



Decoys: To flap or not to flap...

By Andrew Currie

As a keen Duck shooter I am always looking for an opportunity to increase my chances of harvesting a few more birds.

And I have spent many a still, frosty North Canterbury morning armed with a handful of pebbles, tossing them at my decoys when birds are overhead, just to give the illusion of some movement on my pond.

This year I decided to fork out for a 'Flapper'... well, actually, my hunting mate talked me into it.

I 'A Super Wonderduck Paddle Wheel' was the agreed purchase, and wow what a wonder duck it turned out to be!

I cannot believe how successful it has been; whether shooting mallards over a pond, or parries in the sparseness of the stubble left from a harvested maize field, or the lush green grass of a well irrigated diary paddock, the birds drop in like Kamikaze pilots.

The movement of the wings and the water they flick up (when on a waterway) seems to attract endless birds in.

The only modification I made was to paint one side of the black wings with an 'off-white' tint I had lying around in the shed. I believe this gives a more realistic flashing of the wings and the proof has been in the results.

There are many options when it comes to choosing a motorised decoy; feeding duck butts, feeding ducks, or the very popular 'Quiver Full Duck Decoy'.

They all work, and simulate a duck 'party' on the water.

Some will argue the ethics of using such decoys, personally I reckon anything that makes the time spent chasing game birds a little more enjoyable and productive can't be a bad thing.

- Andrew Currie is South Island communications advisor and is a mad keen game bird hunter.