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Waikanae Estuary Newsletter No 158 April 2020

www.kapitibirdtours.co.nz**Waikanae the wild-bird Capital; of New Zealand.**

Royal Spoonbill

Would you believe it but we had a mature royal spoonbill - a wading bird - get stuck in the mud. This bird was in the backwater by the weir as the tide was coming in and it was flapping its wing in a desperate attempt to lift off before the tide became too deep! However, it couldn't pull its legs out of the mud. To the rescue came two ladies - one fortunately had a spade in her car and a desperate rescue took place. The spade was used to lift the bird - including the mud- out of the water. Along came those wonderful people from HUHA [Help you Help Animals] who took the bird back to their clinic at Stokes Valley. The bird was then transferred to the Wellington zoo 'Nest' where it was assessed. It was mature but must have had an underlying problem that made it too weak to be able to extract its legs from the mud. Because of this underlying problem, the decision was made to put it down-- what a sad ending to our story!



Photograph courtesy of Roger Smith

The Love Story

The love story of Henrietta and Thomas as a children's book is well underway. What I now need is for you people who attended the funeral procession behind the piper, who would like their portraits portrayed by our illustrator, to send me their photograph and indicate just where they were in the procession! Can't guarantee that you will look like the photograph but you may be able to recognise yourself in the final book.



A sample of the illustrators skill

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Thomas the Goose's funeral procession

The little person kneeling, putting flowers on the stone, needs to be in the book, can you name him or her for me?



Herbert the juvenile black-backed gull

What a pain in the butt Herbert is! He is a young black-backed gull and has an injured leg. A lot of people have rung me to tell of this bird, however; with an injured wild bird, the best thing you can do is leave it alone. It will either come right on its own or the bird may die; perhaps this is the time to try and help it. This bird is a real pain as it has a very loud



plaintive cry that it repeats over and over. People feed it and it knows it, so will fly over, screeching! to whoever looks likely to have some goodies, It also loves to sit on the roofs of the camper-vans where it deposits large amounts of smelly white poop which upsets the campers no end. You have to put up with things like this at the beach!

Photograph courtesy of Roger Smith

Resting



They say birds of a feather flock together but, in this part of the Waimanu lagoons, there are around eight different species in the same area all happily together. There are grey teal, black swans, royal spoonbills, paradise ducks, mallard drakes, pukeko, scaup and shoveler ducks.

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We even have pied stilts, pied oystercatcher, shoveler ducks, a scaup and mallard ducks further along in the lagoon. So that takes it to ten different species without getting your feet wet.

Mik Peryer the birdman of Waikanae

Hits last month - Twenty-four thousand six hundred and two.

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