

2 Important Areas for New Zealand Seabirds

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

Back cover: Frederic Pelsy (Ahuriri River)

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NZ054	Waiau River	Canterbury
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Location	New Zealand, Canterbury
Central coordinates	42.584117°S, 172.782755°E (Waiau Ferry Bridge SH7A)
IBA criteria	A1, A4ii
Area	8774 ha
Altitude	0 - 620m
Year of Assessment	2013

Populations of IBA trigger species:

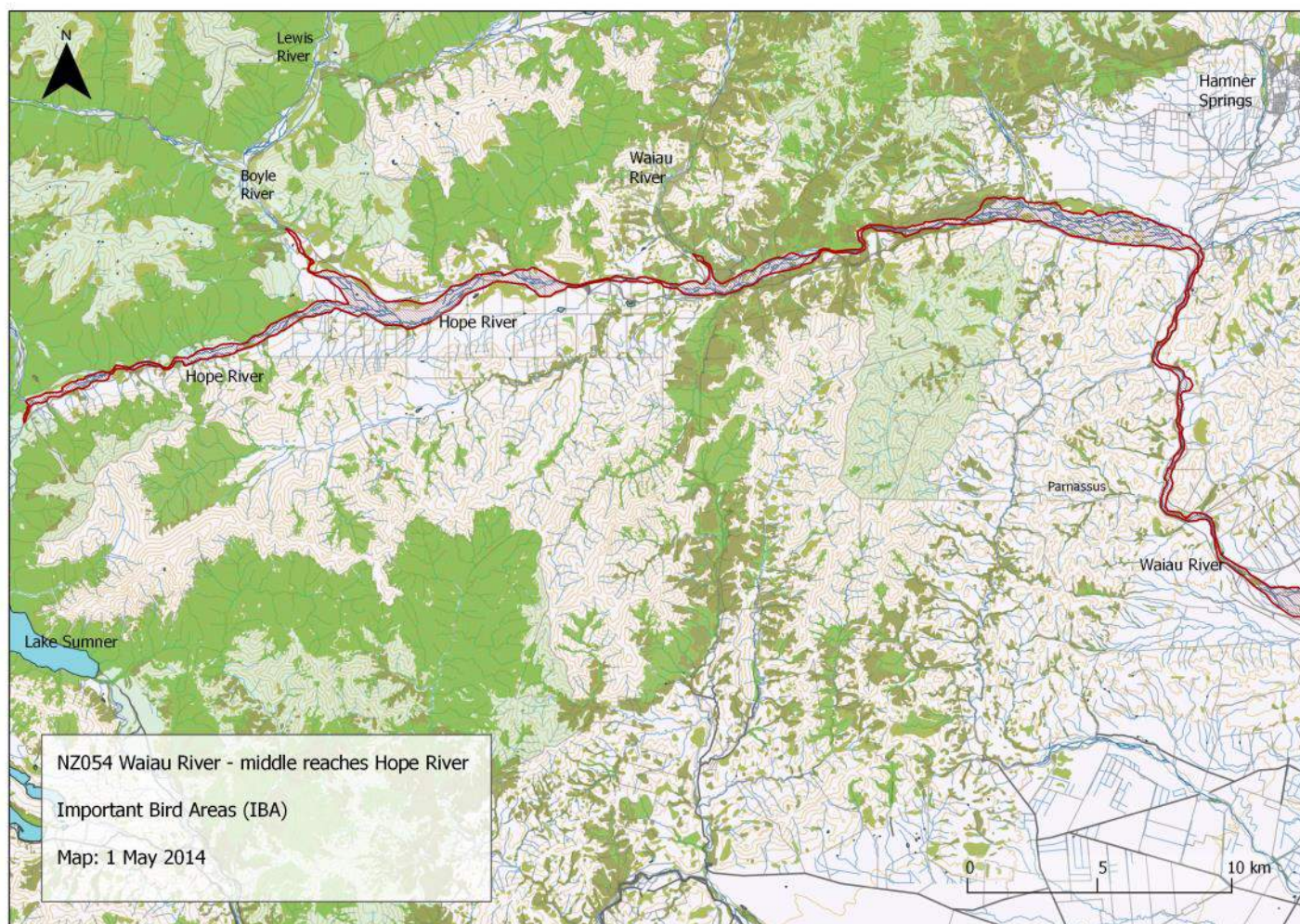
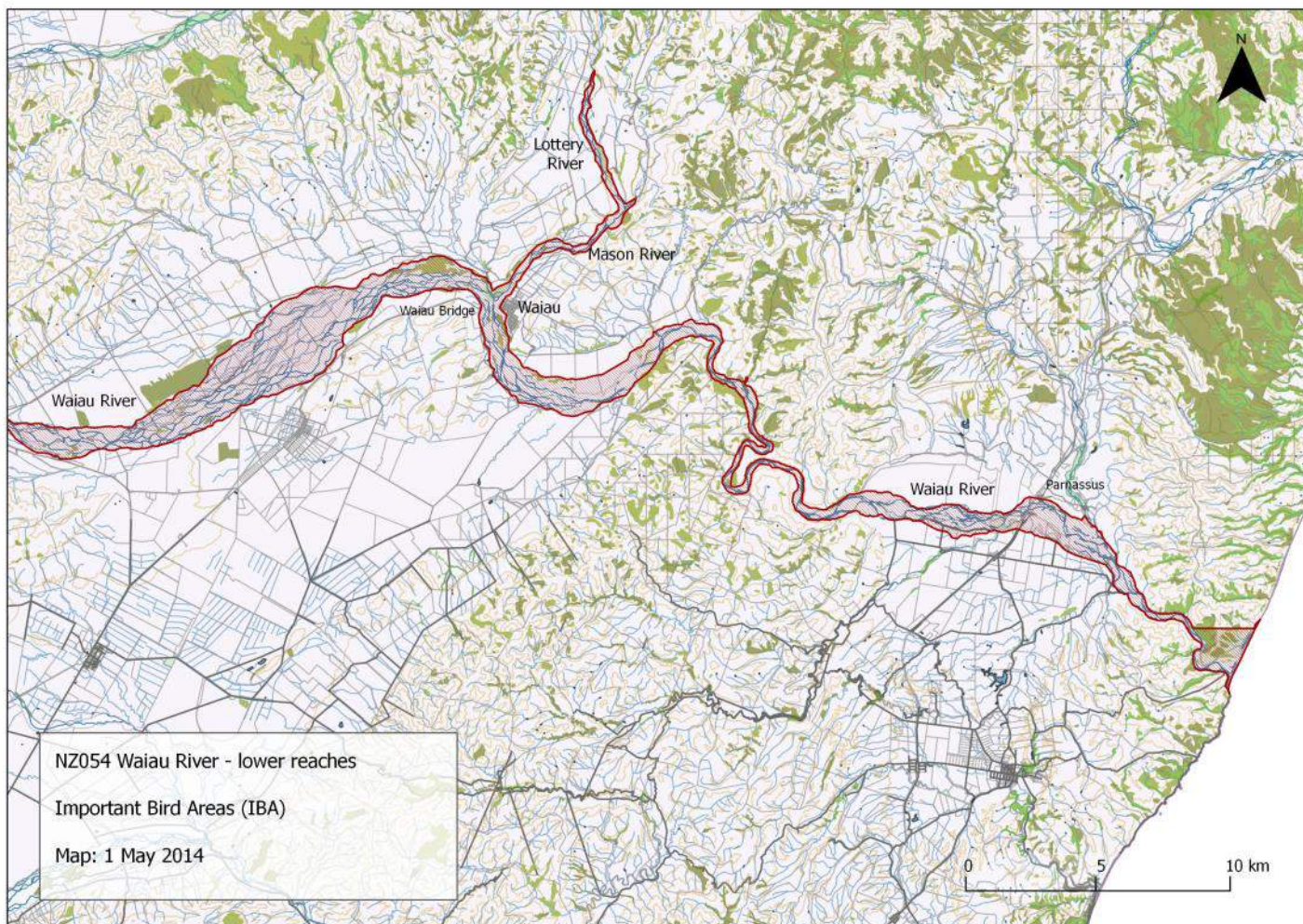
Species	Season	Period	Population estimate (pairs)	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Black-billed Gull	Breeding	1995-2010	961-1,624	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1975-2010	202-470	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable
Wrybill	Breeding	1996-1997	14-17 (nests)	A1	VU	Nationally Vulnerable

