

# 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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NZ062	Rakaia River	Canterbury
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Location	New Zealand, Canterbury
Central coordinates	43.744313°S, 172.040268°E (SH1 bridge); 43.281854°S, 171.294434°E (Rakaia Mathias confluence)
IBA criteria	A1
Area	46,318 ha
Altitude	0 - 300m
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	409 - 1,827	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1975-2011	36-291	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable
Wrybill	Breeding	2009-2011	109-455 (nests)	A1	VU	Nationally Vulnerable

**Ornithological information:** Besides the trigger species the following species are confirmed or likely to be breeding: Australasian Crested Grebe, Black Shag, Little Shag, White-faced Heron, Canada Goose, Paradise Shelduck, Mallard, Grey Duck, Australasian Harrier, NZ Falcon, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded 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. Other species recorded: Spotted Shag, Grey Teal.

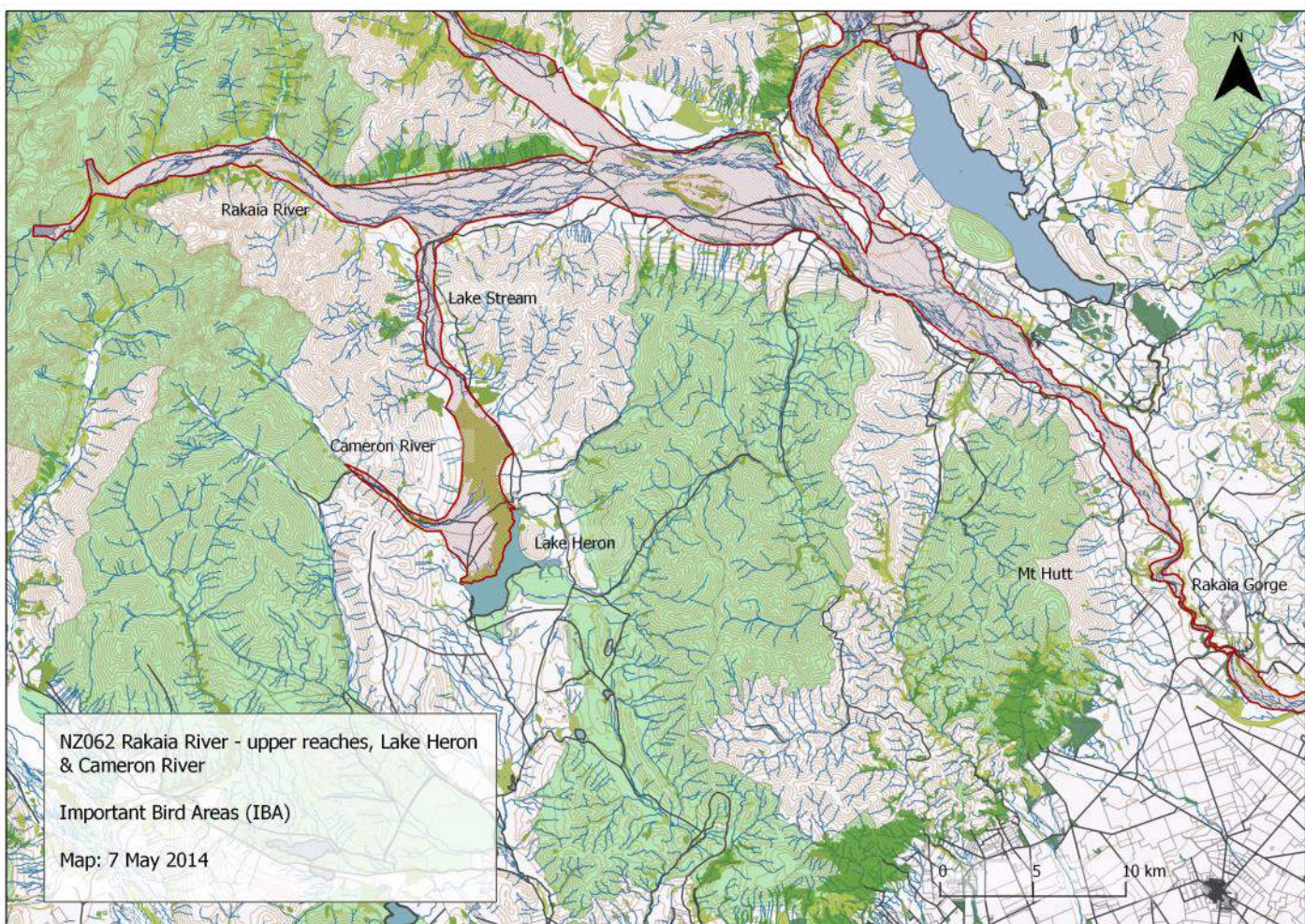
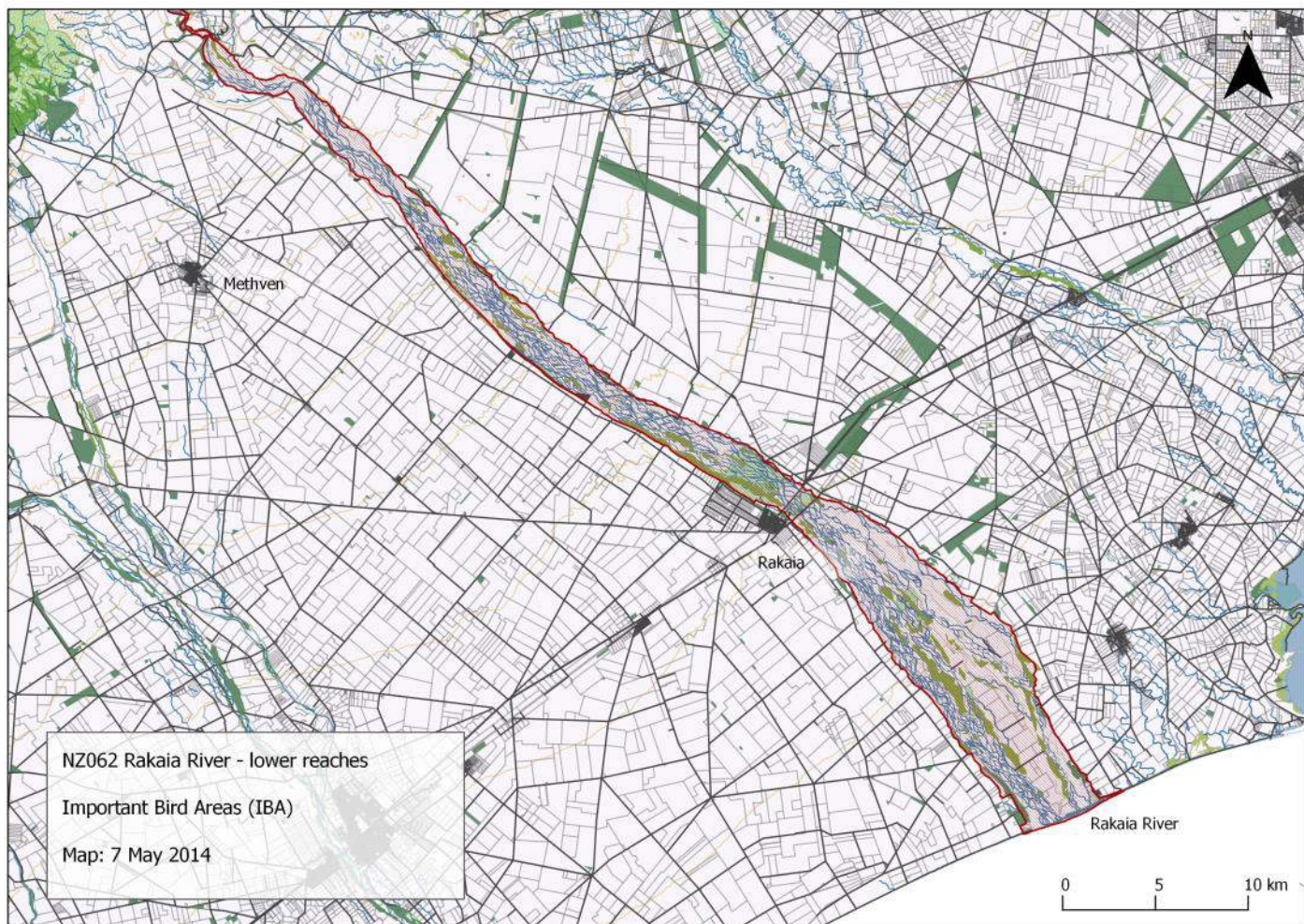
Protected area <sup>1</sup>	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Rakaia Riverbed <sup>2</sup>	Conservation Area	Protected areas contained within site
Rakaia River Margin	Conservation Area	Protected areas contained within site
Mount Hutt	Conservation Area Marginal Strips	Protected areas contained within site
Wilberforce Riverbed	Conservation Area	Protected areas contained within site

<sup>1</sup> Protected areas for the entire IBA

<sup>2</sup> The Riverbed Conservation Areas are at multiple sites.

The IBA borders and/or includes small sections of the Adams Wilderness Area, Hakatere Conservation Park, Rangitata/ Rakaia Head Waters Conservation Area, Rakaia Forest Conservation Area, Cragieburn Forest Park, Wanganui / Otira Catchments Conservation Area and Central Southern Alps Wilberforce 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, lupin, pasture grasses & rank weeds, willow margins	Major
Grasslands	Tussock on river flats (upper reaches)	Major
Shrubland	Manuka, 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

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

Threat Level	Notes	Timing	Scope	Severity
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	Water management/use - abstraction of surface 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%)	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