This time of the year can be fairly quiet but over the past few weeks we have had a run of little stone critters, these are flat stones that have been painted, we started finding them in the gardens in trees and many other places, they are really cool looking with all sorts of things painted on them.

Some have been taken to other locations but a few of them we have relocated in the compound area where they will be safe.

Some of the stone critters are now living in our cages with the Birds where they can have a look at them, these stones are made by children so they get a lot of fun hiding them all over Whangarei, we had a German couple that were really taken with them so two are now on the way back home to Germany, lot of fun and great to see visitors going away with a smile.

At the start of the month we have a Brown Teal brought in; it was in a bad way after being run over by a car, the Teal likes feeding after dark so it would be very hard to see one on a metal road at night.

After medication and a lot of care I released it back to the location it came from, it had damage to its wing, eye and was unable to stand so really good to see it go free again.

Very soon we will start receiving young Birds as we are getting into the start of spring.

If you find any Bird that is in trouble keep it warm and quiet, no food or water please as this will do more harm than good.

We have been getting a lot of Hawks, at this time of the year they are having trouble finding food so they are taking risks by staying on the road kill and getting run over.

The Harrier Hawk does a great job cleaning up road kill, try to avoid them on the road, I don’t mean you have to put yourself or your car at risk but slow down and this will give them time to get away.

If anyone has a small chip heater or pot belly stove they don’t want let me know, I want to set one up at home to keep some of the injured Birds warm, some of the Birds need a lot of care so at times I bring them home where I can keep a better eye on them, running a gas heater is not good for them because of the fumes and electric heater is too dear to run.

We get lots of small branches dropping of our trees in the bush at home so plenty of fuel to keep them warm.

Robert and Robyn Webb.