



Photograph Roger Smith

**She sells sea-shells at the sea-shore --the shells she sells are sea-shore shells.  
This ditty must have been about the Waikanae sand spit.  
I wonder what else there is there, beside sea shells ?**

### **Little blue penguins**

Hi Mick --Just to update you, we have had another penguin come to our area. My wife and I found a very weak blue penguin above the high tide line on Peka Peka beach a couple of weeks ago when we were walking our dogs. We arranged through some friends of ours to take it into The Nest at the Wellington zoo. On the 31st July in response to our enquiry we got the following reply from the Senior Veterinarian:



"Thank you very much for getting in touch, and for your care for the little blue penguin. The penguin arrived very weak, dehydrated and emaciated. It has received supportive care for all three, including intravenous fluid therapy to rehydrate him. Radiographs (x-ray images) and blood tests have shown no significant abnormalities, other than that there is likely to have been some muscle trauma. The bird is much stronger and is now able to stand and walk for short periods. We will continue his fluid therapy, and increasing his body condition and strength through feeding. Once he is strong enough to go in the salt water pool, we will also work on his fitness and waterproofing. It might still be a few weeks, but at this stage it looks likely that the bird will see a full recovery"

We are keeping in touch with the zoo and if we hear any more will let you know.

Regards Merv & Briar Godkin

**They are the two good Samaritans who also rescued the cygnet.**

**[See newsletter No 107 January 2016]**



Orphie the orphaned pecking duck with his new mate the mallard duck.  
They are inseparable but I have a suspicion that they both may be female!

See last months newsletter

***Did you find the banded dotterel amongst the sea-shells?***

## Swallows



Photographer Roger Smith

There are swallows everywhere! Flitting over the lagoons, diving down, then up they go as they chase insects over the water. When they need a drink they swoop down to the surface of the water and take their drink in flight, scooping the water up in their beaks as they fly along. What wonderful flyers they are with their distinctive forked tails. Every year they will make their nest in the same place if they can, usually under an overhang or a bridge. They use mud as their building material, and their poop makes a real mess under the nest.

## Skinks

The skinks within our Estuary Reserve have a hard time of it as the feral cats love to feast on them. Some cats have been caught with a belly full of these creatures. The birds will take them given a chance, although the skinks, are very wary and scramble into the undergrowth at the slightest threat.

This photograph by Roger Smith shows a bittern with a skink in it's beak. I can imagine the bittern feeding on them as it very carefully stalks along the edge of the lagoon.



## White-baiters

The white-baiters are back on the river. The birds don't mind this extra activity and mainly live in harmony with these interlopers - probably more so than the interlopers themselves.

**Hits last month—Twenty-nine Thousand Two Hundred & forty Seven.**

*Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae*  
Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking