



Shark

When swimming off the beach we seldom worry about sharks thinking that they are a deep water fish and we carry on with our swimming and playing.

While fishing for flounder off the beach a bronze whaler shark about eight feet in size was caught in a net. Thinking it was a log the fishermen were surprised when they pulled it to shore. The shark had drowned as when caught in the net it couldn't move and all sharks have to keep moving to breathe. What a shame, as it was a lovely looking fish with a pointed nose and a large rear tail that tapered to a point. Its dorsal fin would have been frightening to see as it powered through the water. Not knowing what kind of shark it was, I sent a photo to Te Papa where they identified it for me. Lachlan just couldn't resist posing for his granddad's photo shot.

Graeme's Story

The local council staff have lowered the level of the Waimanu lagoons so that they can adjust the new stainless steel control gate to the lagoons. In doing this they have exposed to the sunlight, the new growth that has started to choke the lagoon, and hopefully this will retard it. The shoveler ducks rather like this weed and could be seen feeding off it in quite large numbers.

The gaggle of twenty-one geese have enjoyed the lower water level and have spent quite a lot of time on the southern lagoon on the muddy beach showing on the eastern side. Thomas the goose still isn't allowed to be a part of this group, being bullied by George even though around ten of these birds are his family. He can be seen to one side swimming with one of the female geese, although he spends a lot of his time on the bank by himself.



The gaggle are exerting their authority and if they are spread around the paths won't move in fact become quite assertive, with much flapping of wings and raucous honking if people are walking past. Until they get to know you, then they quietly let you pass. My friend Graeme walks the lagoons every day and after a while the geese recognised him so ignore him when he approaches –just move to one side to let him pass. He took his wife Heather for a stroll and coming upon the geese, a couple of them rose up, rushed over flapping their wings, hissing and honking, confronting them, until another goose honked a couple of loud honks and the two birds immediately quietened down and went back into the gaggle. Graeme is sure they were told –

“We know this fellow must be his wife with him, he's OK.”

Pied shag



Photographs Lena Berger

If you look hard enough you can see the fish being regurgitated and being dragged out of mum's throat, with baby number two waiting patiently to be fed.

Canada Goose in distress

We had a Canada goose turn up on the Waimanu lagoon. Its wing was drooping and it obviously was in trouble. Peter, the SPCA inspector, contacted Kelly, the manager of their Animal Rescue Unit, who then contacted me and the rescue effort was on. Liz, my neighbour is an outdoor adventure instructor and had the canoes necessary for the rescue. The bird was herded to the shore, Kelly managed to throw her net over it and it was put into a large cage and transported to Johnsonville to Craig Shepherd's Rehabilitation Trust.



Liz and Tania manned the canoes on the Waimanu Lagoon and shepherded the injured goose into Catherine and Kelly's net.

Celine the Canada goose in rehab at Craig Shepherd's Bird Rehabilitation Trust at Johnsonville.

Celine the injured Canada goose

From Craig Shepherd's Rehabilitation Trust

Thomas the Goose is now well and has been returned to [Waikanae](#) but we have now received a Canada goose in (we have called her Celine) from the Waikanae estuary that was kindly rescued by the Wellington SPCA Animal Rescue Unit (ARU). She had an open fracture to her left wing and we took her to our vet Christine Mander. Due to the seriousness of the fracture and the extent of the infection half of the left wing had to be amputated. X-rays also revealed other small metal fragments that confirmed my suspicion that Celine had been shot. Celine will never fly again and will spend some weeks recovering before we will decide where to place her. Possibly she could go back to the Waikanae Estuary to live her life with Thomas and his friends or alternatively we will keep her where, sadly she will join the growing number of birds maimed by shooters that end up here on our property.

I have a new icon on my web-site which takes you to stories I have recorded—includes the story of the herd of forty-two cows that turned up at the Estuary Reserve

Hits last Month—Twenty three thousand two hundred & two

Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae
Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking