

Waikanae Estuary Newsletter
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<http://kapitibirdtours.co.nz/>

The Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve is a Nationally Significant Reserve
Waikanae Estuary bird tours 9051001

This issue features photography from our local wild-life expert Roger Smith. When our wild birds become injured through one reason or another they very seldom survive for any length of time. Now and again there are exceptions like our famous black swan Henrietta who lived with an injured wing for over thirty years. This banded dotterel, has only one foot, but appears in splendid condition and is nesting within the Estuary Reserve. If anyone sees this bird it would be nice to get feedback as to how it's doing and where it is.



No wonder the skylarks are singing on high, nesting where no one can see them, hidden on the ground. They never land beside their nest, rather dropping down away from it and when no one is about, along the ground they hop to their nesting site. At times they dive straight down after spending time singing their song of love, hovering, very hard to see. Other times they spiral down, singing as they go, around and around until reaching the ground. Roger found their nest.



These ducks are on parade..



Bitterns don't visit the Estuary Reserve very often and usually, if seen, will freeze, with their beak vertical and pointing skywards. Roger Smith was fortunate to snap this one in the air. They fly with a slow flapping motion of their large wings. Frequenting swampland and with similar colouring, they can be mistaken for a harrier hawk.



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This pied shag appears to be flapping the water to herd the little fishes ahead of it. Immediately after the frantic splashing it dived under the water and off up stream it swam. There may be another explanation. These birds have parasites like most wild birds and maybe its frantic splashing was to try and dislodge some. Swans have a tick the size of your thumb and we found ticks on a royal spoonbill a few months ago, which eventually killed it.



Two infrequent visitors a red necked stint and a wrybill

Twenty Three Thousand One Hundred and Twelve Hits last Month

Mik Peryer the Birdman of Waikanae
Sponsored by Chris Lee Sharebroking