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Tahuna torea Nature Reserve, Tamaki Estuary, Auckland. Photo: Alan Fielding.



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Flight

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WATERFOWL JOURNAL

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Presidents Report

Important new initiative for wetlands conservation launched

David Rice, President

the Chairman.

This programme is based on the Federal and State duck programmes which exist in the United States. These have contributed a staggering US \$300 million to wetland conservation since 1934, and have helped secure 30.5 million acres of wetland habitat for waterfowl.

While the New Zealand stamp has a face value of \$10.00, hunters will only pay an additional \$1.00 when it is sold in conjunction with a hunting licence. Further revenues will be generated from the sale of related products, such as collectors stamps and prints, in the United States.

The 1994 New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Stamp features a pair of Paradise Shelduck taken from a fine painting by New Zealand artist Adele Earnshaw. The Governor-General, Her Excellency Dame Catherine Tizard formally launched the programme and announced that a special edition of stamps and prints, which she has signed, will be used to help finance the restoration of the Whangamarino Swamp. The Minister of Conservation, Hon. Denis Marshall, and the chairman of the New

On the 1st of September my wife Trina and I represented Ducks Unlimited at the launch of the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Stamp programme in Wellington. This programme was empowered under an amendment to the Wildlife Act and was sponsored by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. Beginning with the 1994 waterfowl hunting season duck hunters will be required to buy a duck stamp in order to validate their hunting licences.

This stamp will be an extra cost to the hunting licence and the funds will be handed to the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust who will use them to finance wetland conservation throughout New Zealand. This trust is an independent body which has been set up under legislation and consists of six members, a Chairman appointed by the Minister of Conservation, three members appointed from recommendations made by the NZ Fish and Game Council, one member appointed from recommendations made by Ducks Unlimited and one member appointed from recommendations made by the Department of Conservation.

I am pleased to advise that Ducks Unlimited director, Graham Gurr of Auckland has been appointed to sit on the trust along with Mr Murray Williams, David Lawrie, Don McCulloch and Dr Henrik Moller. Peter Low is

Zealand Fish and Game Council Mr David Lawrie also addressed those present at the reception in the Beehive.

Ducks Unlimited congratulates both the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and the Minister of Conservation on seeing through the successful introduction of this new and important wetland conservation initiative. We look forward to contributing to the success of the programme through our role as a trust board partner with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, the Department of Conservation, and the Minister of Conservation.

In closing this report I would like to welcome three new life members to Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc who signed up at the DU Canada convention in Edmonton. Welcome to Don Rollins, the current President of Ducks Unlimited Inc, Robert Middleton of Idaho, USA and Duncan Campbell of New Brunswick, Canada. With deepest regret I must also mark the passing of Joe Hall, a life member from the United States, and Lorraine McGee of Rotorua. Our sincere condolences go out to the families of both Joe and Lorraine.

Because the next issue of "Flight" will be in January, I would also like to wish all our members a happy, safe and enjoyable festive season. All the best for the remainder of 93.



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Cover Photo: Mallards. Photo: David Mathieson.

Waging War on Vermin

by John Dyer

Vermin include such animals as ferrets, stoats, weasels, rats, wild cats and hedgehogs. They are the principle killers of gamebirds such as pheasant, duck and quail. Being creatures of stealth they are rarely seen, however once a few traps are set their numbers quickly become apparent. On one farm alone in the last two years they have caught 74 wild cats, 100 ferrets, 6 stoats, 2 weasels, 103 rats, 105 hedgehogs (a bad egg thief which will even kill sitting hen pheasants), 567 possums or 957 animals in all. All, including possums were caught with chicken bait.

Perhaps you could be setting a few traps also - you'll probably be surprised at the results you can get.

Sometimes a hunter will shoot in an area for years without realising the presence of these predators. Such was the case recently when a Lower Waikato River duckshooter found his decoys, left high and dry by the receding tide, were being attacked by a ferret. Intrigued he made up some cage traps and within weeks had trapped several dozen. Nor did the numbers present seem to diminish.



Home made cage trap.

Other hunters have set a few gins on 'runs' using a 4" drain pipe either end to draw the animals over the trap. Mustelids (ferrets, stoats and weasels) cannot resist tunnels and this is their downfall.

In the days of bounties most hunters were proficient with the use of these traps but the art of using gins is dying out. Furthermore MAF are endeavouring to ban them which, in the current absence of cheap and readily available alternatives, means vermin will probably skyrocket all the more. Furthermore it will probably be the death of the amateur possum industry with worrying consequences for our native bush.

In this article I will recommend those alternatives to the gin trap that have worked well in the field. I'll also expand on how to acquire or build them and how to use them.

The best of the lot is the 'fenn' trap. These come in the Mark IV and Mark VI versions. The IV is the smaller trap and is designed for rats, stoats, weasels and hedgehogs. The Mark VI will manage larger animals including ferrets and rabbits. There is some overlap however and a Mark VI would probably catch stoats reasonably if not consistently well in the same manner. The Mark IV is not really in the male ferret league although it will do at a pinch.

Both traps are RSPCA approved kill traps that cause a double fracture of the spinal column (ie. instant death). The Mark IV Fenn is, in fact, the standard trap of the English gamekeeper and has been since 1959.

These are set in wooden tunnels about 2'6" (these prevent accidental catches as only predators enter such dark places). They are just wide enough to site the trap and just high enough to allow it to spring. Any higher and the vermin is thrown free. Some form of bait is thrown into the middle of the tunnel and the trap blocks the entrance. As one 'trapper' puts it; "anything that gets past that is welcome to whatever it gets." They usually don't.

Obviously a trap each end is needed unless



The Timms trap.

the tunnel is set so as to be blind. Tunnels leading through walls are good as even without bait they'll catch - though not as well. Tunnels can also be put in wood piles or stone piles. In fact the stones can be brought to a suitable site, such as leading off a path for instance. Another deadly 'set' is to put the trap in a shallow dry drain, especially a curved one that presents the tunnel at the end with no other way out but to go back.

The old gin lends itself to being used in tunnels also. Simply leave the spring facing in towards the bait. A very similar trap but one which will be approved by MAF is the victor 'soft catch.' This works on a similar principal to the gin but has rubber lined jaws and several other features to reduce suffering.

Simply put it between the two drain pipes and set these against a wall. Then cover the trap with a plank of wood or similar to prevent birds from alighting on it but leaving room beneath for it to spring. Used like this it can be set around the hen house quite safely. Variations include hanging a dead rabbit in a tree and dangling several feet off the ground. The trap is lightly buried underneath.

Also the bait, a dead bird perhaps can be

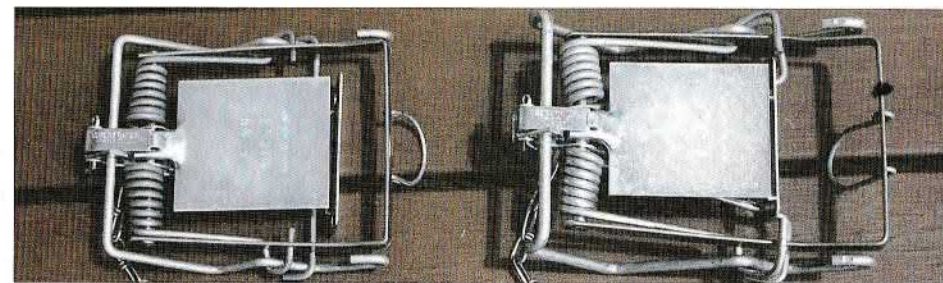
tethered to a stake and a number of traps set around it.

Soft catch traps have the advantage they can also be used very effectively on possums and quite often a line of possum traps will take mustelids as well. The exception is the weasel, which owing to its light weight is much more a candidate for the Fenn Mark IV.

Cage traps have the advantage that whatever is caught can be let go if it's desirable. The standard type sold in shops is around \$60 plus and is really a possum trap. The one that's proven best for vermin is a home-made cage trap with a treadle release and guillotine action door. These take a variety of wildlife from mice to Jack Russell terriers such is their versatility. These get turned loose. Vermin aren't so lucky. These traps come into their own when you have some steel lying about and a welder, and can do the work yourself. The cost is then less than \$20 per unit. Getting it made up can pass the \$100 mark.

The Timms trap is available from most stock and station outlets. It involves the animal putting its head through a hole to obtain the bait whereupon it gets struck a fairly hefty and usually fatal blow. A number of people trying to control ferrets and wild cats, as well as the possums it is intended for swear by them. Their only disadvantage is their bulk which makes them ineligible for commercial operations in deep bush but otherwise they perform well.

These then are the five main types of traps. What of baits? Whatever is available of the following will do - hare, rabbit or chicken, including their livers or entrails. Fish, fresh or smoked including eel. Eggs either left whole in the tunnel or broken over the trap plate. Blood,



Left: Mk IV Fenn trap and right Mk VI Fenn trap

bled onto the plate. Possum meat and canned cat foods especially sardine based types. Canned foods have preservatives making their bait last a little longer. Of the chemical attractants use aniseed for possums and valerian for vermin especially mustelids and hedgehogs. Valerian is available from chemists and is a herbal extract (from Valeriana officinalis). Valerian is said to be what the Pied Piper of Hamelin "secreted on his person." Simply drip a little onto cotton wool.

Aniseed is very expensive so to make it go further fill a tin with flour. Drip a few drops of aniseed in, stir and seal and store several weeks. Subsequently put a spoonful of the flour behind the trap making sure the animal has to pass over it to get at the lure. It might be possible to make your own aniseed oil cheaper as the herb Anise (Pimpinella anisum) is fairly readily procurable.

The urine of a female mustelid in season will catch males of that species for some days if dripped onto the trap plate. Also a dead hedgehog hung above a trap will attract others. Similarly a possum trap that has caught once will catch more readily the next time if left in the same position.

New traps need aging to remove their shininess and any production smells. Remove all oil with turps, then wash thoroughly. Burying a trap for several weeks removes smell as does boiling it in water containing a little caustic potash. If you're fussy try simmering the traps (which must be well rusted) in a billy of boiling water in which a quantity of mashed walnut hulls have been added. This will turn all the rust black and thus 'stain' the traps. Provided paint is given plenty of time to cure there is no reason



Victor 'Soft Catch' trap

why antirust paints cannot be used. If they're touched up every year they'll prolong spring life.

To obtain the Fenn Mark IV humane kill trap, write to the Auckland Fish and Game Council P.O. Box 17032, Bryant Park, Hamilton. Price \$18 (GST & p&p inclusive). Set in tunnels 6" at the base, 5" high inside, 2'6" long.

Fenn Mark IV, write to Ducks Unlimited, P.O. Box 9795 Auckland. Price \$28 (GST & p&p inclusive).

The Victor 'Soft Catch' write to M.S. Woodcraft, 128 Marine Parade, Mt Maunganui. Price \$18.30 (GST inclusive) packing & postage extra. Call for exact price and availability.

Cage traps - construction details/plans from the Auckland Acclimatisation Society, P.O. Box 17032, Bryant Park, Hamilton. Free but please send S.A.E.

The Auckland Acclimatisation Society also provides an information sheet on the use of Fenns. Please send a S.A.E.

In an instance of what predator control in conjunction with good habitat can create - wildlife managers in North Dakota in 1980 reported that a minimum 7,250 ducklings hatched on a 51 hectare field over six years following predator control. The number of mallard nests increased from 37 in 1969 to 181 in 1972. When predator reduction was most effective the hatching success for 756 nests was 94%. Food for thought?

Regular trapping for predators can improve gamebird breeding success on your patch too and you may even find the challenge of outwitting vermin to be a rewarding end in itself.

National Simulated Field Shoot

November 14th 1993 - Hosted by Manawatu Chapter

Venue: John & Chris Puklowski's Rangiotu property

Programme: 2 rounds of 30 targets cost \$32

Medal & Sash for HOA - Medal for A Grade first

Medal for B Grade first - Medal for C Grade first

Medal for Best DU unregistered

Trophies by Winchester and local donors. Trophies to 10th place in registered and non registered grades.

Ammo and Lunch available

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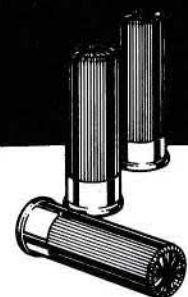
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Left: Auctioneer Mark Cederman from Auckland takes bids from guests. A total of \$5,715 was raised from the auction this year.
Below: Alan Wilks (right) presents Melvin Pike with the Bill Barrett trophy in recognition of Melvin's work to advance the objectives of Ducks Unlimited over many years



Above: Carolyn Hooson draws four Duck Bond numbers with Treasurer, Glenys Hansen. The holder of all bonds was Dave Johnston. The luck of the Irish!
Right: David Rice presents (his brother) Stephen Rice of Canadian Airlines with an appreciation certificate. Canadian Airlines have been a significant sponsor of Ducks Unlimited for many years.

1993 Conference Weekend

Toklanu

Annual General Meeting, 17 July 1993

It has been quite some time since we had a turnout for an Annual General Meeting like this. Whilst numbers were down for the weekend as a whole, 32 members and 2 guests attended the meeting.

Some of those who were unable to attend were overseas representing Ducks Unlimited at the Edmonton Convention in Canada including Chairman, Jim Campbell and his wife Raana, and Director, David Johnston. Other apologies were received from Phil Scully, Gary Girvan, Jim Glover, Mark Newcomb, Craig Worth, Wayne Bennett, Warrick Day, Jon Munro, Cheryl and Paul Pirani, Wayne Garchow, Nancy Payne, Ross and Sharon Cottle, Murray and Beth Ennor, Alan and Joy McGregor and Horrie Sinclair.

The President, David Rice, opened the Annual General Meeting at 1.45pm. He welcomed everyone present and thanked them for their attendance. As his annual report had been circulated with the July issue of "Flight" David recapped on its main points and asked for any discussion.

The Treasurer, Glenys Hansen, then tabled the 1992/3 audited annual financial statement of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc, as circulated with the July issue of "Flight" and moved their adoption by the meeting. The motion was carried. Glenys then moved the appointment of Eastwood Bourke of Masterton as auditors for 1993/4 and explained that due to name change, Eastwood Partners are now known as Eastwood Bourke. This motion was carried.

As the Executive Director's report had been printed in "Flight", Dr Gant Dumbell presented a resume of the progress made by Ducks Unlimited during the last financial year. He closed by thanking all the DU members and volunteers for their continued support.

The election of four Directors from the floor saw Messrs Graham Grr, Howard Egan, Ken Cook re-elected for a further year while Ian Lyver from Hastings was elected to join the Board, all unopposed, as non-permanent Directors of DU.

David Rice then asked David Smith, in his capacity as Chairman of the New Zealand Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust, to give an update on the progress of the Trust. David explained the purpose of the Trust and announced that in the past three years of operation the sum of almost \$30,000 had been passed to support DU's conservation projects.

The Annual Conference guest speaker was Dr Stella Penny, the Department of Conservation's Regional Conservator for Waikato. Dr Penny is the first woman Regional Conservator in New Zealand, and, in recognition of 1993 being the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, it was appropriate that Ducks Unlimited should have Dr Penny as Guest Speaker.

Dr Penny was introduced by Marie McEntee and then took us on a guided tour of her conservancy with a slide presentation of the Te Kuiti, Tauranga, Pureroa, and Hamilton environs that would be of interest to DU members. Issues stemming from these areas cover wetlands, forestry, mining and marine environments both positive and negative.

The show demonstrated the diverse range of habitat in one area of New Zealand and how the Department has to be able to cope with not only the pure environmental issues but also cultural impacts and, of course the diverse and broad 'wildlife' issues.

Dr Penny answered a number of questions following her address. She was thanked by David Rice before he opened the meeting for General Business.

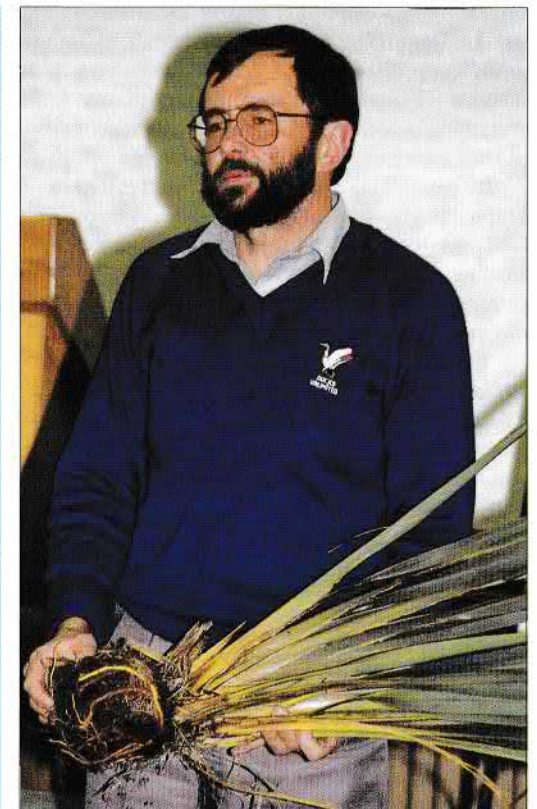
With no further general business, David Rice closed the meeting at 4.30pm.



Below left: As 1993 commemorates 100 years of women's suffrage, the Guest Speaker at the conference was Dr Stella Penny who is the first woman Regional Conservator for the Department of Conservation. Stella is based in Hamilton.
Below left: Howard Egan, Chapter Chairman of Eketahuna Chapter accepts the Chapter Challenge trophy from President, David Rice, for the most funds raised.



Above: "Speak no evil, Hear no evil, See no evil?" June Tilley, Joyce Jorgenson and Jack Tilley have been regular conference attendees for many years.
Right: Sunday morning workshops proved very popular with Alan Fielding demonstrating his skills to members. Melvin Pike also conducted a workshop on waterfowl captive breeding.



S.W.A.M.P.: Saving Wetlands by Assistance for Marshes and Ponds

The question of what The New Zealand Waterfowl And Wetlands Trust does is one I have been asked on more than one occasion as I have discussed the formation of NZWWT with people. In straightforward terms the Trust is a capital fund which was set up by Ducks Unlimited and whose primary function is to raise money to financially support the waterfowl and wetland conservation projects of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc.

The Trust is run by a board of five trustees which are appointed by the board of Ducks Unlimited, however, only two of the trustees can be Ducks Unlimited directors. It is a separate organisation to DUNZ and has its own separate charitable registration, except that everything it does must be done for the benefit of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Inc.

By committing contributions to the Trust to a capital fund ensures that over time a very large fund can be built up. From this will flow ongoing money which every year, year after year, can be spent for the benefit of waterfowl and wetlands.

The fundraising side of the equation is no different to any other charitable fundraising. All that is needed is a continuing effort to attract contributors to the cause, and a few good ideas about how to do that. This process is already well under way as witnessed by the list of contributors to the Trust which has begun to build up.

David Smith, Chairman New Zealand Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust

The other side of the equation is the part that needs to be carefully planned. It is very important that the resources which our contributors make available to us are used in the most effective way possible as the delivery of the conservation actions that we want to pursue must be structured in a way which not only gives genuine benefits to New Zealand waterfowl and wetlands, but is also seen by our contributors, and the public at large, to give genuine benefits.

To address these requirements NZWWT has begun to develop, in partnership with Ducks Unlimited, the first targeted conservation programme which will meet these criteria. This is aimed solely at wetland habitat and is called the S.W.A.M.P. programme. S.W.A.M.P. stands for "Saving Wetlands by Assistance for Marshes and Ponds," which not only describes what the programme is aiming to achieve, but also how it will be achieved.

Over the past 150 years New Zealand has lost approximately 90% of its natural wetlands, making them one of the most threatened of all our wild land habitats. Today most of the large remaining wetlands do enjoy some form of protection by virtue of them being in some form of public ownership. However, there are countless wetland remnants on private land around the country which have no form of protection whatsoever. It is these wetlands remnants which S.W.A.M.P. will target as they have definite conservation values.

For the private landowner, natural habitats such as wetlands are often seen as being unproductive wastelands as the costs associated with owning these types of land must still be paid without the ability to gain production to offset those costs. In the case of wetland remnants there are economic benefits which can be harnessed without destroying the habitat. Wetlands can provide a ready supply of stock water to save reticulation costs, they maintain the natural water table to moderate the effects of droughts, and they can store water to reduce the effects of floods.

Floodwaters are released slowly from wetlands which maintain base flows in creeks and streams providing downstream benefits beyond the wetland boundary. In addition, dams can give more direct access routes and the cleansing and filtering that occurs as water

flows through a wetland often means that water quality is higher after its passage through the wetland.

It is these benefits which can make the wetland valuable to the landowner while the conservation benefits accrue simply by maintaining the wetland in a healthy state. Therefore, the provision of assistance to retain and enhance wetland remnants will minimise the chance of losing them by way of conversion to other uses, while maximising the benefits for both the landowner, NZWWT and Ducks Unlimited.

Assistance for wetland conservation will be provided indirectly through education to raise people's awareness of the values of small wetlands on private land, or it can be provided directly by way of financial assistance to secure and enhance wetlands. In this, S.W.A.M.P. shares common features with the Forest Heritage Fund which was established by government to assist with native forest conservation.

S.W.A.M.P. aims to ultimately establish a \$3 million fund, equivalent to \$1.00 for every person in New Zealand. The financial assistance that this programme will offer will be contestable and all the wetlands that are given protection will be required to be subjected to some form of legal protection in order to ensure their ongoing security. Projects that will be supported will include fencing and planting to protect and enhance existing wetlands, along with earthworks to both restore degraded wetlands and create new wetlands. However, funds will not be available for land purchase. In addition, a range of educational material will also be prepared to provide know how to people who want to protect their own wetland.

It is planned to officially and publicly launch the S.W.A.M.P. programme during the next year, however, since it was first mooted in November 1992, a total of \$22,000 has already been contributed to the programme. With that level of support S.W.A.M.P. will have a great future and I look forward to bringing you updates on how the fundraising is going, along with information on the types of projects which are being supported.

If you would like to contribute to S.W.A.M.P. you can do so by sending your donation to: The New Zealand Waterfowl And Wetlands Trust at P.O. Box 9795, Newmarket, Auckland. Because the Trust is registered as a charity you will receive a tax deductible receipt for your contribution. If you would like further information about the Trust please drop us a letter at the above address. We will forward you a copy of our new pamphlet and a copy of our newsletter "Wetland Watch."

HAWKES BAY CHAPTER LAUNCHED

On Friday September 10, the newly formed Hawkes Bay Chapter held its inaugural dinner in Hastings. Almost 40 people gathered for the event, which was held at the Hastings Club, and the evening featured both a live auction and a silent auction which together raised well over \$2000. During the evening there were addresses from President David Rice, Vice President David Smith (a Hawkes Bay old boy), Executive Director Dr Grant Dumbell and Chairman Jim Campbell who had only just returned from attending the DU Canada convention. Congratulations to Ian Lyver and Christina Taylor who organised the evening and thank you to everyone who attended to make the evening a success.

EKETAHUNA CHAPTER

As this issue of "Flight" goes to press the Eketahuna Chapter is making final preparations for its annual dinner there will be a report in "Flight". The next event on the calendar is the annual sporting clay shoot which is held in conjunction with the Wellington Fish and Game Council Sos Savage Memorial Shoot. This 50 target shoot will be at the Eketahuna Gun Club on October 31 beginning at 10.30 am. Bring your own lunch. For further details contact Howard Egan on 06-379-6666.

MANAWATU CHAPTER

As this issue of "Flight" goes to press the Manawatu Chapter is making final preparations for its annual dinner on October 2. Look for a report in the next issue of DU News.

DUNZ LOSES A GREAT FRIEND

Joe Hall, an American DUNZ Life Member, passed away at his home on April 1. Joe visited New Zealand with his wife Pat and close friends Clark and Barbara Springer late in 1990, and along with Clark was instrumental in coordinating our most successful international membership recruitment drive during 1991. Joe was a Director and past Senior Vice President of DU Inc, after becoming active in DU in 1972. He also served on the Board of Directors of DU Canada and DU Mexico and organised the first DU banquet in Japan. A giant has fallen and few have ever fought such a valiant and courageous battle with such dignity. He will be greatly missed.

DUNZ TAKES CANADA BY STORM

Thirteen DUNZ members, including Chairman Jim Campbell, have just returned from

representing DUNZ at the 1993 DU Canada convention in Edmonton, Alberta. This ran from July 25 to 28 and Jim gave a report on the recent work of DUNZ during the convention's international business session. Everyone took part in the convention's very full programme which included tours to DU Canada habitat projects, a welcoming party at Edmonton's Fantasyland, which is situated in a shopping mall, and a Gala banquet to close the convention in style.

NEW CONSERVATION AWARD

Arrangements are being completed for an annual conservation award for the best conservation project carried out by schools in the Wairarapa. This award is being sponsored by DUNZ Life Member, Dr Tony Reiger of the United States and will be known as the Andrew McMaster Memorial Trophy. It will carry an annual cash grant and will firstly be judged during the 1994 school year. Thanks to Dr Reiger's generosity this award will help enhance the conservation ethic among school children.

WAIRARAPA WETLAND WORK GOES ON

A new wetland has recently been created on the Wairarapa property of Glenys and Ted Hansen at Matahiwi, west of Masterton. DUNZ has provided both design and planting advice for this project while Ted and Jim Campbell have done the spade work with their own machinery.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR MEMBERS

The Board of Directors would like to acknowledge the generous support of the following members who have gone the extra mile for us this year by taking out sponsor membership.

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MARINE RESERVES PROTECT ESTUARINE WETLANDS

The Department of Conservation is working on marine reserve proposals for both the Whangapoua Harbour on Great Barrier Island and the Whanganui Inlet on the western coast of North West Nelson. Both these areas are extremely important estuarine wetland systems as their isolation has meant they have largely escaped from the ravages of coastal development which has drastically modified so many other estuaries around the country.

WOODEND LAGOON TO BE RESTORED

In the late 1970's Ducks Unlimited erected Grey Teal nest boxes at Woodend Lagoon north of Christchurch. This is a remnant of a once much larger wetland, and over the years it has been heavily modified and degraded. As part of a proposal to settle a Ngai Tahu Waitangi Treaty claim it is proposed that the crown vest the lagoon in the freehold ownership of Ngai Tahu, who seek to restore it to its former glory, and is part of a wider proposal to settle the

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matter of the crown failing to reserve land as a result of the Kemp purchase. Ducks Unlimited has supported this proposal as we see it as a very useful model for the sustainable management of restored wetlands, where those wetlands provide the opportunity for multiple uses. We believe that this type of model could ultimately lead to the restoration of many more wetlands throughout the country.

MEMBERSHIP COMPETITION

Thank you to everyone who entered our membership competition for the Magnificent Mallard Decoy. During the competition 120 people decided to support active waterfowl and wetland conservation by becoming members of Ducks Unlimited. Watch out for our next membership promotion which won't be too far away.

While there was only one winner there were ten prize draws with other prizes including limited edition artwork and prizes from our DU sales department. All winners have been notified by mail and the prizes are on their way. The winners were Jill and Tony Phelps (Mallard Decoy), Kevin Evans, Barry Lamp, Rachel Masemann, Dale Williams, Colin Muirhead, Jennie Gooch, Barbara Thompson, Trevor Chappell and Douglas Williams.

In addition, the following members have received a free subscription to Ducks Unlimited as a result of their efforts to sign up new

members; G.H. Johnson, S. Brady, Jim Campbell, Jim Cook, Diane Pritt, Dave Johnston, Mrs Laing and Mark Newcomb. Many thanks to each and every member who encouraged a friend to join. Word of mouth is still our most important form of advertising and we appreciate your help and support.

THANK YOU TO OUR CONFERENCE AUCTION DONORS

The Board of Directors would like to thank everybody who supported the Annual Conference auctions by donating auction items. We appreciate and acknowledge your generous support.

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DU CANADA OPENS ITS NEW HEADQUARTERS

On May 1, DU Canada opened its new national headquarters building at Oak Hammock Marsh, about 40 kilometres north of Winnipeg. The building is not only DU Canada's headquarters, it also houses the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretation Centre which features displays, artifacts and interactive learning exhibits. Outside is Oak Hammock Marsh which has been restored by DU Canada in stages since 1972. The total area of the reserve is 36 square kilometre and includes tall grass prairie as well as the marsh. It is home to over 260 species of birds and is an extremely important remnant of the St Andrews Marsh which was once 450 square kilometres.

DUCKS UNLIMITED MEXICO COMMEMORATIVES

An issue of commemorative stamps is planned to coincide with the 20th anniversary of Ducks Unlimited Mexico. The launch of these will be timed for the Ducks Unlimited International Conservation Convention which will take place in Acapulco, Mexico, in May 1994, and they will include artwork of interest to Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

NATIONAL SALES ITEMS

BOOKS

Duckshooters: Sportsmen & Conservationists	20.00
Complete Book Australian Birds (Readers Digest)	85.00
Coloured Key to the Waterfowl of the World ..	14.50
New Zealand Birds	11.30
The Hawaiian Goose	25.50
Ponds and Lakes for Wildfowl	54.00
Wildfowl by Eric Hosking	50.00
Wetlands by Gordon Stephenson	15.00
NZ Wetlands: A Managment Guide	25.00

APPAREL

DU Hat Red/Blue/Black (one size fits all)	15.00
DU Jersey - Red/Green/Blue (state size)	76.00
DU polo Shirt - Dark Blue	40.00
Stirling Silver Duckhead Pendant	45.00

FINE ART PRINTS

Mallards - Janet Marshall	65.00
Shovelers - Russell Jackson	65.00
"Whio" - Paul Martinson	65.00
Grey Teal - Lex Hedley	65.00
"Pateke" - Pauline Morse	65.00

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DU Cloth Shoulder Patch	9.60
DU Canada 50th Anniversary Badge	5.60
DU Duck Head Badge - Large Gold	6.75
DU Duck Head Badge - Small Gold/White & Green	5.60
DU Duck Head Stick Pin	5.60

STATIONERY

DU Maxipens - per box	13.00
DU Maxipens - single	1.50
Postcards - Mute Swan/Brown Teal 10 pack	4.00

GENERAL

Fenn Traps Mk 6	36.00
DU Cam-O-Paint	10.00
DU Plastic Ruler	1.50
DU Plastic Mugs - set of 3 assorted colours	2.00
Engraved Crystal Decanter	50.00
Roll Bag	24.00
Camo Back Pack	36.00

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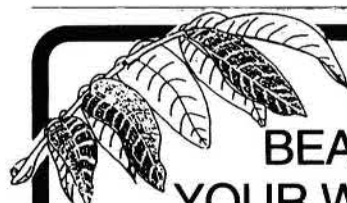
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