



**Life in the days of a orphan Peking duck.**

When someone deposited eighteen Peking ducks onto our lagoons they didn't know the consequences. Presumably these birds came from someone's lifestyle block and had become a nuisance. Being domestic birds they didn't have to look for their food and must have been fed regularly. Over a fairly short period on our lagoon these birds starved to death!



They didn't know how to feed themselves in a wild environment. However, one smart bird survived! He mated up with a female mallard and she must of showed him how to feed himself. Over a couple of seasons they produced two broods, see photograph. In the second photograph by Colin M McKenzie the Peking duck is protecting it mate and sending off in no uncertain way, a mallard drake showing an interest in his partner. That's her in the top corner looking very smug!





Photograph Bob Cubin

### **Coot on the Waimanu lagoon**

Coots don't visit very often, just now and then, not staying for any length of time.

### **New mid-winter additions**



After a long incubation stint, look what we have, eight cygnets! This is quite unusual as time and again swans will have five or seven, so these swans must have been very fertile. Swans will nest anytime if the conditions are favourable. Note how vigilant the cob is!

Photograph Jackie Cumming



Billy the dog taking his family for a stroll now that the paths are clean with no muck to clog up the pram wheels or the dog's feet.

**Twelve Thousand One Hundred & Fifty two Hits last month.**

***Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae***

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