

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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Back cover: Frederic Pelsy (Ahuriri River)

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NZ063	Ashburton River	Canterbury
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Location	New Zealand, Canterbury
Central coordinates	43.910953°S, 171.739311°E (Ashburton Bridge SH1)
IBA criteria	A1, A4ii
Area	5,450 ha
Altitude	0 - 1200m
Year of Assessment	2013

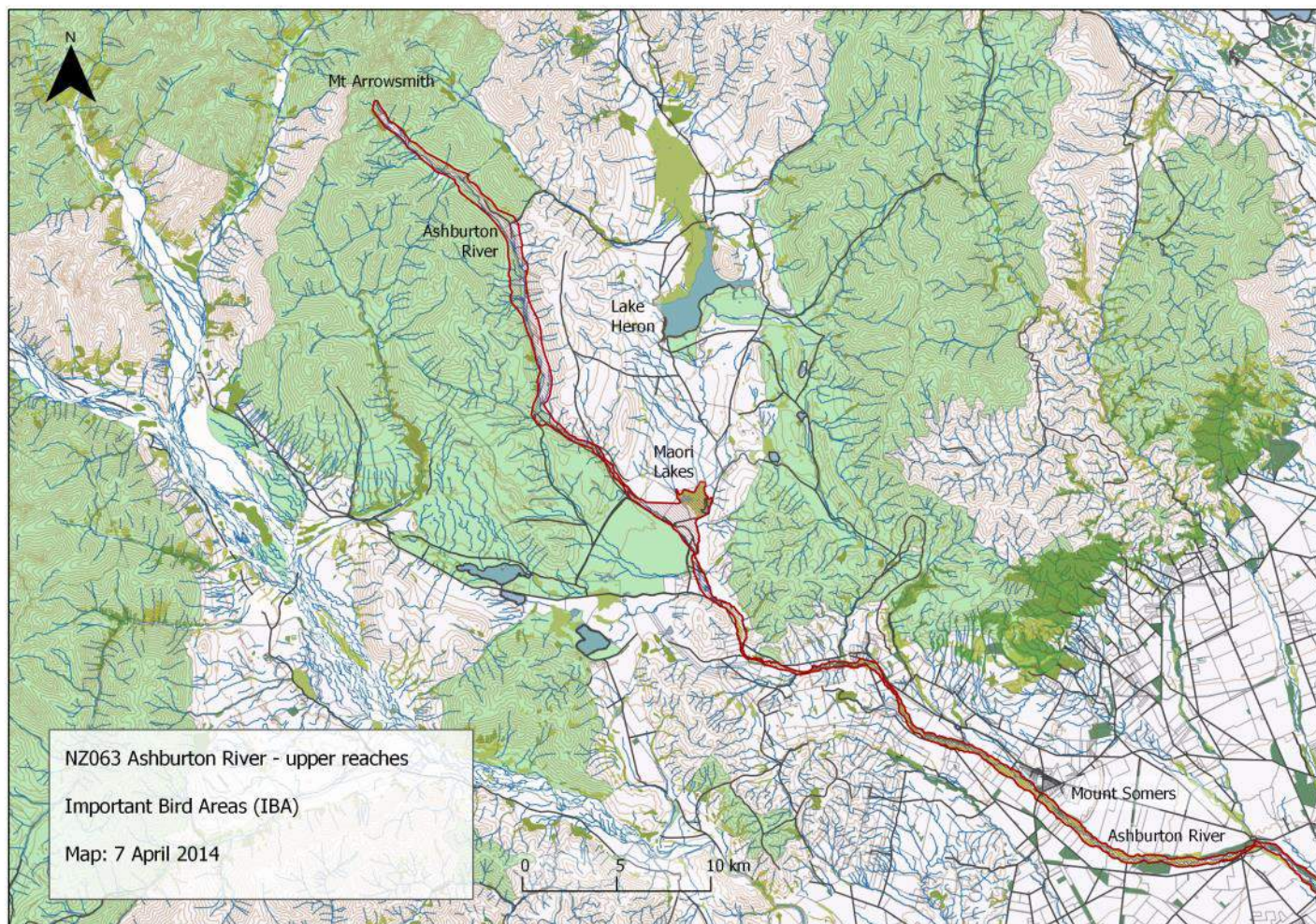
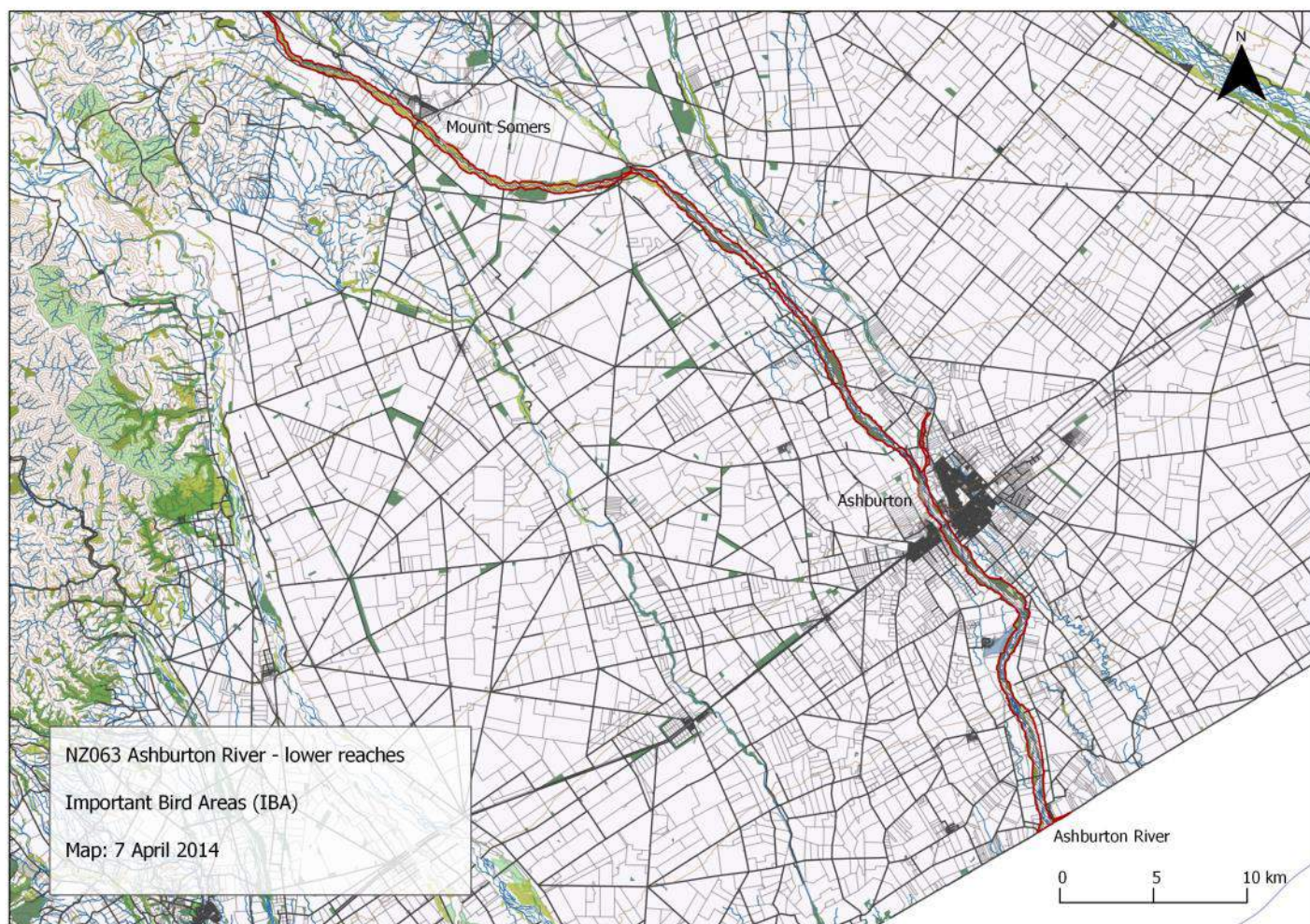
Populations of IBA trigger species:

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate (pairs)	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Black-billed Gull	Breeding	1970-2014	5,095-7,686	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1981-2010	149-279	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable
Wrybill	Breeding		Present	A1	VU	Nationally Vulnerable
Australasian Bittern	Resident		Present	A1	EN	Nationally Vulnerable
Spotted Shag	Non-breeding		No counts (thousands)	A4ii	LC	Not Threatened

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, Australasian Harrier, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Black-fronted Dotterel, Spur-winged Plover, Southern Black-backed Gull, Red-billed Gull, White-fronted Tern, Rock Pigeon, NZ Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit, Grey Warbler, Silvereye, Skylark, Hedge Sparrow, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling, Australian Magpie. Also recorded: NZ Falcon, Royal Spoonbill, Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit, Turnstone.

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Kongutu	Recreation Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Ashburton River	Marginal Strip	Protected area contained within site
Ashburton Riverbed	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Barrosa	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Maori Lakes	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site

The IBA borders and includes sections of the Hakatere Conservation Area, Hakatere Conservation Park and Rangitata/Rakaia Head Waters Conservation Area .



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	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 lake and beach users - includes dogs.	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Biological resource use	Hunting - intentional use (waterfowl - seasonal); Persecution	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
Pollution	Agricultural & forestry effluents - nutrient loads	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:

DOC River Survey Database 2013.

DOC 2013. CWMS: Ashburton Zone: Compilation of "Summary of intrinsic values" chapters from Canterbury Conservancy's intrinsic values catchment reports. Ashburton River (DOCDM-58969, 09/2006)

O'Donnell, C.F.J. 1992. Birdlife of the Ashburton River, Canterbury, New Zealand. Canterbury Conservancy Technical Report 1. Christchurch, 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 albobriatus*) 1962-2008. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 35: 32-43

Spotted Shag post-breeding congregation at the Ashburton River Mouth. Photo: Andrew Crossland.



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Photo: Frederic Pelsy
Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie