

The Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve is a Nationally Significant Reserve
Waikanae Estuary bird tours 9051001

Waikanae Estuary Sunset



Photograph Roger Smith

Nesting

Look what is happening on the lagoons. The swans, nesting on the northern lagoon, must have done so before, as they have made a big nest and are sitting on five eggs. Sometimes if they are new to nesting they don't make it quite as well as this one. On the Waimeha lagoon there are cygnets already and the swans on the southern lagoon have been vigorously mating. The cob can be seen chasing the younger swans all over the place and off the lagoon, if it can. The younger birds are very wary of this older swan and try to keep well away. Swans can be very aggressive and will rear-up with their necks extended and enlarged if approached when on the nest. They use their wings as a weapon so it pays to keep your distance.



Photograph Mik Peryer

With the warmer winter weather other birds appear to be looking at breeding early so let's hope it stays mild for the rest of the winter.

Kingfisher

Wildlife photographer, Roger Smith isn't silly-the kingfisher was half way across the backwater sitting on an old broken down branch. It was very wary and would fly away with its swift flight whenever it saw him about to take a photograph. So sneaky Roger shifted the branch to a more convenient spot where he would be concealed and took this photograph. Kingfishers appear to be on the increase within the estuary as they have been seen more frequently lately.



Blackbird

This blackbird is the most unusual coloured one I have seen, although now and again one does tend to turn up with white feathers. In my first book "Tales of Waikanae Estuary" I did have a photograph of one with white on its wings. This one lives on Te Moana Road so is not strictly an estuary bird. They tend to stay locally, especially if they are looking at nesting.



Photograph Roger Smith

My new book "*Whatever Next --More Tales of Waikanae Estuary*"

Is now available e/mail–mick.moir.peryer @paradise.net.nz

\$29.99 plus postage

Online payments can be made to account

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Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae

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