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New Zealand's rare waterfowl.



ROYAL SWAN' PROJECT IN PROGRESS



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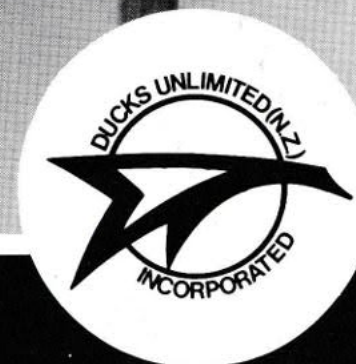
MORE THAN A NAME. A LEGEND.

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Flight

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DUCKS UNLIMITED'S
QUARTERLY
WATERFOWL JOURNAL



DUCKS UNLIMITED (N.Z) INC., — FOR WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS — PO BOX 44-176 LOWER HUTT, NEW ZEALAND

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COVER PICTURE:

ROYAL SWAN PROJECT UNDERWAY

Photography:

Neil Hayes, Craig Walker

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 2000 devoted members and friends concerned with waterfowl conservation. DU memberships being at \$5.50 pa for Junior to \$16.50 for full membership with provision for trade and life members. Membership of Ducks Unlimited carries with it subscription to this publication. To assure prompt delivery, members who move are urged to forward their new address along with current membership details to national headquarters. Letters and contributed manuscripts and photographs should be addressed to the "Flight" Editor. Views expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily constitute those of Ducks Unlimited (NZ) Incorporated.

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THC WAIRAKEI - 12TH DUCKS UNLIMITED ANNUAL MEETING — 12TH JULY 1986

After four magnificent annual meetings at the TCH Tokaanu, Ducks Unlimited moves to new ground at THC Wairakei for this year's annual meeting. THC Wairakei offers excellent accommodation and facilities, and the increased capacity will mean we can accommodate all under one roof.

Booking the whole of THC Wairakei is a bold move by D.U. Directors, but they are confident of great support by members and a record turn out.

Some magnificent auction items have been assembled; including wildlife and waterfowl paintings, carved wooden decoys, sporting equipment, live waterfowl, books, and numerous waterfowl related items. But if you have an item, or items, you would like to donate to the auction please bring them along. Items will be accepted on the day.

Last year we saw an incredible \$47,000 raised at the annual meeting. Can this figure be beaten this year?

This year's registration fee will be \$30 per head, which will cover the excellent menu prepared by THC Wairakei for the annual dinner. If you have not yet booked in please phone Diane Pritt on Ohakune 58-016 and let her know your requirements.

Phillip Woollaston, Under Secretary for the Environment, has generously agreed to attend the annual meeting and to provide us with a run-down on the new Department of Conservation, as well as to present the Bill Barrett trophy and our Brown Teal Breeder of the Year award. Horrie Sinclair will be with us again and will, as always, be pleased to discuss the Sinclair Wetlands with members. (He may even show us his MBE medal!)

The guest speaker this year will be brown teal researcher Grant Dumbell. Grant is in his second year of research and has already amassed a mountain of valuable data about brown teal on Great Barrier Island. His address promises to contain a wealth of information and is not to be missed.

For the fourth year running Winchester NZ Ltd have generously agreed to stage a display of Winchester sporting guns and equipment on the Sunday morning.

The full programme for the weekend is as follows:

FRIDAY 11th JULY

9.00 am The 3rd D.U. International Clay Target Championship at the Taupo Gun Club. Entries close with Gavin Brears, P.O. Box 124, Taumarunui, on 30th June. (Full details were shown in the March Flight)

SATURDAY 12th JULY

1. 1.30 pm Registration — \$30/head
2. 2.00 pm Welcome and apologies
3. 2.05 pm Minutes of the 1985 Annual Meeting (Published in the September 1985 edition of Flight) and Matters Arising from the Minutes
4. 2.15 pm Presidents Report and presentation of the Financial Statement for 1985-86
5. 2.25 pm Appointment of Auditors for 1986-87
6. 2.30 pm Election of four (4) Directors from the floor of the meeting
7. 2.40 pm Report on Operation Pateke (Neil Hayes)
8. 2.50 pm Report on Operation Wetlands (Brendan Coe)
9. 3.00 pm Sinclair Wetlands Managers Report (Horrie Sinclair)
10. 3.10 pm Guest Speaker: Mr G. Dumbell will address the meeting on the topic 'Brown Teal on Great Barrier Island'
11. 4.00 pm Break for refreshments (President's Shout)
12. 4.15 pm Report on Operation 'Gretef' (Allan Elliott)
13. 4.20 pm Report on Operation Whio (Ian Bryant)
14. 4.25 pm Report on Operation Branta (Neil Hayes)
15. 4.30 pm Report on Operation Royal Swan (Jim Glover)
16. 4.35 pm Editorial Report (Neil Hayes)
17. 4.40 pm Guest Speaker: Mr Phillip Woollaston, Under Secretary for Conservation and the Environment, will provide the meeting with an insight in to the organisation of the new Department of Conservation
18. 5.00 pm Presentation of the 'Breeder of the Year Award' Presentation by Mr P. Woollaston
19. 5.05 pm Presentation of the Bill Barrett trophy. Presentation by Mr Woollaston to the member who D.U. Directors feel has done most to promote the D.U. (N.Z.) image
20. 5.15 pm General Business
21. 5.30 pm Refreshments
22. 7.00 pm Annual Dinner
23. 8.15 pm Annual Auction
24. 9.30 pm Refreshments

SUNDAY 13th JULY

9.30 am Coffee and biscuits
Display of Winchester N.Z. products
Purchase of D.U. Sales items
2-3 hours of socialising

CREDIT CARD FACILITIES WILL AGAIN
BE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND



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D.U. NEWS

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

DU Directors are pleased to announce the award of two new Honorary memberships.

Ralph Adams, Wildlife Service Director, has accepted DU Honorary membership — awarded in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the preservation of New Zealand's wetlands and waterfowl.

Adrienne Longuet, a TV Director with the BCNZ, has also accepted DU Honorary membership — awarded in recognition of her great work in creating public concern for the future of our waterfowl and wetlands.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A subscription renewal notice was posted to all members during April. This year's subs includes GST at a half year rate. As usual the initial response to renewals has been tremendous, but if you haven't yet renewed please do so as soon as possible, and don't forget that all contributions to Ducks Unlimited are tax deductible under the Donations to Charitable Organisations' part of your IR3 or IR5.

WILDLIFE SERVICE GRANT TO DU

As mentioned in the Stop Press' column of the last issue of Flight' the NZ Wildlife Service has generously awarded Ducks Unlimited a grant of \$5000 to assist DU with its habitat creation, restoration and protection programme. Our sincere thanks to the Wildlife Service for this outstanding contribution.

OTAGO ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY GRANT TO DU

Ducks Unlimited is also delighted to record that a grant of \$3000 has been received from the Otago Acclimatisation Society toward the public education facilities which are to be incorporated in the Sinclair Wetlands building complex. Our sincere thanks to the Society for their generosity and encouragement.

EXPORT OF BLUE DUCKS

UK Churchill Fellow Rod Hall arrived in New Zealand in late April to take two pairs of Blue ducks to the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge. DU assisted the export by supplying the export crate and looking after Rod during his eight days in NZ.

Approval for the export was given by Wildlife Service Director Ralph Adams, who visited Slimbridge last year.

In a two-way arrangement Ian Bryant from the National Wildlife Centre, and Wildlife Service representative on the DU Board of Directors, flew to the UK in mid May, courtesy of British Airways, for a five week study at Slimbridge and other Wildfowl Trust centres. After 30 days in quarantine the Blue ducks were transferred to Arundel in Sussex, where the Wildfowl Trust has constructed a special aviary at its grounds which are close to Arundel Castle.

No doubt Ian will have lots to report on his return.

Rod Hall is a British Airways ground engineer who spends all his leave and spare time working for the Wildfowl Trust. British Airways' new slogan is Assisting Nature Conservation and conservation around the world is

now benefiting from British Airways support.

Our own airline is also doing its part for conservation and Air New Zealand arranged the air transport for the Blue ducks and they arrived in the United Kingdom in excellent condition.

MORE BIRDS FROM WELLINGTON ZOO

For a number of years DU has had a close association with the Wellington Zoo and each year waterfowl surplus to zoo requirements have been passed to DU members — through DU. This year DU was fortunate to gain 13 Canada geese, five Black Swans and one Paradise Shelduck male. In return our good keen man in the deep south, Ron Munro of Invercargill, was able to supply the zoo with three pairs of NZ Shovelers.

Since thanks to zoo director Kerry Muller and to Ron Munro for their generous support.

CHAPTERS Wellington

In late March the Wellington Chapter held its second annual dinner and auction at the Shaw Savill Lodge, Kilbirnie.

Some 70 people attended and experienced a great evening, which saw well over \$4000 being raised for DU's waterfowl habitat projects.

Eketahuna

The Eketahuna Chapter held a DU simulated field shoot in late March and over 50 DU members attended.

Some very sporting birds were presented: quail, pheasant, rabbits, partridge, high and low ducks, totalling 40 birds in all.

DU Director Mark Timms and DU Member R. Walsey showed how to do it in the first round and both achieved 30 out of 40 to win the A Grade section. B Grade was won by DU Director Allan Elliott and C Grade by J. Willems.

Around \$700 was raised at the shoot — specifically for DU waterfowl habitat projects — another great achievement for a town with a population of only 600.

Auckland

Auckland Chapter held its second annual dinner and auction in late April and this was well attended. Close to \$3000 was raised — an increase of 300% on the inaugural function.

NATIONAL RAFFLE

A permit for DU to run a national raffle has been received by the Department of Internal Affairs and tickets are currently being prepared. All DU members will be invited to purchase tickets, which are \$2 each or a book of six for \$10. All proceeds from the raffle will go directly in to DU waterfowl habitat work. Prizes are as follows:

1. Solid bronze NZ Shoveler by artist Carol Druce (value \$1600)
2. Waterfowl painting of a pair of Brown Teal with six ducklings by artist Isabel McBeath (value \$1000)
3. Pair of Carl Zeiss Jena 7 x 50 binoculars (value \$450)

Please do your best to support this new DU venture and ensure that all your friends purchase tickets also.

Mark Newcomb, PO Box 1834, Auckland,

is the raffle organiser and additional books of tickets can be obtained from Mark.

SINCLAIR WETLANDS BUILDING COMPLEX

Working drawings and specifications for the Sinclair Wetlands building complex (sketch was shown in the March Flight) have been completed and building permission is now being sought from the Government and the Bruce County Council. Quotations and offers of materials are also being sought and hopes are that building will commence in the early spring.

In the meantime, fund raising is still in progress and many commercial organisations are being approached.

EMINENT ORNITHOLOGIST HONOURED

DU member and distinguished Dunedin ornithologist Dr Kaj Westerskov has an appointment in London on April 12, where he will be formally admitted to an ancient association of naturalists, the Linnean Society.

Dr Westerskov takes up his fellowship in the footsteps of a number of famous men who had close links with New Zealand.

They include Sir Joseph Banks, one of the initial honorary members of the society, and other fellows, Sir James Clark Ross, explorer and sea captain, his botanist, Sir Joseph Hooker and ornithologist Sir Walter Buller.

The most famous FLS of all was Charles Darwin.

Dr Westerskov was born in Denmark, so he also has a Scandinavian link.

The society, founded in 1782, was originally called the Society for Natural History, but changed its name after the death of Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus.

After his installation at the society's base in London, Burlington House, Dr Westerskov will go on to Denmark, from where he will lecture extensively to universities and societies — throughout Europe.

A well travelled authority on the partridge and the pheasant, Dr Westerskov is internationally noted for his writing and teaching about wildlife and ecology and management.

Foreign distinctions have in no way changed Dr Westerskov's attitude to New Zealand, his adopted country.

His enthusiasm is obvious in his work for the Forest and Bird Society and some of his books, such as *Birds of Campbell Island* and *Know Your New Zealand Birds*.

One of his daughters is called Tui. She is the wife of a Dunedin doctor and will accompany her father to Britain and Denmark.

(Courtesy Otago Daily Times)

CHANGES FOR DU OFFICIALS

New appointments in DU official positions, effective from the annual meeting in July, have been announced by the DU Board of Directors. Current Treasurer Gary Girvan steps down as Treasurer and takes over as Flight Editor. Gary has been Treasurer for five years and has been the main force in keeping DU on a sound financial footing. During the five years he has seen income rise from less than \$20,000 to over \$90,000 and it doesn't take

much imagination to appreciate the tremendous amount of work involved in this position. Gary has a Master's degree in English, is Deputy Principal at Wellington College, and an excellent photographer; so he is well qualified for the Editorial position.

Prominent DU Wellington Chapter Committee member Chris Hoosen has accepted the position of Treasurer. Chris is General Manager of Hoosen Industries Ltd of Wellington and with his wealth of business experience will be an asset to the DU Board.

After four years as Editor — 16 copies of Flight' and several thousand photographs — Neil Hayes will be able to concentrate on the ever increasing workload of Secretary. Naturally he will continue with his photographic interest and will continue to produce much of the Flight' DU News Section.

MEMBERSHIP

Sponsor members:

Messrs M. Wennink, A. Terpstra, G. A. McLeod and the South Taieri Gun Club have become our first Sponsor members for the 1986-87 period.

Trade members:

Messrs K. Mackie, W. Becroft, P. Vincent, plus A.C.L. Insurance and Lyons Plumbing have become Trade members.

Don't forget to renew your 1986-87 subscription promptly, and that if every member

recruited one new member during the year we would be able to do so much more for New Zealand waterfowl. And let's face it, there is lots to be done. Thank you in anticipation of your continuing support.

NEW VIDEO FILM AVAILABLE

DU has obtained VHS video copies of the film *River in Question* — all about the Manganui-A-Tau River. Copies of the tape can be borrowed from DU, or can be purchased from DU's Sales section for \$59.

DU now has the following VHS tapes available on loan to members, for a maximum of two weeks and \$10 to cover postage:

1. Hidden Places/Sinclair Wetlands
2. Country Calendar/Ducks Unlimited
3. Country Calendar/Horrie Sinclair
4. River in Question

PROJECTS

Full project reports will be given at the annual meeting, but a brief run-down on recent activities is as follows:

Wetlands. DU's biggest involvement in waterfowl habitat work (outside of the Sinclair Wetlands) will begin during May, when the Ruamahanga River stopbank and the main highway adjacent to the Te Hopai Station in the Wairarapa are uprooted and a concrete pipe is fitted in place — from the Ruamahanga River to Home Lagoon. This pipe will reflood Home Lagoon which was seriously af-

ected by the draining of close by Te Hopai Lagoon in 1978.

The work is being carried out for DU by the Wairarapa Catchment Board and total cost is close to \$10,000. This is a relatively small price to pay for the restoration of over 80 acres of prime waterfowl habitat. The Wildlife Service has also played a major role in this restoration project and will be assisting with finance.

Hopes are high that the acclimatisation society movement will also become financially supportive of this vital project. (Stop Press: A DU member, who wishes to remain anonymous, has just sent DU \$1000 toward the Home Lagoon project.)

Branta

Fifty Canada geese were transferred from North Canterbury to DU members in the North Island in mid March. Thus bringing the total transferred since 1976 to over 500. A recent census of Canada geese in the North Island shows a conservative figure of 4500 are now resident. With this in mind and the fact that Canada geese are now being shot during the game season in three districts in the North Island, it is very likely that this year's transfer was DU's last.

DU has achieved its objective of establishing the mighty Canada goose in the North Island, but Directors are somewhat disappointed that there has been a mad rush to get them on the game licence.



Q: WHAT DO WILD HORSES AND GIANT SNAILS HAVE IN COMMON?

A: US! While our pioneering work with endangered birds is well known here and throughout the world, perhaps our continuing conservation efforts with other species are less familiar? The future of the Kaimanawa wild horses and our intriguing carnivorous snails, along with a host of other animals, depends on care and wise management by our team of wildlife officers, scientists and technicians. We're proud of our reputation gained from a long apprenticeship and hard work. We are totally dedicated to ensuring that future generations of New Zealanders will benefit from our efforts.



NEW ZEALAND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Department of Internal Affairs Wellington

CONSERVATORS OF YOUR WILDLIFE HERITAGE





Round-up on water

'ROYAL SWAN' PROJECT OFF TO A GREAT START

Thanks to the generosity of Neil and Diana Isaac of Peacock Springs, Christchurch, the Mute Swan recovery project — outlined in the March Flight — is off to a great start, with the Isaacs supplying DU with 26 Mute Swans. Neil and Diana are also Directors of the Isaac Wildlife Trust (DU Life member).

Peacock Springs, which was recently visited by Prince Philip, has by far the largest captive stock of Mute Swans in the southern hemisphere, with 20 pairs. Ducks Unlimited is greatly indebted to Neil and Diana for their enthusiastic contribution and support.

As mentioned in the March Flight the Mute Swan population in New Zealand once numbered several thousand birds, but the population has now shrunk to possibly less than 100, and certainly less than 200.

The species was originally introduced in 1886 when the Canterbury Acclimatisation Society received two birds. Around the same period several other societies and individuals imported Mutes, but there appears to be no available data to show total importations. But as captive numbers increased releases and escapes in to the wild occurred; resulting eventually in a large wild population on Lake Ellesmere.

The infamous Wahine storm in 1968 has been held responsible for the decline of the Mute Swan population, as the storm destroyed the weed beds on which swans feed. Although experiments are taking place with the lake's water level, feelings are that a high level will encourage weed growth. The Black Swan population on Ellesmere has also suffered an incredible decline, from around 60,000 birds to around 6000.

A circular about the plight of Mute Swans was sent to selected DU members — those known to have large open, well fenced and unshot ponds — in January this year and the response was excellent. Unfortunately a considerable predominance of male birds meant that all interested members were not able to obtain a pair. But to help the situation some have taken two males until more females are available. Neil and Diana Isaac have generously agreed to make more birds available each season.

The project was the brainchild of Wildlife Service Assistant Director Murray Crombie and we thank and congratulate Murray for his foresight and encouragement in getting the

project off the ground.

To obtain the birds from Peacock Springs Jim Campbell and Neil Hayes, together with Tom Kroos and Christine Reid of the Wildlife Service, travelled to Christchurch on April 5th in Jim's Chevy Ute. Christchurch based Senior Wildlife Service Officer John Andrew generously provided accommodation for the group and all day Sunday was spent in catching the swans. Our photos show some of the action — which involved ten people and five boats.

A total of 28 Mutes were caught and 26 were brought to the North Island, in the back of Jim's vehicle. All birds were placed in sacks

with their necks out and all arrived in the North Island in excellent health. A Bristol Freighter was used to get the birds rapidly over Cook Strait.

Two DU members were on hand at Wellington Airport to collect pairs and the remainder have been gradually distributed to other members in the North Island. South Island members have also expressed a keen interest and it is hoped that birds will be available next season.

The project is a long term one and the aim is to eventually establish 50 pairs with members. Surplus birds will be released into suitable wild areas.

Although the Mute Swan is an introduced species it has always been recognised as a 'Royal' bird and because Mute Swans are the largest species of waterfowl in the world they are a great attraction in the wild and in any waterfowl collection.

Mute Swans in the wild are also no threat to our native waterfowl and this new project will nicely compliment DU's other waterfowl conservation and propagation projects.

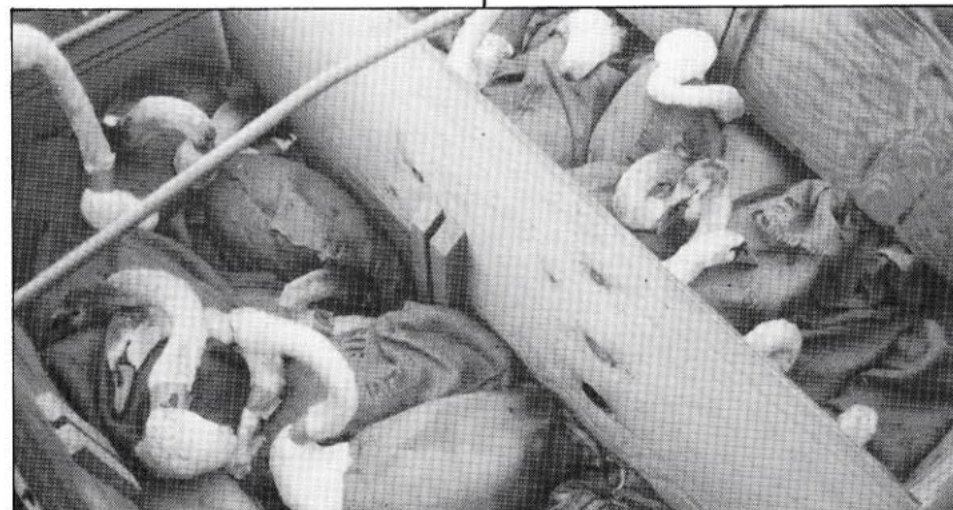
To get the project off the ground with such speed and efficiency, Ducks Unlimited owes a considerable debt to the following:

Neil and Diana Isaac; Murray Crombie; John Andrew; Tom Kroos; Christine Reid; Sharon Walker; Peter McLeod; David Mitchell; Jim Glover; Jim Campbell; Neil Hayes, and all DU members who responded so rapidly to DU's circular.

Thanks also to Wildlife Service Director Ralph Adams, for approving the project.

The project generated considerable publicity and most newspapers reported at length on our new Royal Swan project.

(STOP PRESS: Neil Isaac was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his services to conservation.)



All loaded up and ready to go

The Chevy preparing to cross Cook Strait



'A NEW APPROACH TO FORESTRY'

by CRAIG WALKER — Environmental Forest Ranger, Winstone Afforestation Ltd

A large tract of country to the south and west of Raetihi, formerly cut over scrub and abandoned farmland is being converted to a timber resource forest by Winstone Afforestation Limited. As part of an ecological retrenchment programme associated with this project, several small streams have been dammed with a view to providing fish and waterfowl habitats.

The Land Management policy introduced by Winstone Afforestation Ltd, has won wide praise from conservationists. In a letter from the Central North Island Conservancy Council to Neil Mercer, General Manager of Winstone Afforestation Ltd, Council Secretary, Mr T. Hartley-Smith stated:

"At a recent meeting of this Council the two representatives from the Waimarino Ward and the Conservator of Wildlife reported most favourably on areas for Wildlife which Winstones have developed over the last six years in the forests being established near Raetihi. The Council was informed that you have created a policy of doing one major project a year and that you have already built two major waterfowl and trout areas. I was asked to express the Council's appreciation for what Winstone Afforestation Ltd have done for sportsmen in the district and to congratulate you for what is in the Conservancy, and possibly in New Zealand, a first by a forest developer. It is also a fine example for others to emulate."

This commendation is the result of a land use policy established by Winstone Afforestation Limited when the need for radiata pine forests close to Karioi Mill was recognised.

The two main wildfowl habitat and fishery areas have been designated the names Ameku Wildlife Reserve and Mangaeturoa Recreation Area. These lakes may be considered still at a formative stage insofar as weed growth and development of food chains are concerned, however, frogs, midges, pupae and some caddis are present and most certainly crayfish. Ameku Reserve lies within a restricted area and a special permit and key is required for entry, however the Mangaeturoa Recreation Area is accessible from a county road and will remain open for public utilisation at all times.

AMEKU WILDLIFE RESERVE

1985 saw the fencing off of Ameku Wildlife Reserve with a total impoundment of 100 hectares further enhanced with a two and a-half hectare elongated stretch of water artificially constructed by the Engineering Division at Winstone Afforestation in the summer of 1982. Ameku Dam varies in depth from about 5 metres at the dam face to the shallower fringes abounding the shoreline encompassing the salient feature of a nesting island.

A small two hectare stand of pinus radiata planted adjacent the south eastern side of the dam is slowly being thinned out to allow for the development of some 40 various native and exotic ornamental trees and shrubs to flourish. The selection and landscaping of the areas planted was conducted with careful



consideration given to management, habitat, shelter and food supply for the wildlife inhabiting the reserve. Numerous species of shrubs were planted for aesthetic and beautification of the area in general. Some of the species of trees, plants and shrubs are listed below:

Rhododendrons
Azaleas
Camellias
Arbutus unedo (Irish Strawberry)
Tree Lucerne
Wine Berry
Gleditsia triacanthos (honey locust)
Larix decidua
Quercus palustris (Spanish Oak pin Oak)
Thuja plicata (Western Red Cedar)
Cotoneaster distichas
Cotoneaster figida
Elaeagnus commutata (silverberry)
Rosa Multiflora
Viburnum opulus (European Cranberry Bush)
Quercus ilex (Holly Oak)
Quercus robe
Robina ficca
Eucalyptus degelatisensis
Eucalyptus saligna
Fagus Cuprea (Copper Beech)
Casuarina glauca
Sambuscan (Elderberry)
Sophora Fet (Kowhai)
Nothofagus (Red Beech)
Japanese Cedar

Mangaeturoa Recreation Area

Totara (Golden)
Crops: millet, maize, barley, pea, niger, sunflower.

A number of waterfowl have been established and are now breeding on the reserve. These include Canada Geese, Black Swan, Paradise Duck, Grey Duck with regular visits from welcome swallows and native bats.

Some of the more common wildlife that frequent the area are Canada Goose, Grey Duck, Mallard Duck, Paradise Shelduck, white faced Heron, Black Swan, various frogs, native fish and crayfish, harrier hawk, Pukeko, Pheasant, Pea Fowl, Wood Pigeon, Spur winged Pliver, Kingfisher, welcome Swallow, Native Shag, Warblers, Tui, Bellbird, Fantail and assorted exotic finches etc.

Presently a long term management plan is being drafted by Winstone Afforestation to determine the best potential resources to be utilised in the development of a significant wildlife reserve within the Waimarino catering and adapting for the large variety of wildlife which inhabit it.

Generally the area which the company manages was primarily scrub and abandoned farmland with patches of cutover bush which had very little potential as a wildlife habitat. The waterfowl populations within the forests perimeter were limited to a few Grey Ducks in the odd isolated stream or damp gully. After an extensive development pro-



gramme to establish the timber resource requirements made by management, the company is now in its eighth year of establishment.

The recreation usage, man made from further habitat enhancement and captive breeding programmes, will boost the overall aesthetic beautification whilst under careful supervision by wildlife managers, and provide challenging and rewarding sporting activities.

There are presently in excess of 35 ponds and waterfowl habitats within the 14,157 hectares of the Winstone Afforestation Holdings.

Ameku Wildlife Reserve

A cat and Mustelid control programme is constantly on the move with over 32 feral cats being exterminated over the last 12 months. Feral cats to a programme such as this can be responsible for a lot of devastation and predational onslaught. One of the very reasons for the construction of islands and loafing/nesting rafts is to try and isolate the birds from predation. Pontoons with suitable nest boxes have been constructed and are being used as an experiment to ascertain the adaptability and utilisation potential of various waterfowl species inhabiting them. The islands that have been created at both major ponds have been carefully landscaped in view of the type of wildlife so they can gain foremost utilisation of the species of vegetation planted. Most of the plants established are palatable or produce a seed or fruit that provides an all round source of food for the birds.

MANGAETUROA RECREATION AREA

During the autumn months of 1985 the Winstone Afforestation Engineering Division commenced construction of the Mangaeturoa Dam by damming the Mangaeturoa Stream.

The dam itself was constructed with the primary objective of a water resource for protection which was extended to include a multi purpose recreation viewpoint in mind, i.e. "an area of water most suitably compatible to allow the establishment of a trout fishery, suitable wildlife/waterfowl and swimming habitat whilst providing an aesthetic environment for campers and picnickers."

The dam has several islands to the western end with clear, clean water at its eastern side providing desirable water quality for swimming. The spillway and tailrace system which involved realignment of the original stream bed is quite a feat of engineering with two 50 metre lengths of 900 mm diameter Amco full round pipes side by side to dispense the overflow into the tailrace system.

The water area of approximately three hectares has plentiful dabbling and feeding areas around its eastern shorelines where the dam divides and inhabits two gully systems.

Numerous native and exotic ornamental trees and shrubs have been established throughout the ten hectare site similar to those at the Ameku Wildlife Reserve to enhance and provide food chains for the fauna who will make this their home.

A large area of ground has been levelled and grassed to provide recreation fields and picnic sites. Barbeque and toilet facilities will be constructed over 1986 which will then complete the basic project.

THE TORUPAPA BREEDING SHELTER AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAMME

An enclosure of metallic and nylon mesh was built during the winter of 1984 encompassing some 2000m² of grassland at a suitable site within Waimarino Forest with the long term objective of breeding upland game, ornamental bird species and waterfowl for the enhancement of the exotic forest and its reserves.

Under the management of Winstone Afforestation Limited the pen was built by company personnel after gaining as much information from other breeders as possible. At the time of writing, the pen is close to being complete with a further enclosure in the planning stage as a suitable waterfowl breeding area.

Presently emphasis is being placed on the breeding and release of Ring Neck Pheasant, Guinea Fowl, Quail and Pea Fowl; next year it is hoped that Grey Ducks, Brown Teal and Parakeets are also bred in captivity. Our incubation techniques rely on the utilisation of bantams and brooders which to date have proved quite successful. Eventually the plan is to set up an incubator room and a brooder shed suitable for the hand rearing of chicks. This winter a number of ornamental and shade trees and shrubs were planted within and around the breeding shelter. Some of the varieties included Strawberry Trees, Elderberry, Wineberry, Cordyline, Beech, natives, clovers, flax, oaks and bamboos.

Releasing pheasants is undertaken by two methods. These are:

1. Release directly to the Gun, i.e. birds will be released in the morning prior to a group of hunters shooting over it that afternoon and following day. It is anticipated that the birds with minimal imprinting should flush and provide sporting shooting. We would anticipate that 90% of the birds are shot and returned to the gun, however, these figures will be confirmed once we experiment, as all the birds will be banded and released at pre selected grid sites. It is hoped that movement of the birds can be traced during the time lapse between release and final shooting whereby all these details are collated and entered on to computer.

2. The other method of release will be of breeding stock where the birds will be translocated from the breeding pen to the wild where they will be housed in a pre-release enclosure to enable their adaption to the new niche. The immediate environment in which they will be released will have been extensively trapped for wild cats and mustelids. Feed crops will have been planted the previous spring ready to seed and fruit over the months following release. Hoppers have been constructed and will be utilised when natural feed becomes expended with some hand feeding to supplement.

The four main factors we consider on our releasing programme are:

- The best age for release.
- The actual method of release.
- The environment in which the birds are to be naturalised.
- Their subsequent management to covert.

One successful method we have established to date is the release of eight week old

birds which had been placed in a pre release pen to gradually move out into the surrounding cover rather than to be let out in a flood.

A recent contribution written by Mary Anne Gill, Waimarino Correspondent for the *Wanganui Chronicle*, read as follows:

"Winstone Afforestation should be congratulated for setting aside wildlife habitats and water areas for the birds and animals in the Waimarino Forest," said Minister of Internal Affairs, Peter Tapsell on December 20th, 1985. Dr Tapsell, who was in Raetihi to present a Wildlife Service conservation award to Winstone Afforestation General Manager, Neil Mercer, said the award should be seen as a recognition of the company's ability to change policy in higher places. "I can not think of any other occasion this year which has given me more pleasure than presenting this award," he said.

"Indiscriminate cutting down of native forest is finished. The birds and animals have as much right to live here as anyone else," he said.

"Over 100 years we have set out to destroy our indigenous wild life. We probably have the largest group of endangered species in the world here in New Zealand."

Dr Tapsell said the award should be seen as being part of a real effort on the behalf of Winstone Afforestation to protect the wildlife while still making a profit.

The Maori incorporations who lease land to the company can also be proud of the recognition received as a result of the award, said Dr Tapsell.

The 16,000 hectare Waimarino Forest planted in agriculturally marginal hill country between Raetihi and the Wanganui River was planted as a result of the company's strict policy of responsible resource utilisation. One-third of the forest is owned by Winstone while the remaining two-thirds are leased on a long term basis from its owners, the Atihau-Wanganui and Pipiriki township incorporations and the Ngaporo-Waimarino Forest Trust. In mentioning Maori incorporations involvement with Winstone Afforestation, Dr Tapsell sounded a warning to all Maori incorporations.

"When they were granted a tax benefit of 20 cents in the dollar as opposed to other business ventures who pay 45 cents in the dollar, it was on the understanding that we Maoris were not to make capital gains," said Dr Tapsell.

"My own view is that those incorporations prepared to operate for the community should receive the tax privileges. Where they are intent on simply making a profit, I do not see why they should continue making money and receiving the tax benefit," he said.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On perusing a copy of Flight dated June 1976 and comparing the size of operation DU N.Z. 10 years hence, one can only be encouraged and enthused by the magnitude of growth in such a short time span. My first year as president has been rewarding and very enlightening as every week there seems to be another challenge and a further achievement for those dedicated members who offer so much by way of time, expertise and encouragement at board level.

The efforts of Chapter committees in fund raising activities have been well rewarded with the sizeable amounts promised by chapters to further our work on wetlands projects. Most of these Chapter functions rely heavily on members support and nothing could be more rewarding than to attend a function and experience the drive and determination which to me is very apparent in all DU Members.

Whilst reading through past copies of Flight I noted the word education appeared in several issues coupled usually to the younger set. I am sure the recent educational day promoted by senior DU members in Otago would have to be most beneficial to all present. There is nothing more rewarding to an experienced DU member than to witness the excitement and enthusiasm of the younger generation on a first glimpse of waterfowl never before experienced first hand. The success story of the Mt Bruce Wildlife Centre as an educational facility for school parties further illustrates a need for more promotion in this field; also the Masterton Intermediate School pupils' response to assembling nest boxes for Operation Gretel and their enthusiasm for a waterfowl breeding and display area within the schools farm; plus the Otago Youth Adventure Trust Centre in Berwick forest adjacent to the Sinclair Wetlands and forest headquarters — with a walk with Horrie in his wetland only five minutes away. All of these projects rely on probably one or two enthusiasts to promote them. We can all ensure the future of DU and wetlands by encouraging more promotion in this area.

This is the last issue of Flight to be edited by Neil Hayes, marking the end of an era of many years dedicated work producing such an excellent publication. We can rest assured that Neil will still be a tower of strength as

secretary, and trust he will have more time to pursue other waterfowl activities in which his experience will be of immense value. Operation Pateke is fortunate to have Neils knowledge and drive at the helm and is really showing what a small group of enthusiasts can achieve in a very short time. Grant Dumbell with his research of the Pateke scene is proving that Brown Teal are quite different waterfowl in many aspects, and is producing some very worthwhile results.

The need for more research on many aspects of the wetlands scene becomes more apparent as many more areas are threatened by development. One such area in which there is an obvious lack of information would be the interaction of species which inhabit the wetland areas. The rapid increase in the swallow and plover population over the last few seasons would tend to cause a reduction in food supply for others, or the territorial areas required by one pair of Paradise duck could mean grey duck move elsewhere or are severely threatened for survival.

Having spent a few hours at the Wildlife Centre with Rod Hall before he returned to the U.K. with 2 pair of Blue duck destined for the Wildfowl Trust, one can only be encouraged by the support he receives in his endeavours worldwide involving wildlife conservation. The impact that Rod has as a person is very evident and we are most fortunate to be able to participate and assist in such ventures.

A new venture which will be very interesting is the mute swan project which Jim Glover is supervising. This project recently commenced with the transporting of 26 mute swan from Isaacs Wildlife Trust at Christchurch to the North Island. The Isaacs have been breeding mutes very successfully for a number of years and the initial establishment of further breeding colonies was only possible largely with their support in supplying 26 young birds. DU members have to be thankful for the foresight of Mr & Mrs Isaacs in establishing such a magnificent waterfowl breeding area.

I can only feel proud when reviewing the last years DU activities; proud to have been involved with so many enthusiasts and to be a small part of a team who have achieved so much in 12 months. The growth and strength will, I am sure, continue in the ensuing years.

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**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1986**

	1986	1985
INCOME		
Subscriptions:		
Life	2,026	1,850
Full	7,769	7,679
Supporter	291	2,122
Junior	195	224
Trade	570	535
Sponsor	900	—
TOTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS	11,751	12,410
PLUS OTHER INCOME		
Advertising Income 'Flight'	1,800	1,315
Donations	27,862	4,463
Conference Income	40,772	14,592
Profit on Book Sales	577	114
Profit on Other Sales	856	400
Sundry	1,304	316
Grant: Internal Affairs	425	480
Ministry of Recreation and Sport	500	500
Interest	2,092	877
TOTAL INCOME	87,939	35,467
LESS EXPENDITURE		
Audit and Accountancy Fees	500	375
Advertising	393	512
Duplicating and Printing	940	100
Operation: 'Gretel'	200	1,350
'Pakete'	5,148	4,185
'Branta'	635	410
'Whio'	250	500
'Wetlands'	22,409	8,564
Postage	655	519
Printing	7,632	7,887
Sundry	2,715	595
Travelling Expenses — Board Meetings	1,906	4,272
Annual General Meeting Expenses	22,917	3,157
Tolls	465	653
TOTAL EXPENSES	66,765	33,079
EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	\$21,174	\$2,388

AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) INC.

We have audited the financial statements comprising the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and the Income and Expenditure Account, together with the Notes thereto, in accordance with accepted auditing standards and have carried out such procedures as we considered necessary. In common with other organisations of a similar nature, control over the income prior to it being recorded is limited, and there are no practical audit procedures to determine the effect of this limited control.

In our opinion, the financial statements give, subject to the possible effect of the limited control over the income referred to in the preceding paragraph, a true and fair view of the financial position of the Society as at 31 March 1986 and the results of its activities for the year ended on that date.

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 MARCH 1986**

	1986 \$	1985 \$
ASSETS		
Investment Account (Note 2)	6,700	6,000
Term Deposit	18,295	8,000
Bank	9,227	943
Sundry Debtors	549	587
Stock — Books	1,523	1,175
Other	3,457	1,687
Machinery	52	52
	39,803	18,444
LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	2,059	656
Wellington Chapter	—	1,218
	2,059	1,874
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance 1 April	16,570	14,182
Plus Excess Income Over Expenditure	21,174	2,388
Balance 31 March	37,744	16,570
	39,803	18,444

Signed copies of the Financial Statement will be available for inspection at the AGM — 12th July 1986.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1986**

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The general accounting policies recognised as appropriate in the preparation of these financial statements are:

The measurement base adopted is that of historical cost.

Reliance has been placed on the assumption that the Society is a going concern.

The following are the particular accounting policies which have a material effect on the measurement of results and financial position and are unchanged from last year.

Income is recognised as earned.

Stock has been valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value on a FIFO basis.

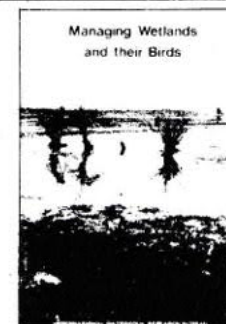
Stock purchased for Operations is expensed when purchased.

The results and financial position of the Hamilton Chapter are not reflected in these accounts.

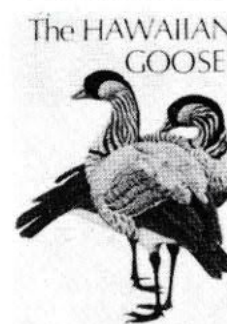
2. The Investment Account represents funds passed to the Society by the Hamilton Chapter. Interest on those funds is paid to the Chapter.

Deloitte Haskins + Sells
Chartered Accountants
Wellington
New Zealand

D.U SALES DEPT



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, Sites, Prevention of Crop Damage, Endangered Species Management, and much more. 368 pages. Price \$21.50.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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



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



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.



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A Coloured Key To The Waterfowl of the World	\$10.00
Ducks Ponds & People	\$10.00
Wildfowl Management on Inland Waters	\$14.00
The Duckshooters Bag	\$7.00
DU Badge(s)	\$5.00
Brown Teal Greeting Cards (per pack of 10)	\$5.00
Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Decals	\$1.00
The Hawaiian Goose	\$22.50
Gamebird Hunting	\$7.00
DU Tie	\$12.50
Managing Wetlands	\$21.50
DU Shirt	\$38.00
DU Jersey	\$59.00
Brown Teal Booklet	\$10.00
Shoulder Patches	\$8.50
Swiss Army Knife	\$30.00
Camo Pen (Parker)	\$20.00
Bic Pens	\$6/box
Duck Head pins	\$5.00
Wine glasses	\$75.00
Beer glasses	\$75.00
Magnetic Signs	\$40/pr
The Landscape Special wetlands issue	\$6.00
New Zealand Birds	\$10.00
VHS Video 'River in Question'	\$59.00

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