. committees. Contributions from U.S citizens totalled US\$45.8 million.

Over the life of Ducks Unlimited Inc. over \$250 million has been obtained and sent to Canada and Mexico for project building. We also obtain funds from sponsors, organisations and private firms that provide large grants for specific projects. Often these contributions are acknowledge at special ceremonies at specific sites.

Ducks Unlimited Canada carries out a broadly-based public communications program aimed at gaining the essential landowner, government and general citizen understanding of the importance of wetlands and waterfowl to the environment and to man's continued harmony with his surroundings.

We publish a quarterly magazine called "Conservator" that is circulated to over 50,000 contributors, landowners, local government officials and to press outlets. Our aim is to describe D.U. projects and generally show wetlands in all their scope and diversity. We also prepare and distribute several publications and advertise on television, display at sportsmen events and wildlife exhibits, handle media relations and produce films. We intend to reach schools, service clubs, legislators, land developers and naturalists in a new "Wetlands Values" programme now nicely under way. We do have a big story to tell about wetlands and their importance to all of us . . . if we would just think about it. . .

In Canada, wetlands in the forested areas are the source of a much-prized cereal crop — wild rice. Harvesting and packaging wild rice is an industry carried out mainly by our Indian people. Today it's a business. Yesterday wild rice gathering was an exercise in survival.

Hunting is a multi million dollar undertaking that generates the enthusiasm of hundreds and thousands of persons. Waterfowl hunting is by far the most popular form of this recreation.

Moose and large game hunting attract fewer persons, but remains a seasonal ritual.

Wetlands are a valuable incubator for several species of fish, such as Walleye which, of course, leads us to the value of the permanent wetlands that border our lakes and streams as the genesis of recreational fishing — a diversion that attracts about one in six Canadians. Furbearers such as the Muskrat make wetlands their permanent home and provide the basis for the trapping industry of particular importance to our Indian citizens living in the more northern regions. Trapping remains an essential exercise for this people as a source of income.

Wetlands appeal to us all in very special ways — as artists, photographers, birdwatchers or simply travellers. Can you imagine how aesthetically dull our landscape would be without the welcome breaks offered by wetlands?

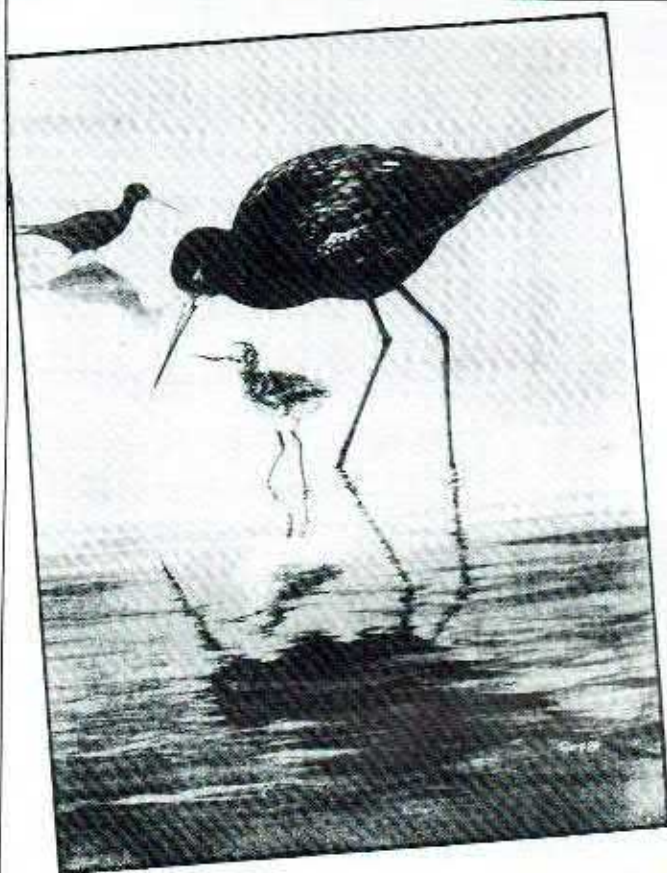
DU Canada's \$39,315,000 budget for 1985 reflects the planned increase in activities that is now characteristic of this dynamic organisation. Included is \$3.7 million from

Canada. On the income side, \$35.3 million is from Ducks Unlimited Inc., \$3.7 million from Canadian contributors, \$200,000 from miscellaneous revenues and \$110,000 from under-expenditures in our 1983 program. On the expenditures side of the ledger, we'll commit \$31.3 million in habitat development, \$3.9 million in operation and maintenance of habitat areas, \$293,000 for population surveys, \$2.9 million in contributor services and public communications and \$939,000 for planning and control.

North Americans continue to be schizophrenic about their waterfowl resource, showing strong attachment to waterfowl on the one hand and persisting in blind destruction of habitat on the other. But some significant moves forward in managing the resource over the entire continent are being made with the development of a North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Under this Plan governments and organisations such as ours will ally together in not only regulating the harvesting of waterfowl but jointly setting standards for maintaining habitat wherever the birds land in their timeless migration routine.

In Canada private organisations and government have perhaps shown the way of the larger continental collaboration by forming "Wildlife Habitat Canada". Wetland preservation is a major concern of this agency, but it also supports protection of habitat areas for other wildlife; I am currently the first Chairman of this Committee.

Our continent is greatly enriched with the variety of wetland creatures — particularly



The Black Stilt

Limited Edition Art Prints
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.

Help us save this bird from certain extinction by sending \$25 for a copy of this superb and appealing print, each individually numbered and signed by the incomparable wildlife artist, Piers Hayman. Only 2000 prints were personally selected by the artist and the printing plates have been destroyed. By ordering your print today, you will be making a valuable personal contribution towards the future welfare of this critically endangered bird.



NEW ZEALAND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Department of Internal Affairs
Private Bag, Wellington

Conservators of your wildlife heritage

waterfowl — that add a special beauty and vibrancy to our natural heritage. Not one of us can be left unstirred by the sight of ducks and geese during migration as they cut across the sky heralding the advent of spring or the return of winter. The Canada goose attracts special respect wherever it is sighted, while the presence of a duck brood on a pond is treasured because it renews in us kinship with the wildlife family. No wonder Ducks Unlimited has been so singularly successful in attracting support of its cause.

Still, wetlands remain threatened and we will not be able to slacken our pace if we're going to keep them flying.

Finally, I don't want you to take all this information out of context. You have to look at this information and judge it in terms of your own situation — what is best for New Zealand. I'm sure that while there are differences between our countries and our economies, these should not inhibit you. You should think big and set yourselves big objectives.

Habitat is the issue — and we are very pleased to see the progress you are making here. D.U.'s progress, ten years on, on the same basis, probably would not be much different to your own results in New Zealand. Horrie Sinclair has emphasised that you must have habitat. *Habitat is the key!* It is certainly the key to our success in North America. Your projects in themselves the very best P.R. that you will ever get at a local level; P.R. spread by word-of-mouth in a positive way.

When the time came for us to get into fundraising in Canada we had, and are having, massive success. Again, from dollars raised virtually on a voluntary basis, our projects are what sold us and helped to raise the money.

Co-operation with others is another key factor to success. As you are doing with the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, we recommend very strongly cooperation with other conservation groups, some of whom you may not get along with all that well but with whom you have a common objective concerning the saving of habitat.

One other thing I would like to emphasise is the importance of committees in fundraising — how important committees are in every town and in other communities apart from your own — all with an interest in wildlife and its habitat. I would challenge you to think big — think of the biggest figure that you have in mind — and double or triple it — and make this your goal. Even the smallest town can raise a thousand dollars!

We must foster, too, international co-operation of like minds. We really appreciate what you in New Zealand are doing for water fowl and we value highly our association with you, and also with D.U. Mexico. I would be delighted if we could spread this D.U. philosophy around the world, particularly to those people who are against the utilisation of resources — and the more countries we can have with the philosophy of preservation of wildlife habitat and utilisation of wildlife, the better they will be. If there is any way you

can encourage this in other countries, for example Australia, we would be delighted and I know Ducks Unlimited Inc has been happy it could influence matters in Europe and elsewhere."

Mr Morrison then answered questions concerning ownership of developing wetlands in Canada, publishing wetland values, hunting licence systems in Canada, he commented on hunting as an under-priced privilege, the extent of privately and government-owned wetlands.

Mr Morrison concluded that he had witnessed history with the signing of the Sinclair wetland agreement and said he would like to kick-off the fundraising with a donation on behalf of himself and his family. He said he had seen many wetlands but that, on a world scale, the Sinclair property ranked among the finest. The President thanked Mr Morrison for his stimulating address; for the generous donation of gifts for the auction and for his contribution toward the Sinclair wetland project — the audience showed their appreciation.

REPORT ON OPERATION WETLANDS

Mr Coe reported on D.U.'s activities in operation 'Wetlands', commenting on the creation of close to 20 acres of superb waterfowl habitat on the property of Mark Pearce — on the eastern edge of Lake Wairarapa. This being D.U.'s largest wetlands work to date. Mr Coe also reported on D.U.'s efforts to restore 60 acres of prime waterfowl habitat at Home Lagoon, close to Lake Wairarapa, and was confident that this would be successful. He also commented on D.U.'s financial assistance towards the creation of a 7 acre lagoon at Eketahuna and it was expected that operation 'Wetlands' would rapidly become D.U.'s major project.

REPORT ON OPERATION GRETEL

Mr J. Campbell reported that the breeding season had produced excellent results and there had been very encouraging use of nest boxes at Barton's and Pike's lagoons. On a positive note, he remarked that each season in the Wairarapa produced another productive area and mentioned specifically the Pearce wetlands, the Home lagoon, Pike's Lagoon and the Carter property at Shannon.

Mr Campbell said the Hamilton Chapter had large numbers of cheese boxes for nestbox conversion and he was hoping to transport some of them south. He noted with concern the increasing cost of posts for nestbox placement.

Mr Campbell concluded his remarks with an optimistic view of future progress and answered questions relating to the project.

REPORT ON OPERATION WHIO

Mr John Cheyne said it had been decided the previous year to increase the Blue Duck programme and Mt Bruce was endeavouring to increase the number of captive-reared birds to the point where there would be sufficient to distribute to other D.U. breeders. Currently there were 26 Blue Duck at Mt Bruce, eight of those were bred at Mt Bruce

and eight recovered from rivers in the region from three different clutches. Of these 25 birds, there was one traditional breeding pair and another three potential breeding pairs this year and it was hoped more would be bred. The possibility of capturing further juvenile birds from the wild was also being considered. Mr Cheyne said the Wildlife Service Director had given the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge an undertaking to provide them with two pairs but this would depend on availability and a decision would be left until after the coming breeding season, when final numbers were more certain. Mr Cheyne also gave details of a seminar on Blue Duck to be held at Mt Bruce later in the year and said this would be publicised by Ducks Unlimited.

REPORT ON OPERATION BRANTA

Mr Neil Hayes said that D.U.'s project to establish the mighty Canada goose in the North Island had once again experienced a good year. Large numbers of geese were reared in the North Island, and the transfer of small shipments from the South Island continued; 42 pinioned geese being shipped from Christchurch during March 1985. Mr Hayes expressed special thanks to Messrs Jim Campbell, Peter McLeod, and Lawrence Piper at the North Canterbury Acclimatisation Society farm for their assistance with inter-island transfers, and to Wellington Zoo who again transferred geese to D.U. members in the North Island. Mr Hayes expressed his confident opinion that the Canada goose was now permanently resident in the North Island.

EDITORIAL REPORT

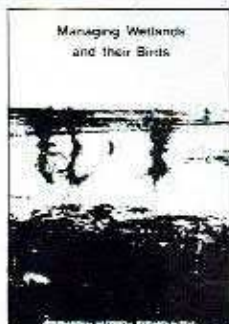
Mr Neil Hayes gave details of magazine production during the year and conveyed special thanks to the advertisers who had been generous and encouraging with their support of the publication — special mention was made of Winchester N.Z. Limited and the N.Z. Wildlife Service, as advertisers, and Mr Brendan Coe and his staff for their very significant contribution to the superior production quality of the magazine. He also thanked D.U. directors for their assistance with articles and photography.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The Secretary advised recent changes had been made to D.U.'s constitution and these had been submitted to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies for approval, which had been granted; he commented that the changes made had not affected D.U.'s status as a registered charitable organisation for taxation purposes.

There being no further business, the President thanked all present for participating in the conference, specially acknowledging Hon. L.W. Gandar, Mr H.A. Sinclair for their role in what was an historic occasion for the organisation; and Mr D.S. Morrison of Canada; he expressed his confidence in the new leadership, stating he was certain Ducks Unlimited would "go from strength to strength"; and he declared the annual conference closed at 4.50 pm. ■

D.U SALES DEPT



Managing Wetlands and their Birds
 Now 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. 388 pages. Price \$21.50.



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.



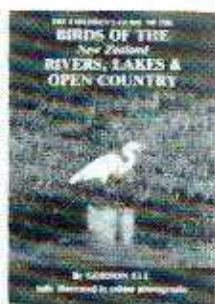
A Coloured Key to the Waterfowl of the World by Sir Peter Scott. 98 pages with coloured plates and notes detailing the status of the waterfowl of the world. Price \$10.00.



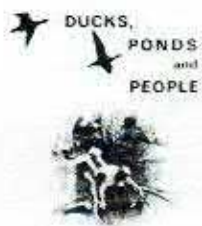
New from DU sales division. A greetings card showing our rare Brown Teal in pen and ink by Wellington artist Pamela Matthews. There are ten cards and envelopes per pack. Four cards are in a plain finish, three in a silver finish and three in a bronze finish. Very high quality and only \$5 per pack incl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



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 90 birds to over 2,500. Price \$22.50.



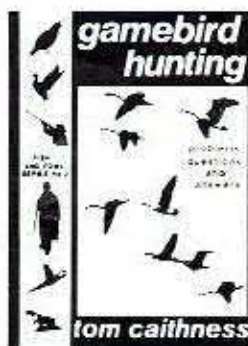
The Children's Guide to the Birds of the New Zealand Rivers, Lakes and Open Country. New from DU sales division is this delightful booklet written by DU member Gordon Ell. This 32 page booklet provides details about birds most likely to be seen on our rivers, lakes and open country and contains 27 superb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



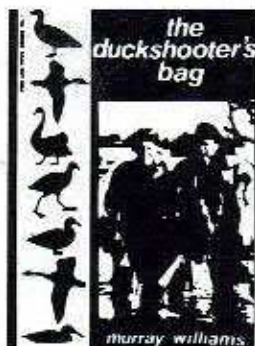
Ducks, Ponds & People by John Swift of B.A.S.C. 112 pages provide a guide to the management of small lakes and ponds for waterfowl. (DU's best selling book.) Price \$10.00.



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



Gamebird Hunting by Tom Caithness. 96 pages covering problems, questions and answers on gamebird hunting in N.Z. Price \$7.00 incl p&p.



Duck Shooters Bag by Murray Williams. 120 pages covering facts, figures and wildlife management of waterfowl in N.Z. Price \$7.00 incl p&p.

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DU Jersey	\$59.00
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Shoulder Patches	\$8.50
Swiss Army Knife	\$30.00
Camo Pen (Parker)	\$20.00
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