

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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NZ102	Waiau River	Southland
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Location	New Zealand, Southland
Central coordinates	45.794459°S, 167.631111°E (Monowai bridge)
IBA criteria	A1, A4ii
Area	5,057 ha
Altitude	0 - 180m
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	1951-2006	2,374-5,789	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1993-1999	16-20	A1	EN	Nationally Vulnerable
Australasian Bittern	Breeding		Present	A1	EN	Nationally Endangered

Ornithological information: Besides the trigger species the following species are confirmed or likely to be breeding: Black Shag, Pied Shag, Little Shag, Spotted Shag, White-faced Heron, Pukeko, Australian Coot, Black Swan, Canada Goose, Paradise Shelduck, Mallard, Grey Duck, Grey Teal, NZ Shoveler, NZ Scaup, Australasian Harrier, NZ Falcon, Pukeko, Marsh (Baillon's) Crake, South Island Oystercatcher, Variable Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Southern Black-backed Gull, Red-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, White-fronted Tern, Rock Pigeon, NZ Kingfisher, South Island Fernbird, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit, Grey Warbler, South Island Fantail, South Island Tomtit, Silvereye, Bellbird, Tui, Skylark, Hedge Sparrow, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling, Australian Magpie. Other species recorded: Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit.

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Ferry Reserve	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Waiau River Mouth	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Waiau River, Piko Piko	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Waiau River	Marginal Strips	Protected area contained within site
Waiau River, Clifden	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Clifden	Scientific Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Wairaki River, Otahu	Conservation Area (incl. marginal strips)	Protected area contained within site
Waiau River, Monowai Road	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site

The IBA includes borders with and/or includes areas of the Dean Forest Conservation Area, Mangapiri Forest Conservation Area, Jericho Forest Conservation Area, Paddock Hill Conservation and Fiordland National Park. Significant wetland restoration at Rakatu Wetlands and Te Wae Wae Lagoons through Waiau Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust.



IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Marine Neritic (Submergent Nearshore)	Subtidal Sandy-Mud; Estuary	Minor
Marine Intertidal	Sandy Shoreline, Beach; Salt Marshes	Minor
Wetlands (inland)	Permanent Rivers; Extensive River Gravel Beds; Swamp and Shrub Dominated Wetlands; Permanent Freshwater Pools (Rakatu Wetlands)	Major
Introduced Vegetation	Broom, gorse, pasture grasses & rank weeds, willow margins	Major
Shrubland	Manuka, matagouri (<i>Discaria toumatou</i>), bracken	Major

Black-billed Gulls, and to a lesser extent Black-fronted Terns will feed on adjacent pasture, especially during or immediately following ploughing. They will also hawk flying insects over pasture, riverbeds and even forested areas.

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
Pollution	Agricultural & forestry effluents - nutrient loads (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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