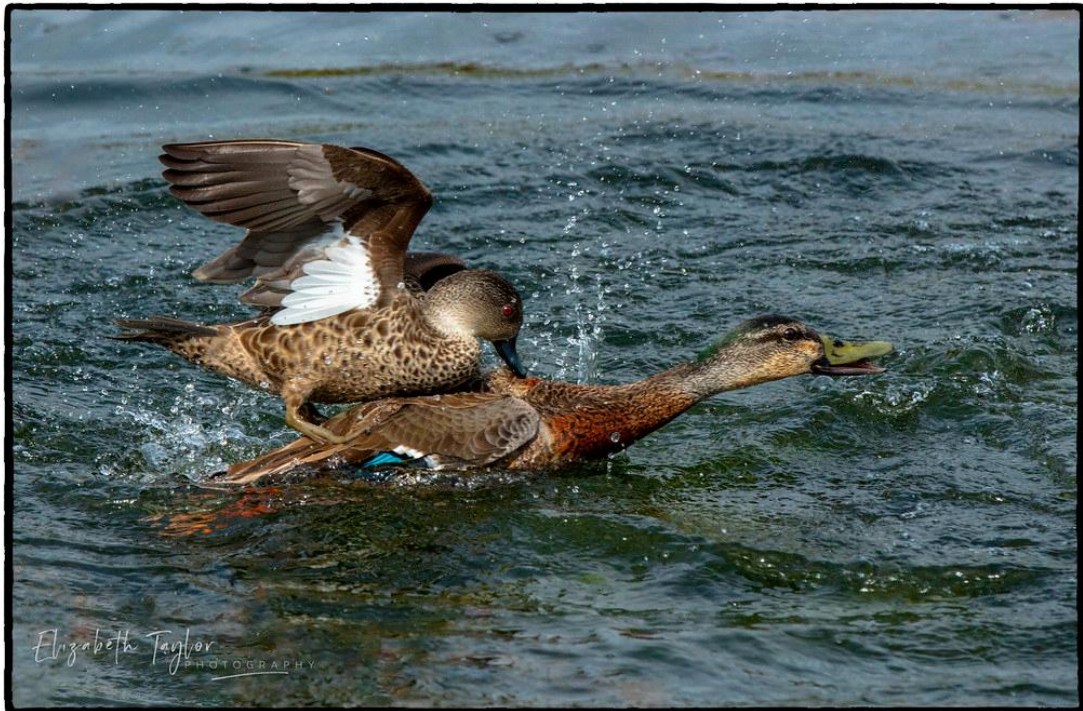


Grey Teal & Mallard duck



The grey teal chasing the mallard from its brood.



Mallard duck & ducklings

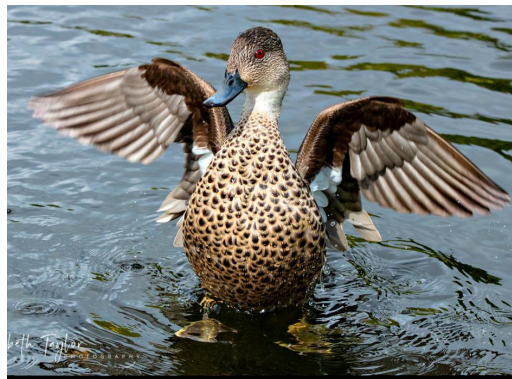
This is a story like no other! with a grey teal taking over being a father figure to a brood of mallard ducklings. Chasing away the mallard drake and any other ducks that came near. I might be little but don't mess with me --The grey teal gave the mallard drake a hurry-up. All is not serene on our lagoons, everyone has a place and a place for everyone, as long as you keep to yours. I have never seen a teal hassling a mallard drake before --Mik



The mallard drake being chased by the grey teal.

Grey Teal

Last season, I photographed this female Mallard and the attached male Mallard was with her and the little ducklings. A couple of days later I noticed the male had been replaced with a Grey Teal and it was acting like a body guard to the little ducklings. It would place itself behind the family as I fed them and chase away any other duck that came near. I never saw the male mallard with them again but the Teal was always with the group. I see that this season the duck with the white neck is with another male mallard. I wonder if the bodyguard will make another appearance. Unfortunately from the original 14 ducklings only 3 survived so maybe it's not such a good bodyguard after all. Regards, Elizabeth Taylor.



The Grey Teal.

Mik Peryer the birdman of Waikanae.

Hits Last month _____