



Sammy the seal

Around Twelve thousand miles from Kapiti, at Shepshed England, Lucas is telling the story of Sammy the Seal to his two brothers Joshua and Jacob. Dawn, their Nana was asked to read more the next morning.

Swans

The swans are nesting at long last, with one pair with eggs on the Northern lagoon and another with six cygnets just hatched. This puts the pressure on the ones not on the nest to increase there vigilance and chase the younger adolescent swans away, with a bit more purpose.



Royal Spoonbills

The royal spoonbills with their long sturdy legs are the last bird you would think would roost on the top-most branches of a large tree. However, that's what they do. Along with the pied shags, they like to spend the evenings right on top of the shag tree on the Northern Waimanu lagoon. At times they can be see on the top of the pines upstream on the Waikanae river. They do a lot of feeding in the shallows of the lagoons and the river, even being seen on the beach, checking out the last waves lapping onto the shore.



Photograph Gavin Klee



Welcome swallow

Erwin Lutz sent me this photograph of a white welcome swallow, which doesn't look like a swallow to me! It's because of it having no colour that throws you. as the swallow is a rather pretty bird with its coloured head and body. I wonder how it gets on with the rest of the swallows as I know birds don't like things different. The sparrows can be quite vicious towards any lighter coloured birds in the flock.

From Lutz's farm.

We have all seen him, he has been living with the 100 odd swallows on the farm. He feeds with them on the wing seldom landing on a fence. When there is a hot afternoon the swallows will retreat to the sheds and that is the only time you could get close to him and take a photo. When in flight you can't see any difference except his colour; the paler feet and beak are probably due to his white colour. I looked at photos of both swallows and him when I first managed to take one. I had doubts too, but watching him in the field I had none at all. The swallows will nest on a wall anywhere and also under our rotary cowshed platform so the nest would go around and around for 2-3 hours a day, but the swallows always knew where it was.

While they are called welcome swallows sometimes they aren't that welcome as they poop everywhere!

Peking Duck

Orphie, the orphaned Peking duck, [see newsletter No 114] is doing very well. Still with its mallard/grey mate. They are inseparable and have raised a family and look as if they may be going to start another. They are spending a lot of time on the Northern lagoon by the little steel bridge. So we now have two different species in relationships. We have orphie and the hybrid duck and on the other end of the lagoon we have Celine the injured Canada goose with the white gander who have been together for nearly three years. Three other Canada geese have made their home with these two so we have a little family being looked after by Celine and the white gander. They like to stay on the southern lagoon near where the campervan people can feed them titbits.

Hits last month—Seventy Eight Thousand One Hundred & Thirty five.

Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae
Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking

Sammy the seal is available at local bookshops or through me. See newsletter No 122.