



Look what turned up with the Canada geese!

I wonder if the white goose in the picture is the same goose that took a chance. {See newsletter No 47 Denise's story January 2011.} The Canada geese fly into the estuary last thing at night, sometimes in their hundreds, and away they go first thing in the morning. The white goose has been on the river for some time, fraternising with a pair of geese which had raised a family. Now that the young are flying, he has been seen winging away with the Canadas, as they head off to their feeding grounds on the local farmers' fields. This is unusual behaviour as the white gander is of a domestic breed. They seldom fly any distance, rather waddle or swim around and pluck the grass for substance, as they, like most geese, are grazers. They like to stick together as a gaggle of their own kind.

Thomas the Goose

Blind Thomas, {see newsletter No 37 March 2010} our goose, has been on TV1. He was filmed along with Craig Shepherd's other ducks for their programme "Good Sorts" as Craig is a "Good Sort" looking after and nursing hundreds of injured water fowl and Thomas in his retirement. Craig has been playing around with his diet and now feeds him corn on the cob, before his pond-side rest and then boiled pumpkin amongst other veges. He has put on 1/2 kilo in a couple of weeks which is great news. He has two blind mallards in with him for company and is looking as good as ever.

If ever you want to take your grandchildren to see Thomas, get in touch with Craig I am sure he would love to show him off. craig@duckman.co.nz



Photographs Ralph Bolton

Thomas looking good with Craig in his retirement

Waimeha Lagoon



Photographs Roger Smith

Look at the colouring of these two birds! The one on the left is the common harrier hawk and the one on the right is the elusive bittern. Bitterns are rare and an unexpected visitor. Frequenting the same wetlands it's no wonder that the bittern is sometimes mistaken for a hawk. Both photographs were taken on the Waimeha Lagoon at approximately the same time.

Dave's Story

The harrier hawk was ranging the farmer's fields. Hidden in the rank grass was a new born leveret. The hawk spotted it and the baby hare was tucker. The next morning, back came the hawk to finish its meal. Along came a younger hawk, swooping down to join in the feast. Up flared the first hawk and chased the intruder away, then back to its dinner. It wasn't sharing with anyone. From the other side of the field raced a mature hare, which was probably the baby's parent. It made a beeline at top speed straight for the hawk. The hawk seeing this speeding hare closing in, quickly took to the air and away. After seeing the hawk off the hare raced back to where it came from, maybe where to were its other youngsters were.



My new book is still on track with the last draft finished-- next step publisher.

Hits last Month—nineteen thousand seven hundred & forty five.

Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae
Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking