

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



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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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| | | |
|-------|----------------------------|-------|
| NZ091 | Dunstan Upper Clutha River | Otago |
|-------|----------------------------|-------|

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Location | New Zealand, Otago |
| Central coordinates | 44.932603°S, 169.257946°E (Dunstan Clutha delta) |
| IBA criteria | A1 |
| Area | 2,236 ha |
| Altitude | 200 - 279m |
| Year of Assessment | 2013 |

Populations of IBA trigger species:

| Species | Season | Period | Population estimate | IBA criteria | IUCN cat. | NZ Threat Class. |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|---------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Black-fronted Tern | Breeding | 2000-2012 | 35 (nests) | A1, A4i | EN | Nationally Vulnerable |

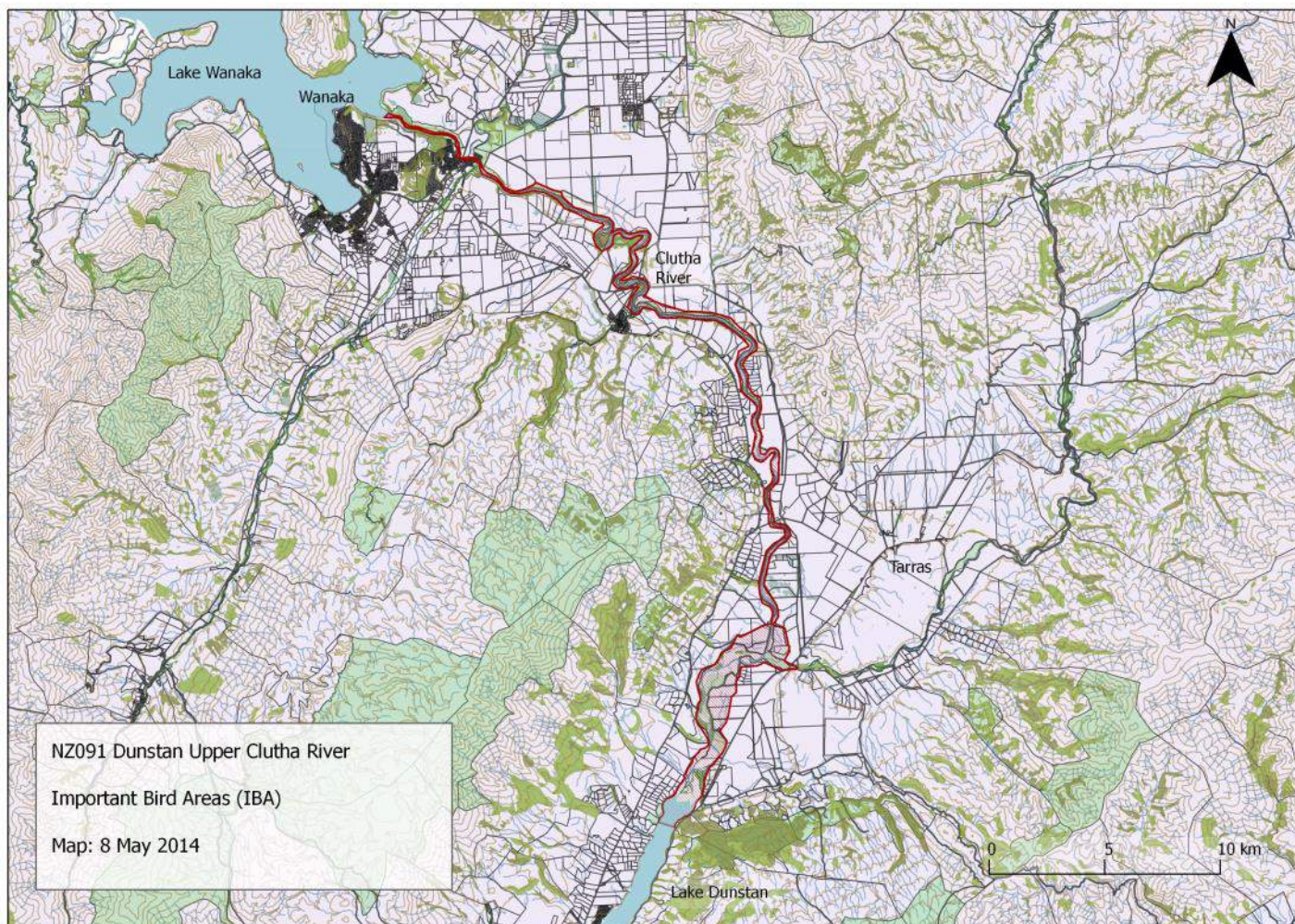
Black Stilt (CR) and Black-billed Gull (EN). Have also been recorded on the river and at the head of Lake Dunstan.

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, Black Swan, Canada Goose, Paradise Shelduck, NZ Shoveler, Grey Teal, Mallard, Grey Duck, NZ Scaup, Australasian Harrier, Marsh (Baillon's) Crake, Pukeko, Australian Coot, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Spur-winged Plover, Southern Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Californian Quail, Rock Pigeon, NZ Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit, Shining Cuckoo, South Island Fantail, Silvereye, Skylark, Hedge-sparrow, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling, Australian Magpie.

| Protected area | Designation | Relationship with IBA |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Clutha River | Marginal Strip | Protected area contained within site |

The IBA borders the Hikuwai Conservation Area and Dublin Bay - Outlet - Albert Town recreation Reserve.

| IUCN Habitat | Habitat detail | Extent (% of site) |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------|
| Wetlands (inland) | Permanent Rivers; Extensive River Gravel Beds; Swamps; Permanent Inland Delta; Permanent Freshwater Lake (head of Lake Dunstan) | Major |
| Introduced Vegetation | Broom, gorse, lupin; Pasture grasses & rank weeds; Willow margins | 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 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 |
| Pollution | Agricultural & forestry effluents - nutrient loads (rivers) | Happening now | Some of area/ population (10-49%) | No or imperceptible 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:

Robertson, C.J.R., Hyvönen, P., Fraser, M.J., Pickard, C.R. 2007. *Atlas of bird distribution in New Zealand 1999-2004*. Ornithological Society of New Zealand, Inc. Wellington.



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Photo: Frederic Pelsy
Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie