

This is the eightieth Waikanae Estuary Newsletter

When I started my first newsletter, never did I expect to still be doing it eighty months later. It is only because we live in such a beautiful area with such a diverse range of birdlife that I have managed to keep the stories coming. Also I do tend to be able to find tales when initially there appears to be none. Fortunately I have been able to stick strictly to true stories.

Featuring some of the rare birds from the collage



Fernbird. We don't know how long it has been in the Scientific Reserve as it was only documented by Matt Ward in March 2012.



Black-fronted dotterel. This distinctive little bird straggled over from Australia in the fifties and now is breeding here at Kapiti.



Brown teal. A small duck with interesting markings and a white ring around its eye. It is quite a shy bird semi nocturnal in its habits and can be observed on the lagoons now and then, although it does tend to like the seclusion of the Waimeha lagoon.



Bittern. It has large wings, not made for swift flying and in flight is sometimes mistaken for a harrier hawk. It frequents the wetland and scrub as the hawk does. When disturbed it freezes with its beak in the air.

Changes in the last eighty months of newsletters

The removal into care of Thomas the goose, ends a love story spanning thirty-five years. He was the only one left of the triangle of Henrietta, Henry and Thomas. [see newsletter No 79] They were local icons and the lagoons won't be the same without them.

Another change to the estuary reserve was the closing of the landfill and the large population of black-backed gulls having to find a new home. The ones left on the estuary now have to find food naturally to survive.

The other major change was pied shags finding the nesting tree on the Waimanu lagoon and becoming one of the most prominent species within the reserve.

All this is documented over the months on my web page under newsletter archives.

Hits last Month—sixteen thousand three hundred & eighty-one

Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae
Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking