# 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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| NZ102 | Waiau River | Southland |
|-------|-------------|-----------|
|-------|-------------|-----------|

| 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                                       |  |

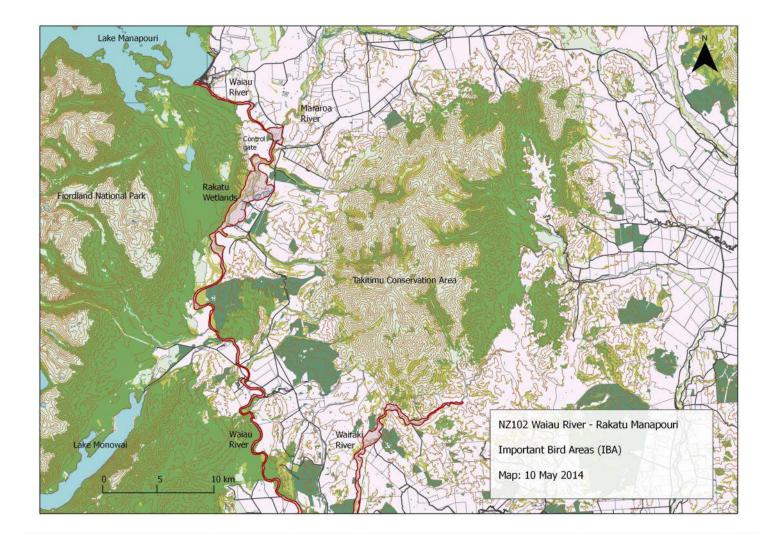
#### Populations of IBA trigger species:

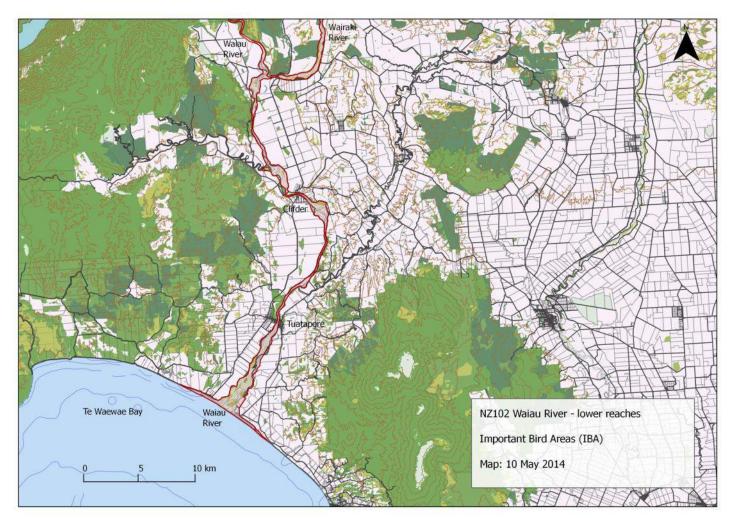
| Species              | Season   | Period    | Population<br>estimate (pairs) | IBA<br>criteria | IUCN<br>cat. | NZ Threat<br>Class.      |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Black-billed Gull    | Breeding | 1951-2006 | 2,374-5,789                    | A1, A4i         | EN           | Nationally<br>Critical   |
| Black-fronted Tern   | Breeding | 1993-1999 | 16-20                          | A1              | EN           | Nationally<br>Vulnerable |
| Australasian Bittern | Breeding |           | Present                        | A1              | EN           | Nationally<br>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. mar-<br>ginal 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)<br>Minor |  |
|--|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Marine Neritic (Submergent<br>Nearshore) | Subtidal Sandy-Mud; Estuary   |                             |  |
| Marine Intertidal                        | Sandy Shoreline, Beach; Salt Marshes  | Minor                       |  |
| Wetlands (inland)                        | Permanent Rivers; Extensive River Gravel Beds; Swamp and<br>Shrub Dominated Wetlands; Permanent Freshwater Pools<br>(Rakatu Wetlands) | Major                       |  |
| Introduced Vegetation                    | Broom, gorse, pasture grasses & rank weeds, willow margins  | Major                       |  |
| Shrubland                                | Manuka, matagouri (Discaria toumatou), 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 (pres                                      | sure) - IUCN Classifications  |   |                                      |                                    |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Threat Level   | Notes   | Timing                                      | Scope                                | Severity                           |
| Invasive & other prob-<br>lematic species, genes<br>& diseases | Invasive alien species - mustelids,<br>cats, rats, hedgehogs                          | Happening now                               | Some of area/<br>population (10-49%) | Moderate to rapid deterioration    |
| Human intrusions and disturbance                               | Recreational activities by river<br>users - includes dogs.                            | Happening now                               | Some of area/<br>population (10-49%) | Slow but significant deterioration |
| Natural system modifications                                   | Water management/use -<br>abstraction of surface & ground<br>water (agricultural use) | Happening now                               | Some of area/<br>population (10-49%) | Slow but significant deterioration |
| Pollution  | Agricultural & forestry effluents -<br>nutrient loads (rivers)                        | Happening now                               | Some of area/<br>population (10-49%) | Slow but significant deterioration |
| Natural system<br>modifications                                | Weed encroachment on nesting sites (rivers)   | Happening now                               | Some of area/<br>population (10-49%) | Slow but significant deterioration |
| Climate change and severe weather                              | Floods  | Likely in short<br>term (within 4<br>years) | Some of area/<br>population (10-49%) | Moderate to rapid<br>deterioration |

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