

# 2 Important Areas for New Zealand Seabirds

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## Sites on Land

Rivers, estuaries, coastal  
lagoons & harbours



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# IMPORTANT AREAS FOR NEW ZEALAND SEABIRDS



This document has been prepared for Forest & Bird by Chris Gaskin, IBA Project Coordinator (NZ).

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## Contributors

The following individuals have contributed to the profiles in this document in a variety of ways, including supply of data and information about seabirds, and reviewing draft material, site profiles, species lists and site maps.

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Cover design: Danielle McBride, Paradigm Associates, Auckland

Front cover: Rachel McLellan (Black-billed Gulls), Craig McKenzie (Black-fronted Tern)

Back cover: Frederic Pelsy (Ahuriri River)

Recommended citation: Forest & Bird (2016). *New Zealand Seabirds: Sites on Land, Rivers, estuaries, coastal lagoons & harbours*. The Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand.

NZ047	Awatere River	Marlborough
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Location	New Zealand, Marlborough
Central coordinates	41.658678°S, 174.076996°E (Seddon Bridge SH1)
IBA criteria	A1, (A4ii)
Area	3267 ha
Altitude	0 - 900m
Year of Assessment	2013

#### Populations of IBA trigger species:

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate (pairs)	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Black-billed Gull	Breeding	1975-1997	39-100	A1	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1975-1997	38-54	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable

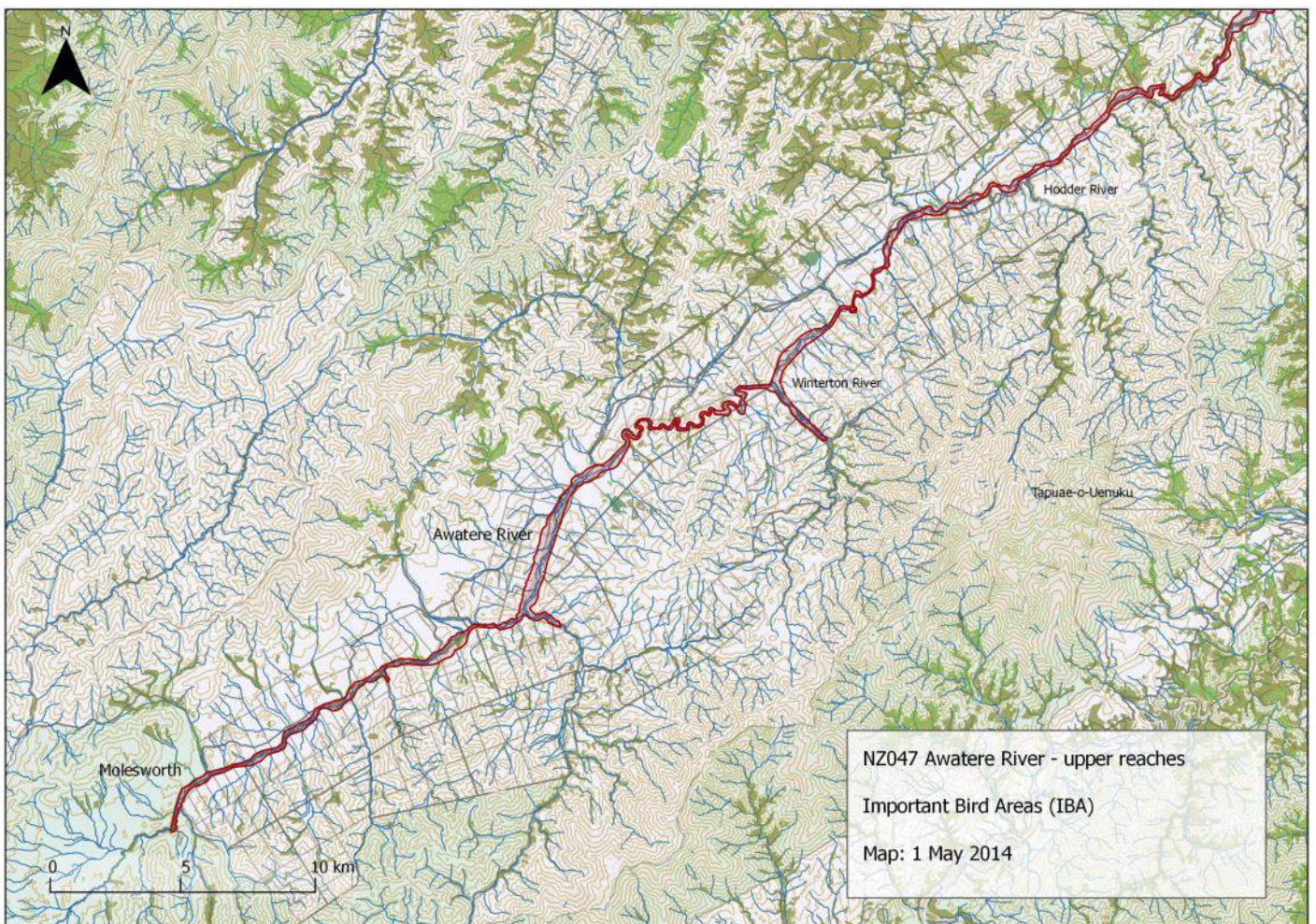
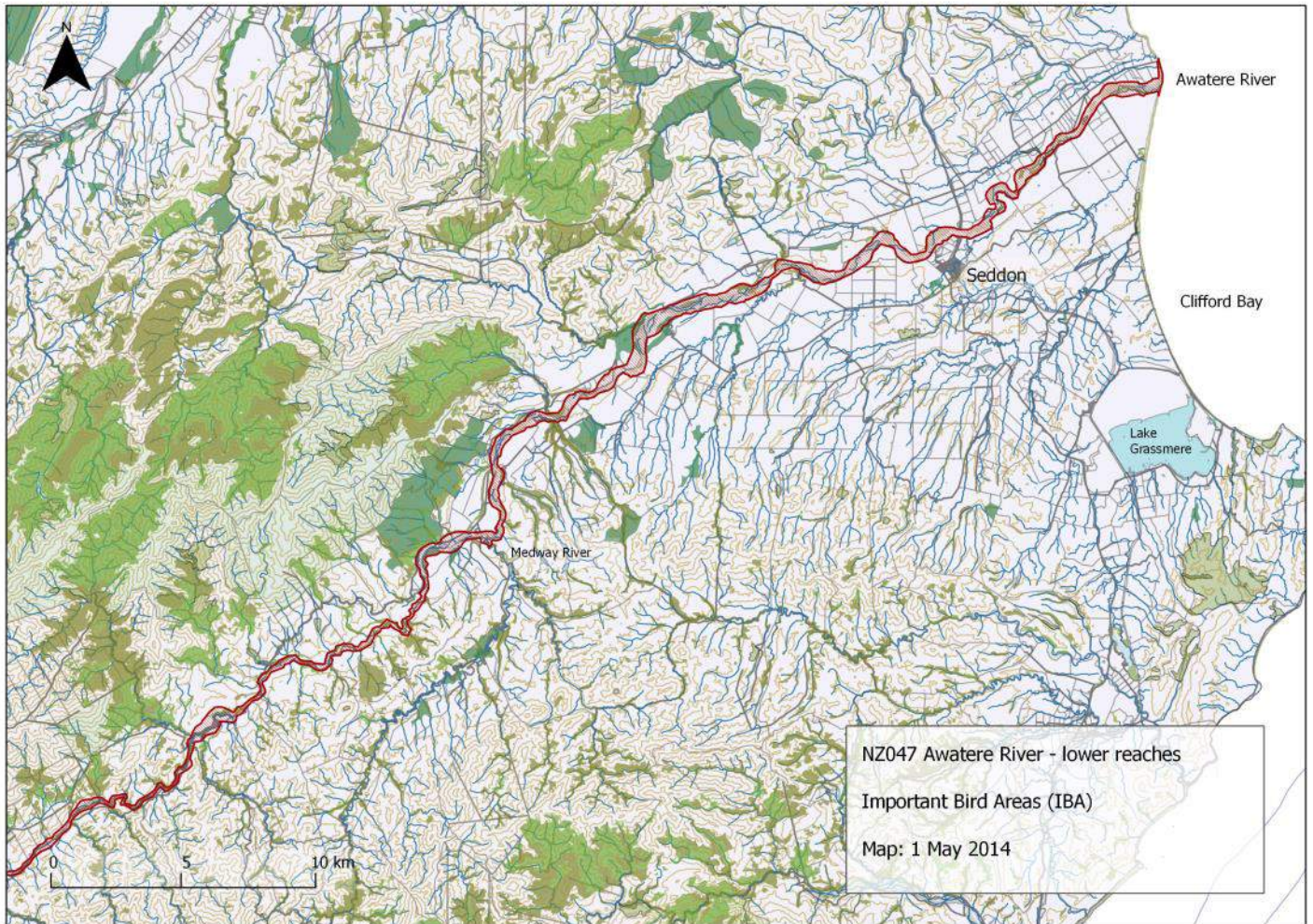
**Ornithological information:** Besides the trigger species the following are confirmed or likely to be breeding: Black Shag, Little Shag, White-faced Heron, Canada Goose, Paradise Shelduck, Mallard, Grey Duck, Grey Teal, NZ Shoveler, Australasian Harrier, NZ Falcon, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Spur-winged Plover, Southern Black-backed Gull, Red-billed Gull, Californian Quail, Rock Pigeon, NZ Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit, Grey Warbler, South Island Fantail, Silvereeye, Bellbird, Skylark, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Red-poll, House Sparrow, Starling, Australian Magpie.

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Awatere River	Marginal Strip	Protected area contained within site
Riverbed Awatere River	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site

The IBA includes a small area towards the headwaters which overlaps with Molesworth Recreation Reserve.

IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Wetlands (inland)	Permanent Rivers; River gravel beds; small Swamps	Major
Introduced Vegetation	Lupin, broom, gorse, pasture grasses & rank weeds	Major
Grasslands	Tussock on river flats (upper valleys)	Minor
Shrubland	Manuka, matagouri ( <i>Discaria toumatou</i> ), bracken	Major







## Threats to the site (pressure) - IUCN Classifications

Threat Level	Notes	Timing	Scope	Severity
Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases	Invasive alien species - mustelids, cats, rats, hedgehogs	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration
Human intrusions and disturbance	Recreational activities by river users - includes dogs.	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Natural system modifications	Water management/use - abstraction of ground water (agricultural use)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Natural system modifications	Weed encroachment on nesting sites (rivers)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Climate change and severe weather	Floods	Likely in short term (within 4 years)	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration

### References:

- O'Donnell, C.F.J., Hoare, J.M. 2011. Meta-analysis of status and trends in breeding populations of black-fronted terns (*Chlidonias albobriatus*) 1962-2008. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 35: 32-43
- Robertson, C.J.R., Hyvönen, P., Fraser, M.J., Pickard, C.R. 2007. *Atlas of bird distribution in New Zealand 1999-2004*. Ornithological Society of New Zealand, Inc. Wellington.
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Photo: Frederic Pelsy  
Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie