



Chewge Menu

- Big fish and rice 12000ts
- Dal and rice 80000ts
- Fried Octopus with vegetable 12000ts
- Shrimp and vegetable skewer 10000ts
- Samosa beef vegetable 10000ts
- Red curry seafood 12000ts
- Grilled Seagull and vegetable 10000ts
- Zanzibar Pizza seafood 140000ts
- Tomato cheese 120000ts
- Chicken cheese 120000ts
- Nuttella fruit 120000ts
- Nuttella chicken 120000ts

The Ashburton/Hakaterere River

- Nationally and regionally important river bird habitat
- Significant local populations of black-fronted terns, wrybill and black-billed gulls.
- Habitat for other threatened or uncommon species; Banded dotterels, black-fronted dotterels and South Island pied oystercatchers.
- 78 species recorded at the river mouth including Australasian bittern and a nationally important population of spotted shag

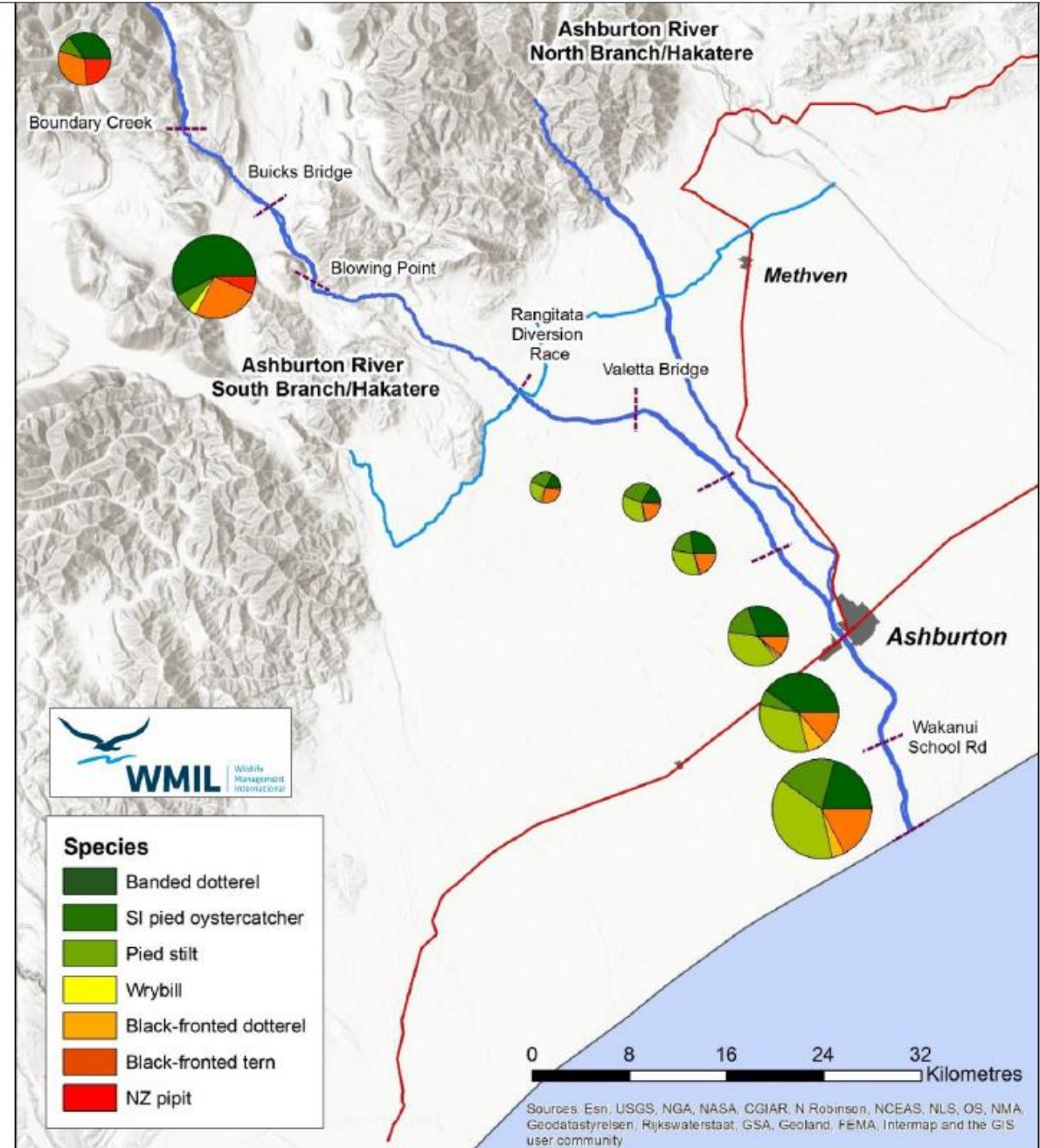


Figure 1.2: Mean relative abundance of shorebirds (excluding gulls) along the Ashburton River/Hakaterere South Branch between 2006 and 2015 Source: Colin O'Donnell, unpublished

Ki uta ki tai



Overview of issues for braided river birds – the threats

- Pest plants
- Pest animals
- Human activities

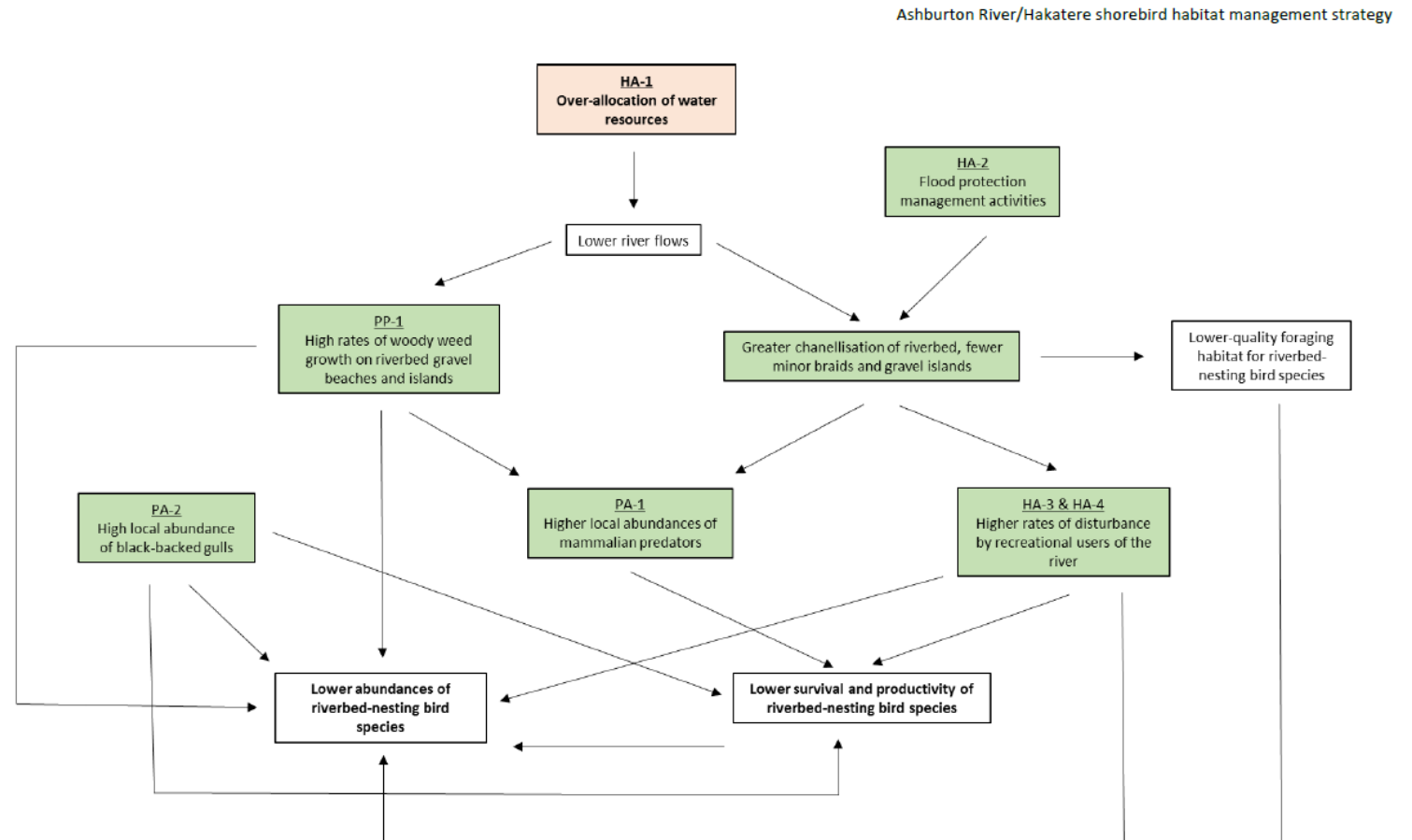


Figure 1.9: Interactions and effects of key threats to the shorebird values of the Ashburton River/Hakitere.

A Management Strategy

- Drafted in 2015/16 to provide a roadmap and a platform for discussion between river user interest groups
- Seven-year operational plan & associated budget confirmed
- Meet annually to share outcomes from the season and discuss any issues
- Make adjustments to next season's action plan – adaptive management

Interest Groups and Organisations

LINZ, DOC, ECAN, Ashburton District Council, Ashburton Zone Committee, Arowhenua Rūnanga, Forest & Bird, BRaid, BirdsNZ, Mid-Canterbury 4WD Club, Fish & Game, Hakatere Hut Owners

Ashburton River/Hakatere shorebird habitat management strategy

August 2016



Management Objectives

Objective 1. There is a large and productive black-billed gull colony present on the “Ashburton Reach” of the river during most years

Objective 2. There are healthy populations of banded dotterel, wrybill and black-winged stilts at Arrowsmith, Hakaterere and Ashburton reaches of the river

Objective 3. Disturbance to shorebirds and waterfowl at the Ashburton River mouth by people and vehicles is minimised year-round, and the river mouth continues to support a high diversity and abundance of shorebirds and waterfowl.

15 Prioritised Management actions

A1: Convene and administer the Ashburton River/Hakaterere Management Group
A2: Island maintenance at SH1 black-billed gull colony
A3: Woody weed control at SH1 black-billed gull colony
A4: Mammalian predator trapping at SH1 black-billed gull colony
A5: Investigation of a total vehicle/foot access ban at SH1 black-billed gull colony

B2: Progressive extension of mammalian predator trapping downstream of SH1
B3: Black-backed gull control on the lower Ashburton River/Hakaterere
B4: Investigating measures to reduce vehicle disturbance at the Ashburton River mouth
C1: Investigating measures to reduce levels of vehicle disturbance downstream of SH1 bridge
C2: Feasibility investigation of reserve status for Ashburton River mouth

Performance Measures

Objective 1: Black-billed gull colony monitoring

1a. Numbers of black-billed gulls breeding on the “Ashburton Reach” are stable or increasing.
1b. In flood-free years, an average of 0.8 chicks fledge per nest
1c. No adult mortality is being caused by local human-induced factors such as vandalism or

ed species counts
s show that shorebird
increasing on the
and Ashburton reaches.

Objective 3: River mouth monitoring

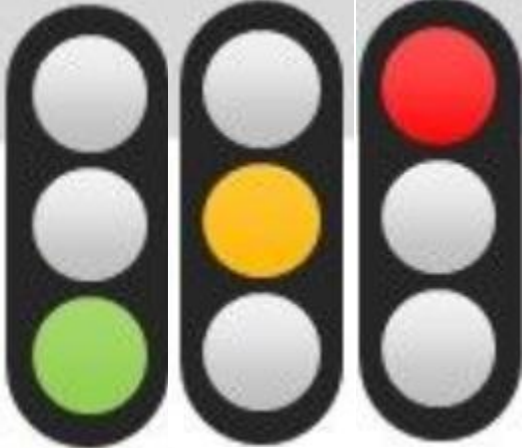
3a. Monitoring bird counts show that the diversity and abundance of shorebirds and waterfowl is stable or increasing over time.
3b. No adult mortality is being caused by local human-induced factors such as disturbance

Annual Implementation Group Update - Adaptive Approach

Implementation of Action Plan

Management Actions (in priority order)

- A1: Convene and administer the Ashburton River/Hakatere Management Group
- A2: Island maintenance at SH1 black-billed gull colony
- A3: Woody weed control at SH1 black-billed gull colony
- A4: Mammalian predator trapping at SH1 black-billed gull colony
- A5: Investigation of a total vehicle/foot access ban at SH1 black-billed gull colony
- A6: Community education and advocacy
- A7: Weed surveillance in the “Arrowsmith” reach
- A8: Mammalian predator trapping in the “Hakatere” reach
- A9: Woody weed control in the “Hakatere” reach
- B1: Progressive extension of woody weed control downstream of SH1
- B2: Progressive extension of mammalian predator trapping downstream of SH1
- B3: Black-backed gull control on the lower Ashburton River/Hakatere
- B4: Investigating measures to reduce vehicle disturbance at the Ashburton River mouth
- C1: Investigating measures to reduce levels of vehicle disturbance downstream of SH1 bridge
- C2: Feasibility investigation of reserve status for Ashburton River mouth



Performance Measures

Objective 1: Ashburton Reach black-billed gull colony monitoring

Objective 2: Other threatened species monitoring

Objective 3: River mouth monitoring

Ashburton Reach Tarāpuka/Black-billed gull colony monitoring

Objective 1 Performance Measures

- 1a. Numbers of black-billed gulls breeding on the “Ashburton Reach” are stable or increasing.
- 1b. In flood-free years, an average of 0.8 chicks fledge per nest
- 1c. No adult mortality is being caused by local human-induced factors such as vandalism or disturbance.

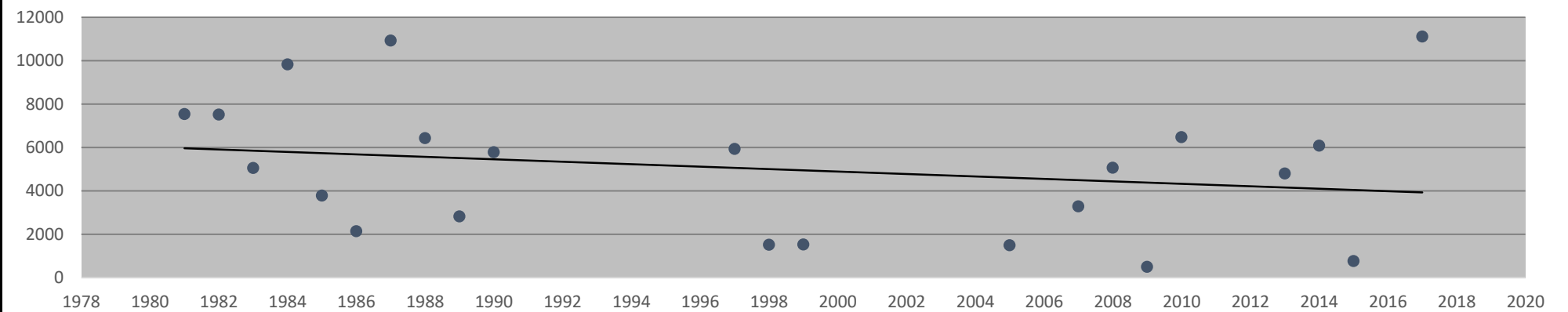


Tarāpuka Breeding Success



Season	2016_17	2017_18	2018_19
Average fledging rate (<i>Target 0.8 per nest</i>)	0.39 (.22,.49,.25,.60)	0.5 (0 & 1)	0.785 (.34*,.89)
Total number of breeding birds using the lower river reach	5,000	10-15,000	3,762

Tarāpuka Annual Survey Count – Ashburton Reach



Other threatened species monitoring

Objective 2 Performance Measure:
Annual shorebird counts show that shorebird numbers are stable or increasing on the Arrowsmith, Hakatere and Ashburton reaches.

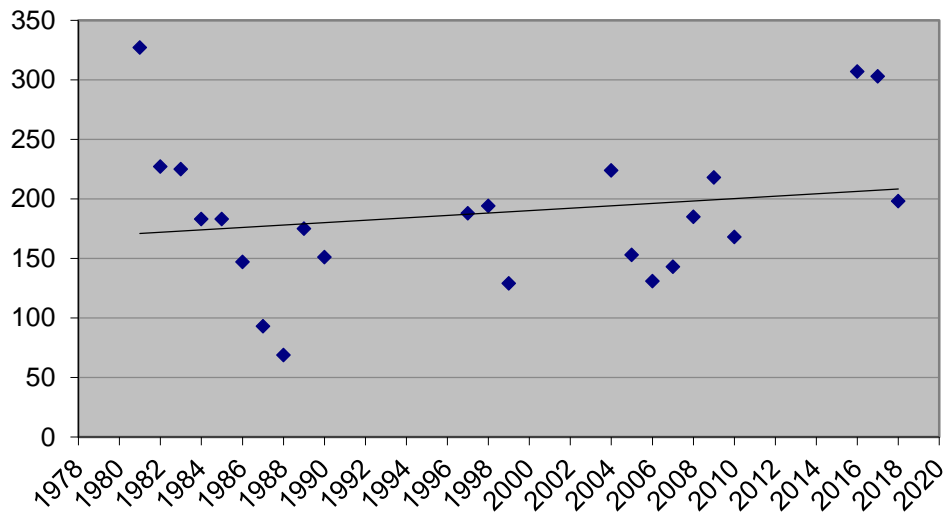
Data: Counts Started by NZ Wildlife Service
(C. O'Donnell & S Moore), carried on in subsequent years largely through the efforts of Ashburton Forest and Bird and local volunteers (D. Geddes & co)



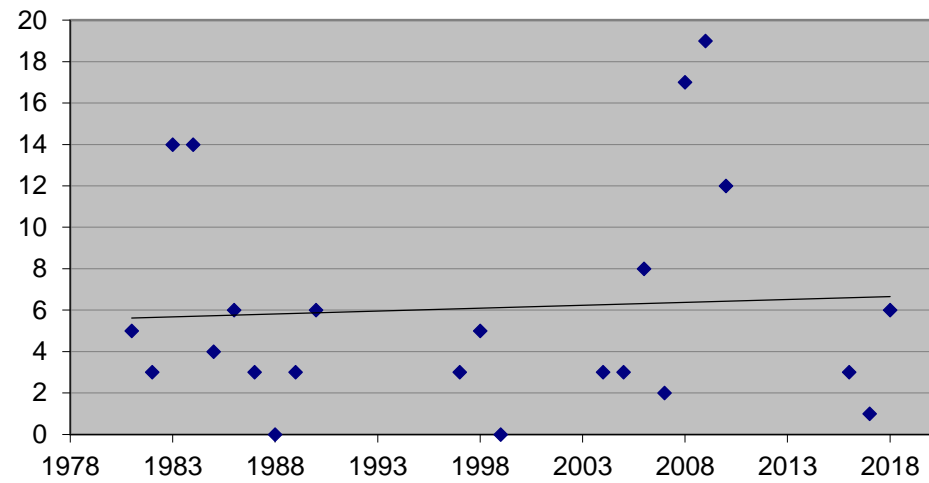
Hakaterere Counts



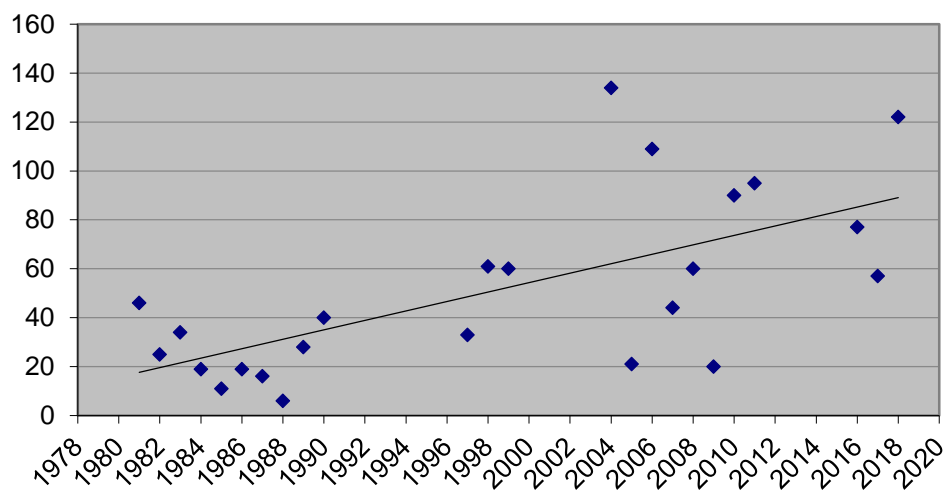
Total Waders



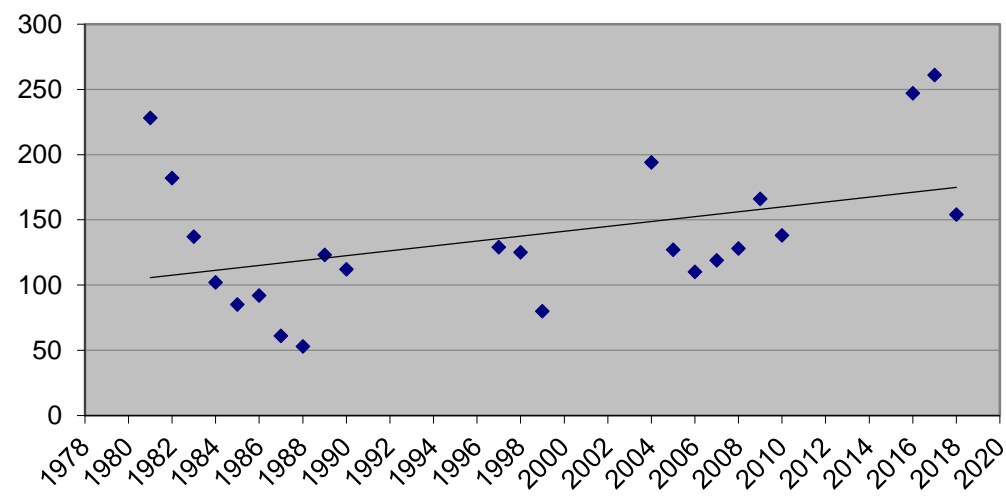
Wrybill



Black-fronted tern

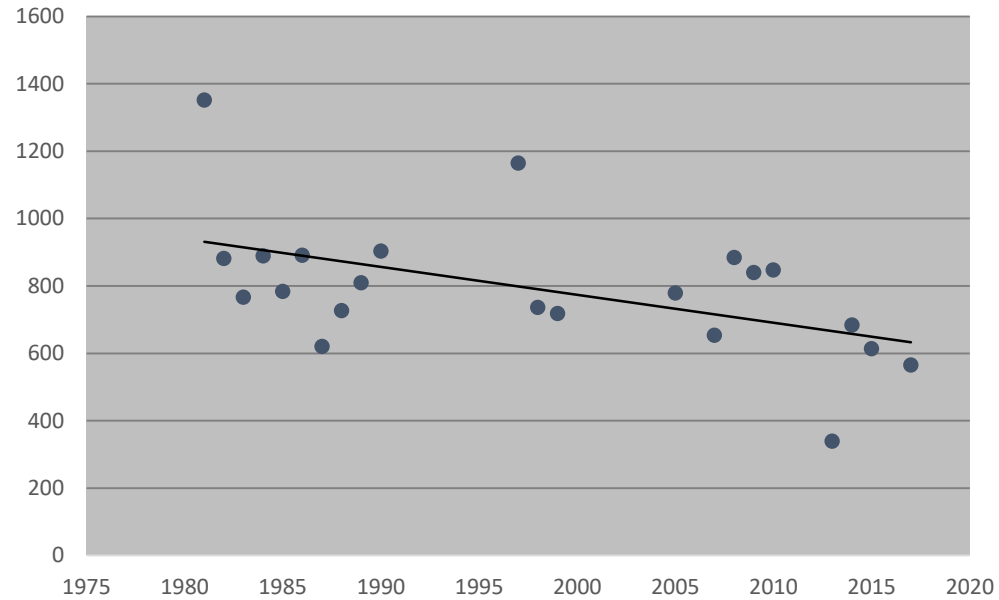


Banded dotterel

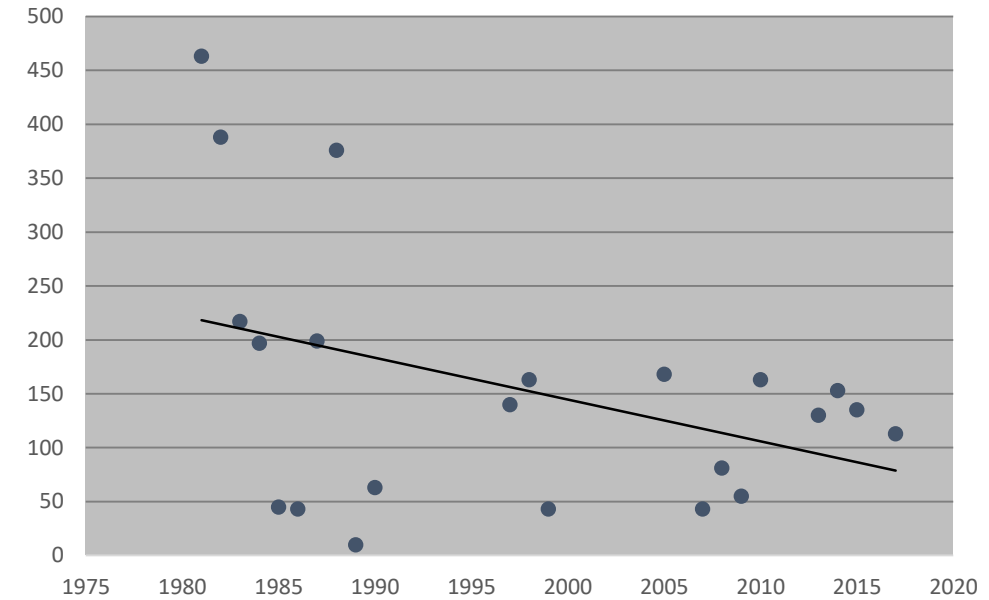


Ashburton Reach Counts

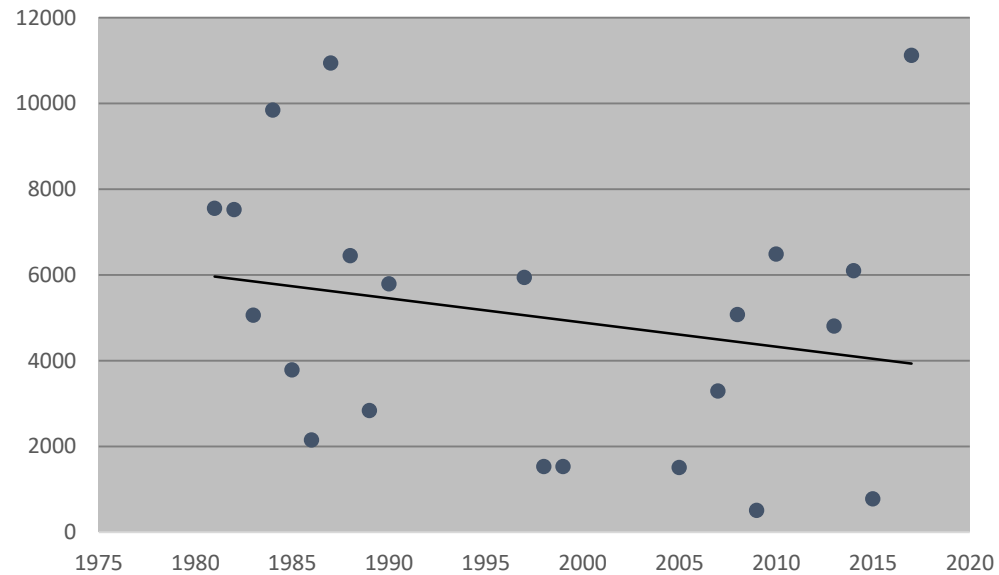
Total Waders



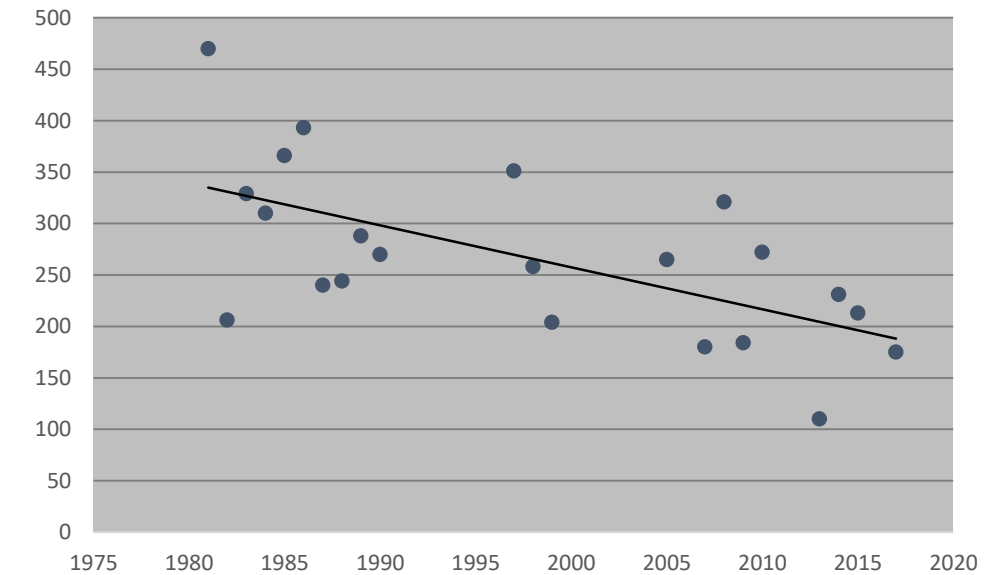
Black-fronted tern



Black-billed gull



Banded dotterel



River mouth monitoring

Objective 3 Performance Measures

- 3a. Monthly bird counts show that the diversity and abundance of shorebirds and waterfowl is stable or increasing over time.
- 3b. No adult mortality is being caused by local human-induced factors such as disturbance

Data: Andrew Crossland has monitored the site since 1980. During 2017/18 and 2018/19 monitoring was facilitated via the Strategy



River mouth Monitoring

Since 1980 78 species recorded
- 34 Species recorded 2018 inc. 2 new species.

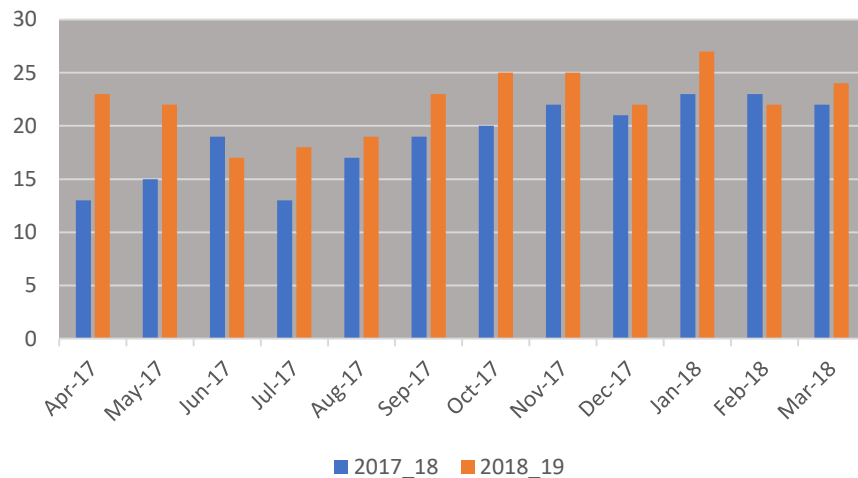
Monthly total counts indicate seasonal importance of river mouth

Higher counts of birds in 2018/19 during autumn driven by **Spotted shag** numbers.

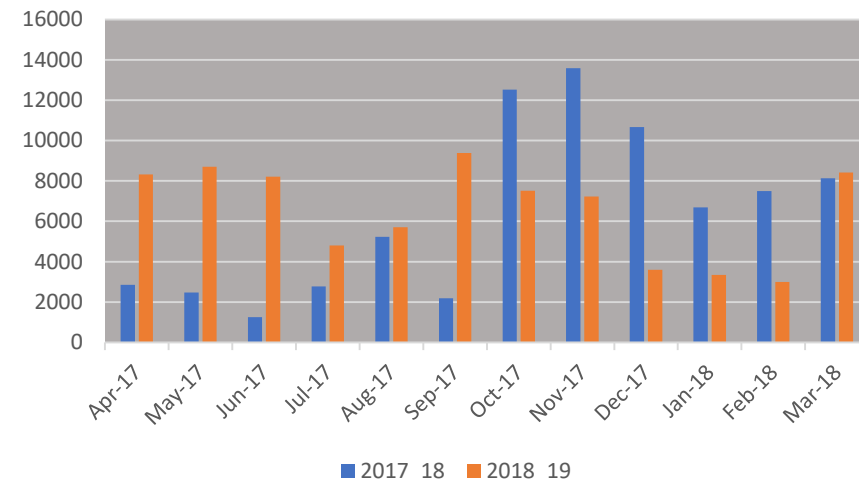
Lower total count in 2018-19 due to absence of a large **White-fronted Tern** breeding colony, and a much smaller **Black-billed Gull** colony.

Black-backed Gull numbers down following control operations in the 2017-18 breeding season.

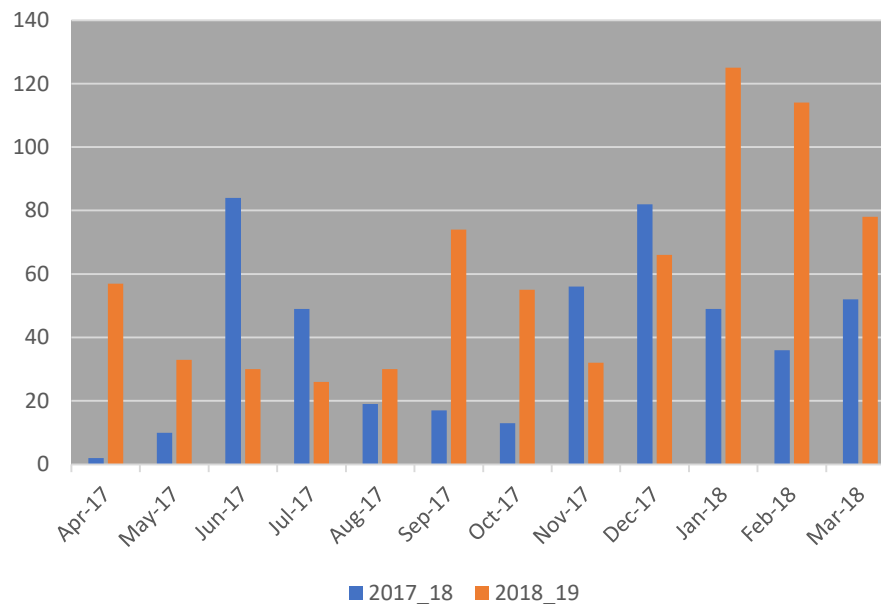
Number of All Species



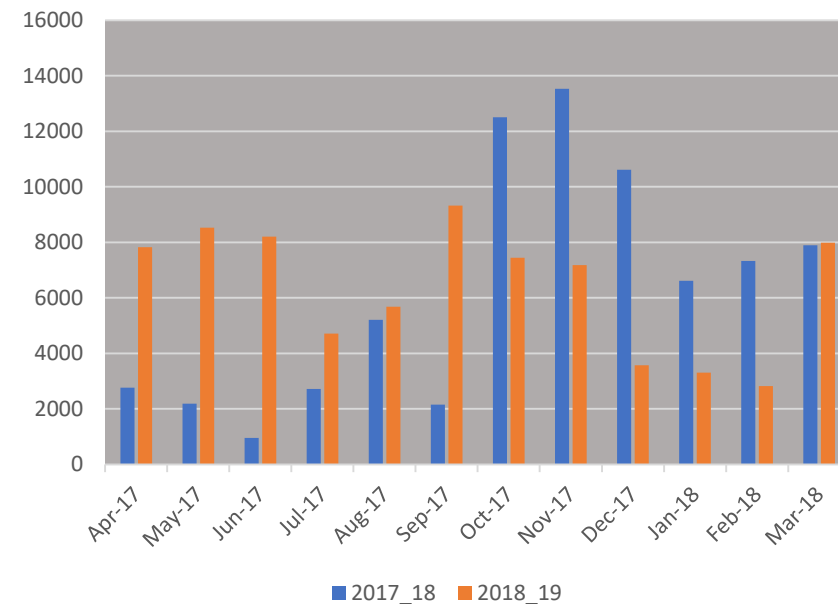
Total Count of All Species



Total Wader Counts



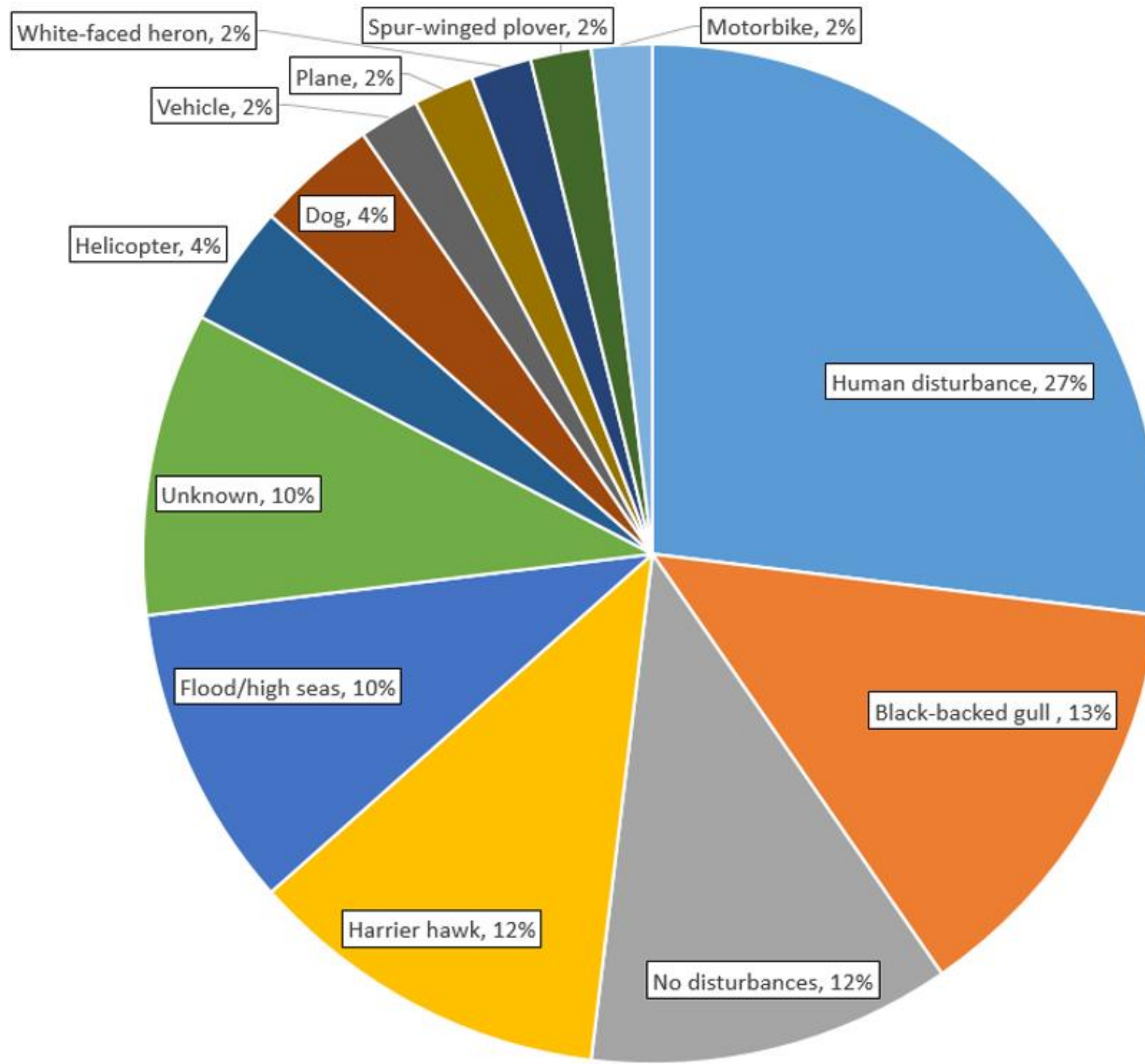
Total Count of Shorebirds



Disturbance Observations

2016_17

- Provides some indication of the frequency of these types of disturbance
- High frequency will not necessarily mean the disturbance type is of greatest impact
- Disturbance for the gulls and terns is a common occurrence at the river mouth
- Camera footage of Tarāpuka colonies show aerial predators (likely harrier and black-backed gulls) cause significant 'uplift' of colonies (majority of colony taking flight in a defensive swarm)
- A separate River Management Strategy in dev.





Education and collaboration

Ashburton Forest and Bird
Formation of a management group
Hakaterere Huts network for support
Supportive newspapers



Controlling access and monitoring

Biodegradable fencing only a visual barrier

Being able to join in with the monitoring to gain knowledge from the experts



Graduated signage

Key Learnings

- Challenges to maintain and protect the river bird values of the Hakatere Ashburton River are many, varying in their importance year by year, requiring an ongoing adaptive and collaborative approach with both funding and work programme.
- Encouraging and facilitating local interest of the river bird values of this river is critical to achieving our objectives and maintaining them in the long run.





Iti rearea teitei kahikatea ka taea

Thankyou