

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

Back cover: Frederic Pelsy (Ahuriri River)

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NZ059	Waimakariri River	Canterbury
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Location	New Zealand, Canterbury
Central coordinates	43.415024°S, 172.646713°E (Kaiapoi bridge SH1); 43.005651°S, 171.746693°E (Mount White Bridge)
IBA criteria	A1, A4ii
Area	7,267 ha (lower reaches), 2,418 ha (gorge); 10,272 ha (upper reaches)
Altitude	0 - 800m
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	1981-2014	376-2,292	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1980-2009	309-540	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable
Wrybill	Breeding	2007-2009	36-84	A1	VU	Nationally Vulnerable

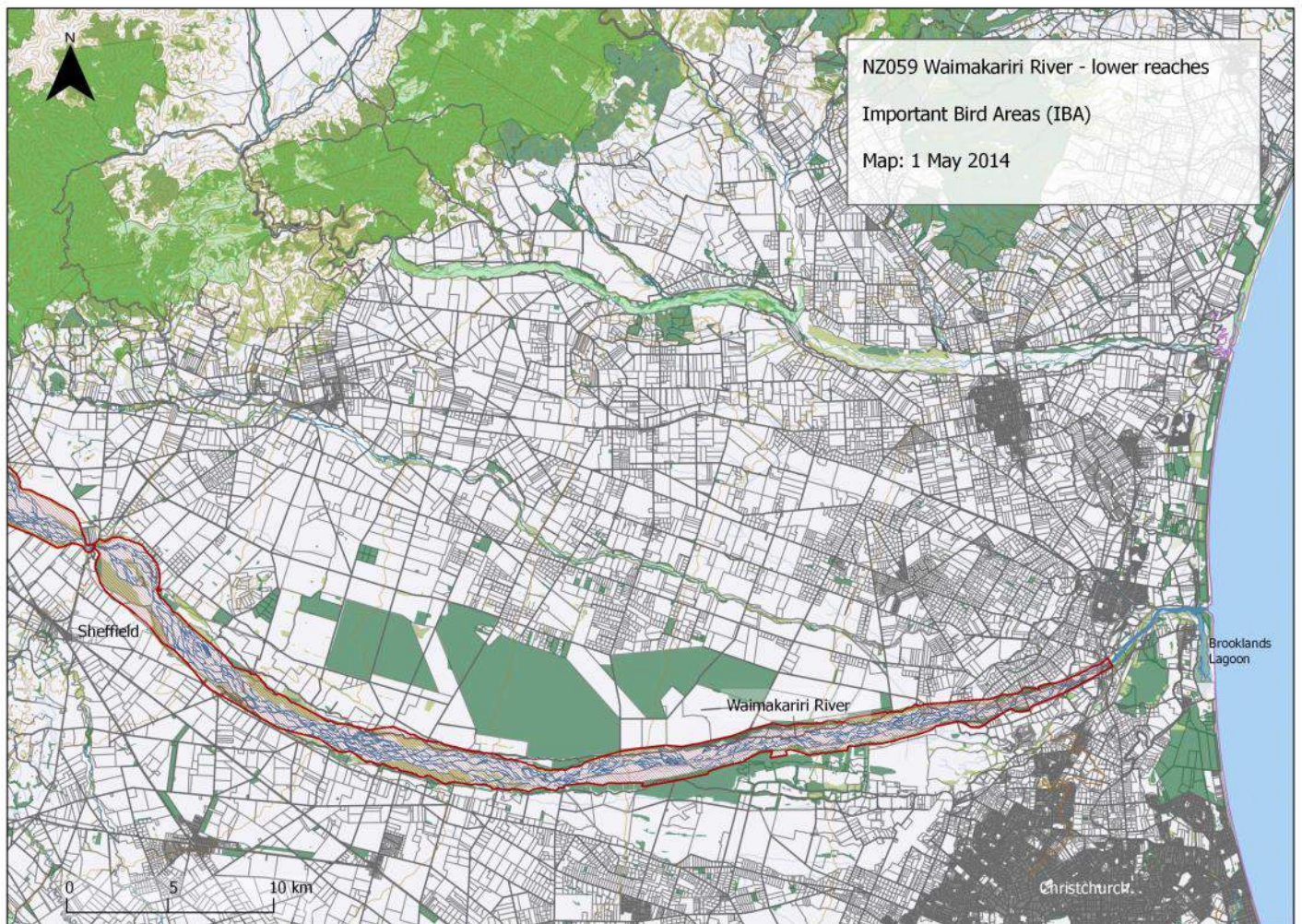
**Ornithological information:** Besides the trigger species the following species are confirmed or likely to be breeding: Black Shag, Little Shag, White-faced Heron, Paradise Shelduck, Canada Goose, Mallard, Australasian Harrier, Pukeko, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Spur-winged Plover, Southern Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Shining Cuckoo, NZ Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, 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.

NB: Adjacent forest and alpine areas will be identified as IBAs with land- birds (e.g. Great Spotted Kiwi, Kea, Kaka, Weka, Yellowhead/Mohua) and water-birds (e.g. Blue Duck) as trigger species (e.g. Upper Waimakariri, Hawdon, Edwards, Mingha, Poulter, Valleys).

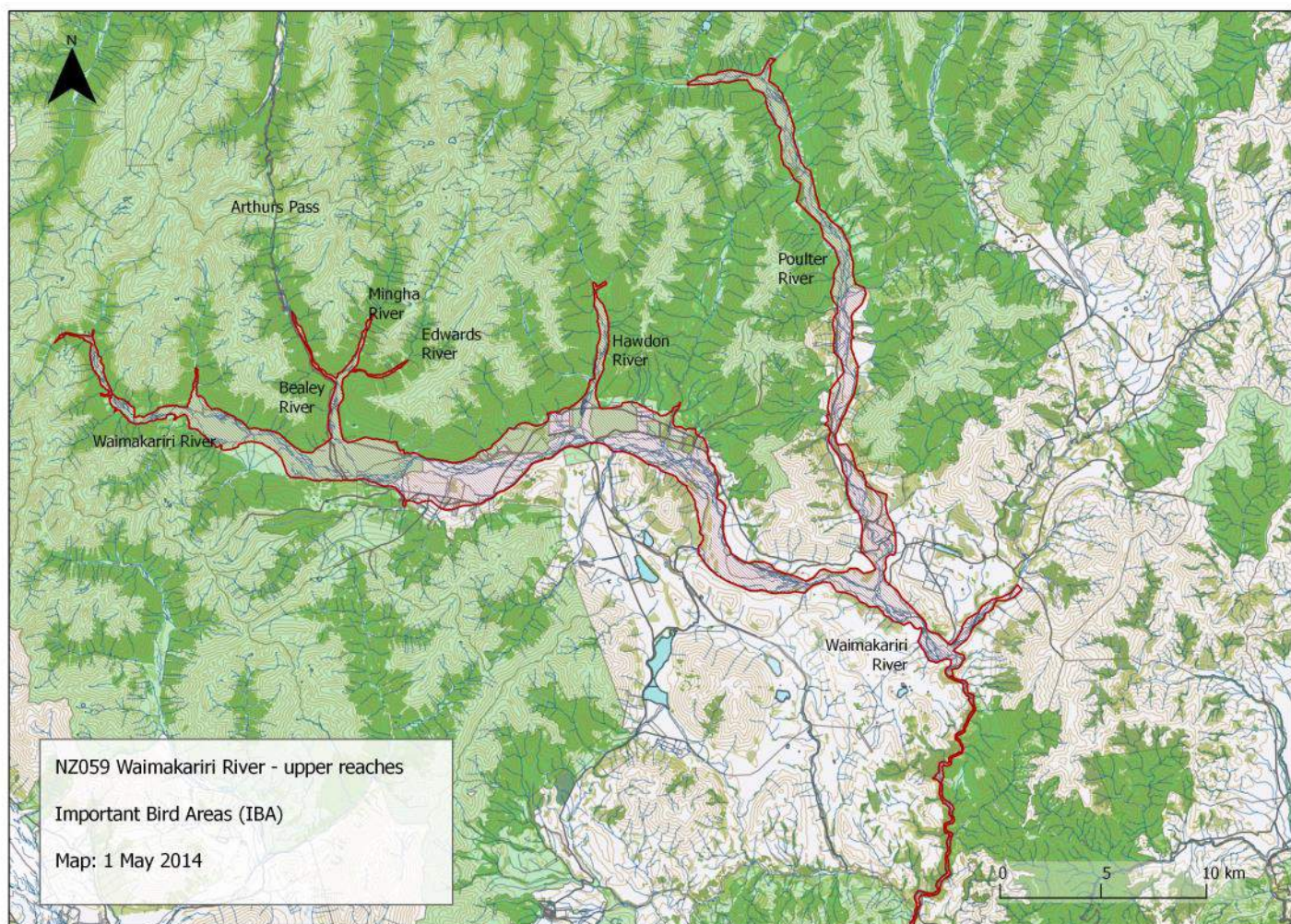
Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Waimakariri River	Marginal Strip	Protected area contained within site
Hawdon Flats	Government Purpose Reserve (National Park)	Protected area contained within site
Waimakariri Riverbed Paddys Bend	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site

The IBA is bordered by the Korowai Torlesse Tussocksland Park and Oxford Forest Conservation Area in the Waimakariri Gorge area. With the latter, there is some overlap along the riverbed. In the upper reaches the IBA includes areas, mainly riverbed and river flats, of the Arthur's Pass National Park. These include sections of the Upper Waimakariri, Bealey, Mingha, Edwards, Hawdon, and Poulter Rivers.









IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Wetlands (inland)	Permanent Rivers; Extensive River Gravel Beds (Braided River); Small Swamps	Major
Introduced Vegetation	Broom, lupin, 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 surface & ground water (agricultural use)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration

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**Threats to the site (pressure) - contd.**

Threat Level	Notes	Timing	Scope	Severity
Pollution	Agricultural & forestry effluents - nutrient loads (lakes and rivers)	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

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Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie