2 Important Areas for New Zealand Seabirds

Sites on Land

Rivers, estuaries, coastal lagoons & harbours









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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NZ095 Manuherikia Otago	NZ095	Manuherikia	Otago
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Location	New Zealand, Otago	
Central coordinates 44.855838°S, 169.916353°E (head of Falls Dam lake)		
IBA criteria A1		
Area	1,406 ha	
Altitude	570 - 700m	
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	1967-2010	58-68	A1	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1967-2010	19-25 ¹	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable

¹NB: Likely numbers are higher than this as in 2010 (the most recent survey) recorded 25 pairs plus another two uncounted colonies.

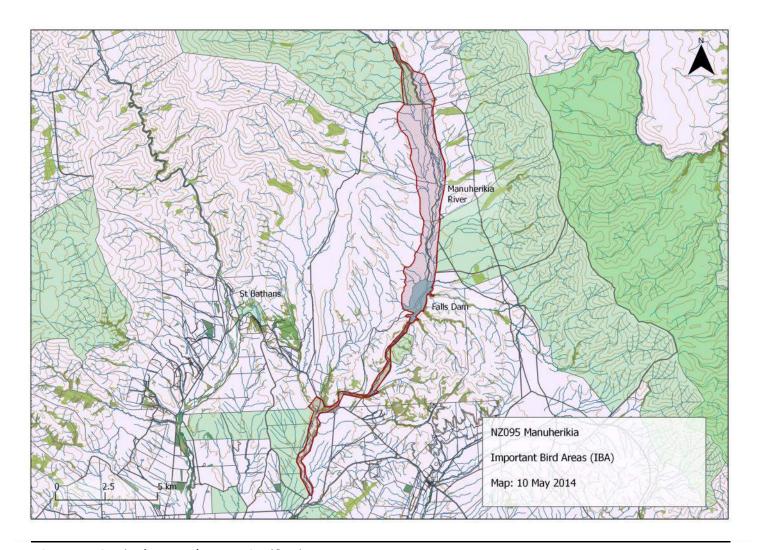
Ornithological information: Besides the trigger species the following species are confirmed or likely to be breeding: White-faced Heron, Black Swan, Paradise Shelduck, Mallard, Grey Duck, Australasian Harrier, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Spur-winged Plover, Southern Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, NZ Pipit, Silvereye, Bellbird, Skylark, Hedge-sparrow, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling, Australian Magpie.

NB: The 'St Bathans fauna' from 16-19 millions years ago is described from a remarkable set of fossils found in this area by palaeontologists T. Worthy, P. Scofield and A. Tennyson: Includes over 20 bird species - six kinds of duck, an eagle, an adzebill, two birds like small weka, a big gull, a pigeon, three kinds of parrot, an owlet-nightjar, a swift, a diving petrel, a goose and three other species, one like a crow - all extinct.

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Manuherikia River	Marginal Strip	Protected area contained within site

The IBA includes some area of the Oteake Conservation Park and borders the Fiddlers Flat and Michael Peak Conservation Areas.

IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)	
	Permanent Rivers; Extensive River Gravel Beds; Swamps; Perma-		
Wetlands (inland)	nent Inland Delta; Permanent Freshwater Lake (head of Lake	Major	
	Dunstan)		
Introduced Vegetation	Broom, gorse, lupin; Pasture grasses & rank weeds; Willow margins	Major	
	C		
Shrubland	Manuka, matagouri (Discaria toumatou), bracken	Major	



Threats to the site (pressure) - IUCN Classifications

Threat Level	Notes	Timina		Carranitar
Threat Level	Notes	Timing	Scope	Severity
Invasive & other prob- lematic 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
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:

McKinlay, B. 1990. Manuherikia River survey. Unpublished file report BIR 7. Dunedin, Department of Conservation.

O'Donnell, C.F.J., Hoare, J.M. 2011. Meta-analysis of status and trends in breeding populations of black-fronted terns (Chlidonias albostriatus) 1962-2008. New Zealand Journal of Ecology 35: 32-43



