



Photograph Eileen Thomas

*What a wonderful treasure we on the nature coast have, with our Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve. Over sixty species of wild birds visit at times, with, at any one time, at least twenty different species on show.*

*I dare to say that there are very few places nation-wide where anyone, even people with disabilities, can view this many wild birds within an urban environment which is only fifty minutes from our national capital, on a bus and train route and with a magnificent beach. This is Nature coast.*

**Moira and Mik Peryer**

### **Little Black Shags**



The little black shags are back in the river hunting in packs of around sixty birds.

They herd the little fishes against the shingle banks where there is a frenzy of feeding.

The herons know what is happening and fly over and run along the shingle banks to get the little fish the

#### *Herding the fish*

shags actually chase out of the water.—every bird knows what the other is up to.

I had a Dr Bobby Fletcher from the B.B.C. email me, she wanted to know if it was possible to come on over and photograph these birds, of course I told her she could, however, she needs to be very patient.



*Drying their wings*

### **White fronted terns**

There are around three hundred white fronted terns on the estuary at the moment.

These birds come and go, one minute they are here the next they have gone.

When disturbed whilst resting on the sand spit, up they go altogether and just move off to a more secure spot on the spit. When they land, down they come, one after the other like a waterfall in a big curve. It is just lovely to watch.

These birds are often called “the swallows of the sea” because of their curved wings and their graceful flight.



*White fronted terns*

### **New additions**

We have a solo mum black swan with five, three week old cygnets. Our love birds Henry and Henrietta the two black swans with Thomas the goose have started another nest with their five cygnets only three months old and not yet flying. Never mind the onset of winter. They have, to date, in four and a half years had fifty eight babies.

## Pied Shags

An update on our pied Shags.

Well, after the disastrous start to their nesting when they were hit with a terrific storm with thunder, lightning, rain and gale force winds, they are settling down in their tree again with their nest. At the moment, late afternoon there are around twelve of these beautiful birds roosting.

It's wonderful to see a different species taking up residence in our lovely Waikanae Estuary lagoons. These birds have only been here in the last four years in any numbers, apart from the odd bird or two.



*Pied shag*

### Waikanae estuary restoration

If you would like to participate in this worthwhile project contact our secretary Maureen. Phone 9024892

We have an open day in conjunction with one of the regular planting days on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> May-----All welcome



Waimanu lagoon Waikanae Estuary. Photograph Eileen Thomas

Mik's Eco Tours

Kapiti Bird Tours  
Delivering  
**Nature Coast?**  
KAPITI HOROWHENUA experience



Hope you have enjoyed your copy  
of our monthly estuary newsletter

*Maura & Mik Lanyon*