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

Kaka (EN), Yellow-crowned Parakeet (NT), NZ Falcon (NT), Rifleman and other forest birds have been recorded in adjacent forest areas in the Hope and Boyle Valleys (N. Allen pers. comm.).

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Waiau Rivermouth	Scenic Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Waiau River	Marginal Strip	Protected area contained within site
Waiareka Downs	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Mason Waiau Riverbeds	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Lottery Riverbed Mason River Confluence	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Mason River	Marginal Strip	Protected area contained within site
Cabbage Tree Island	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site

The IBA borders extensive areas of the Lake Sumner Forest Park, and also The Poplars and Woodbank Conservation Areas.



IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Marine Intertidal	Shingle Shoreline	Minor
Marine Coastal/Supratidal	Rivermouth (Estuary and Spit)	Major
Wetlands (inland)	Permanent Rivers; Extensive River Gravel Beds (Braided River); Small Swamps	Major
Introduced Vegetation	Broom, gorse, pasture grasses & rank weeds, willow margins	Major
Grasslands	Tussock on river flats (upper reaches)	Major
Shrubland	Kanuka, matagouri (<i>Discaria toumatou</i>), bracken	Major
Forest	Southern beech on some river flats (upper reaches) and along margins of IBA	Minor

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
Pollution	Agricultural & forestry effluents - nutrient loads (lakes and rivers)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	No or imperceptible 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:

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Photo: Frederic Pelsy
Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie