

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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NZ070	Hopkins Dobson Rivers	Canterbury
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Location	New Zealand, Canterbury
Central coordinates	44.106878°S, 169.874554°E (Hopkins Dobson confluence)
IBA criteria	A1
Area	9,631 ha
Altitude	530 - 890m
Year of Assessment	2013

Populations of IBA trigger species:

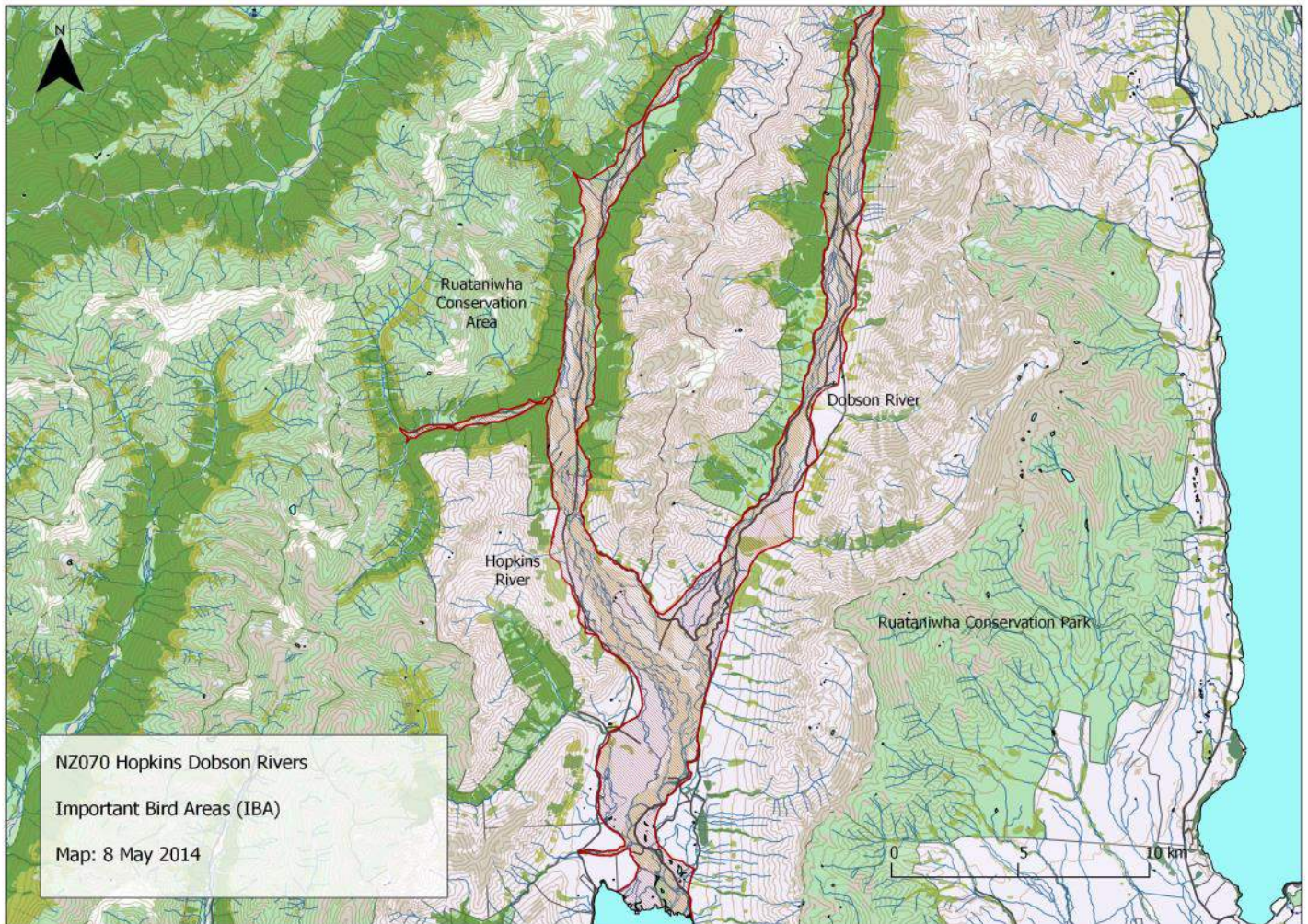
Species	Season	Period	Population estimate (pairs)	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Black-billed Gull	Breeding	1970-1995	9 (individuals)	A1	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1962-1994	35-71	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable
Black Stilt	Resident	1962-1994	3 (individuals)	A1	CR	Nationally Critical
Wrybill	Breeding	1992-1994	7-37	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, Black Swan, Canada Goose, Paradise Shelduck, NZ Shoveler, Grey Teal, Mallard, Grey Duck, NZ Scaup, Australasian Harrier, NZ Falcon, Marsh (Baillon's) Crake, Pukeko, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Spur-winged Plover, Southern Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Rock Pigeon, Californian Quail, Shining Cuckoo, NZ Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit, South Island Tomtit, South Island Fantail, Grey Warbler, Silvereye, Bellbird, Skylark, Hedge-sparrow, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling, Australian Magpie. Other species recorded: NZ Falcon, Kea (VU).

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
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The IBA borders extensive sections of the Ruataniwha Conservation Park and includes a small area of the Ruataniwha Conservation Area near the head of Lake Ohau.

IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Wetlands (inland)	Permanent Rivers; Extensive River Gravel Beds (Braided River); , Swamps; Permanent inland Deltas	Major
Introduced Vegetation	Lupin; Pasture grasses & rank weeds	Major
Grasslands	Tussock on river flats; also Tundra-like mat plants	Major
Shrubland	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	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration
Human intrusions and disturbance	Recreational activities by lake and river users.	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

References:

Bell B.D. 1994. 1960s Waitaki bird counts. Department of Conservation File Report HAB808 (116). Twizel, Department of Conservation.

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O'Donnell, C.F.J., Hoare, J.M. 2011. Meta-analysis of status and trends in breeding populations of black-fronted terns (*Chlidonias albobristatus*) 1962-2008. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 35: 32-43



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Photo: Frederic Pelsy
Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie