

### **New Zealand Dotterel**

Look what turned up on the sand-spit! After a false start to the breeding season last year, when two N.Z. dotterels laid three eggs each in the same nest, which made us think that they must have been two females. After a while the eggs were abandoned. This time there is no doubt, as the photograph by Roger Smith shows, There is a pair with a tidy nest with three eggs.



They are not very keen on anyone, anywhere their nesting spot, so its very important that dogs are on a leash and people keep their distance.

I rang DOC and Colin Giddy their man on duty arrived first thing Sunday morning with some stakes and tape and Roger Smith and I helped to put the stakes in a wide area around the nesting site. We started to wind the tape from stake to stake however the wind vibrated the tape with a noise like a jet plane so we just tied strips on each stake so people would keep away from the area. We also put up a sign--Nesting birds keep dogs away.



### **Banded Dotterels**

Not only are the NZ dotterels nesting but the banded dotterels have a nest with eggs in much the same place. The eggs are more of a blue green colour and you can look intently in the area of the nest and until pointed out, not see the eggs.

### **Pied stilts**

The pied stilts are nesting in the man-made lagoon beside the on-ramp to the motor way here at Waikanae on the left heading South.



**Photograph Roger Smith.**

## Thomas the goose,s Unveiling



The local council have supplied a large boulder and our Waikanae Funeral Home a Plaque with Pinky Agnew's Epitaph on it.

**We are having a unveiling on the 9th of December at 5.30 in the afternoon at the grave site with a low key picnic-- come afternoon tea, with everyone asked to bring a plate and share the goodies. Everyone welcome.**

### Mik's Sammy the Seal Books

The fourth book in the series of Sammy the Seals children's books are now hot off the press! This is the last in the series.

We have taken you from Kapiti Island up the river then on to the southern Waimanu lagoon where poor old Sammy gets spooked by the arrival of all these humans with sailing boats --next through the pipe under the road to the smelly shag tree and on to the viewing hide in the Waimeha lagoon---from there he makes his way back to the Waikanae river and on to the sand spit to be chased into the sea by the dogs running loose -- then back to Kapiti Island.

When I started I thought there would be five books but we have done it in four.

These books teach the parents as well as the children most of the species of birds they could find here at the Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve lagoons, and throughout New Zealand

There are 51 species--both drawings and photographs --within the series.



### Sammy on the sand spit --Book 4

#### A Sad Tale

We had a swan sitting on the berm at the side of the road in distress. It was not moving but, had it's head in the air. I contacted Caroline from HUHA and very shortly her local girl turned up put a towel around the swan and into the car boot it went. Caroline phoned later to tell me the Swan had nylon around it's body and had used it's feet to try and kick the nylon away and in doing so had broken both legs. The outcome after consulting with three vets, was that the best result for the bird, was to be put down. What a sad outcome because of someone's thoughtlessness.

**Hits last month—Nineteen Thousand nine Hundred & ninety one**

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

**Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking.**