

Kingfishers

The kingfishers are in the Estuary again after being away for the summer. This is when they like to spend time in the Estuary Reserve. I counted three of these birds by the weir with another three nearer the river outlet whilst taking some tourists for a nature tour. Later in the day when the sun is going down, if the tide is low or going out, the photographers arrive with at least half a dozen with big fat cameras and lenses like drainpipes. They wade into the muddy water to photograph these lovely birds and get some wonderful photos. Mind you they are not silly and have extended a pole from the little steel pipe fence around the weir outlet to over the water so the kingfishers can sit on this and dive for their food from there. This is not for the birds benefit but allows for some wonderful photos.

How do you like Roger Smith's photograph of the kingfisher emerging from the water after diving off the pole? Looks like it may not have caught anything.

I wonder where else you can observe these beautiful wild birds, up close and unafraid.



Photograph Rob Jackson



Kingfishers like to dive for little crabs or fish or anything that moves in the water but will also take little birds if they can. One was observed with a fantail in it's beak swinging it against a tree and killing it for its supper.

TJ the goose's journey at Craig Shepherds

TJ is doing fairly well and is starting to stand a little and to move around in his pen. We are not sure how functional his leg will be in the long term but I am hoping that he will be able to at least hobble (pain free) around once the bones fuse.

It will be a slow recovery and there may also be some reduced function/range of movement of his right ankle which could have been there for a while.

So a bit of a waiting game really. I will let you know how his progress is but feel free to drop me a line at any time. [See newsletter 126 August 2017--Mik]

Kind regards Craig

If anyone would care to contribute to TJ's veterinary care and on-going rehab tax-deductible donations can be made at:

<https://givealittle.co.nz/org/Duckman> kind regards Craig.



Black swan Cygnets

Aren't we cute and very vulnerable as we rest on the edge of the lagoon with our parents.

Unfortunately, there are some people who run their dogs off the lead around the parameter of our Waimanu lagoons and you know what happens! The parent swans can't handle these large dogs who in the hands of their owners are usually very friendly and loving. However, running loose around the lagoons and coming across our cute little cygnets, their hunting instincts prevail and next thing the cygnets are dead.

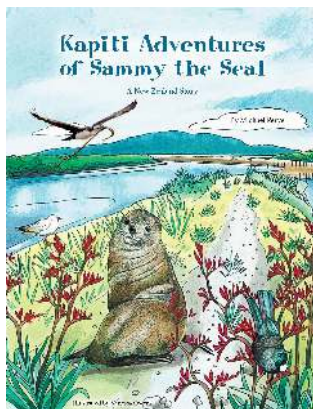
This is very tragic! The lagoons should be the sanctuary they are gazetted as--being part of the Scientific Reserved.

I really don't know what can be done about this as there are many irresponsible dog owners running their dogs in the area. The council has signs bringing peoples attention to the fact that dogs should be on a leash; these dog owners just ignore them.



White eyes

The white eyes are in the garden again. Flitting this way and that, not stopping still for very long. These birds love bananas and if one is suspended on a nail through the thick part of the banana they will peck through the skin and demolish it, leaving a black shrivelled skin with no fruit inside.



Kapiti adventures of Sammy the Seal

My first children's book is available now with the second in the series coming up fast.

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Hits last Month--Forty Nine Thousand one Hundred and Seventy Nine.

Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae
Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking