

2 Important Areas for New Zealand Seabirds

Sites on Land

Rivers, estuaries, coastal
lagoons & harbours



Forest & Bird
GIVING NATURE A VOICE



IMPORTANT AREAS FOR NEW ZEALAND SEABIRDS



Forest & Bird
GIVING NATURE A VOICE

This document has been prepared for Forest & Bird by Chris Gaskin, IBA Project Coordinator (NZ).

The Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand
Level One, 90 Ghuznee Street
PO Box 631
Wellington 6140
NEW ZEALAND

This report is available from the Forest & Bird website in pdf form.

© Copyright February 2016, Forest & Bird

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.

Nick Allen, Tim Barnard, Tony Beauchamp, Mike Bell, Mark Bellingham, Robin Blyth, Phil Bradfield, John Cheyne, Wynston Cooper, Andrew Crossland, Philippa Crisp, Paul Cuming, John Dowding, Hannah Edmonds, Lloyd Esler, Julian Fitter, Peter Frost, Mel Galbraith, Liz Garson, Peter Gaze, Andrew Grant, Tony Habraken, Kate Hand, Ken Hughey, Elaine Lagnaz, Chris Lalas, Peter Langlands, David Lawrie, Eila Lawson, Nick Ledgard, Nikki McArthur, Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie, Bruce McKinlay, Michael McSweeney, David Melville, Gary Melville, Mark O'Brien, Colin O'Donnell, Gwenda Pulham, Aalbert Rebergen, Phil Rhodes, Adrien Riegen, Neil Robertson, Paul Sagar, Frances Schmechel, Rob Schuckard, Ian Southey, Kate Steffens, Graeme Taylor, Gillian Vaughan, Jan Walker, Susan Waugh, David Wilson, Kerry-Jayne Wilson, Steve Wood, Keith Woodley.

Cover design: Danielle McBride, Paradigm Associates, Auckland

Front cover: Rachel McLellan (Black-billed Gulls), Craig McKenzie (Black-fronted Tern)

Back cover: Frederic Pelsy (Ahuriri River)

Recommended citation: Forest & Bird (2016). *New Zealand Seabirds: Sites on Land, Rivers, estuaries, coastal lagoons & harbours*. The Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand.

NZ058	Te Waihora	Canterbury
-------	------------	------------

Location	New Zealand, Canterbury
Central coordinates	43.787553°S, 172.487823°E
IBA criteria	A1, A4ii, A4iii
Area	29,687 ha
Altitude	0 - 12m
Year of Assessment	2013

Populations of IBA trigger species:

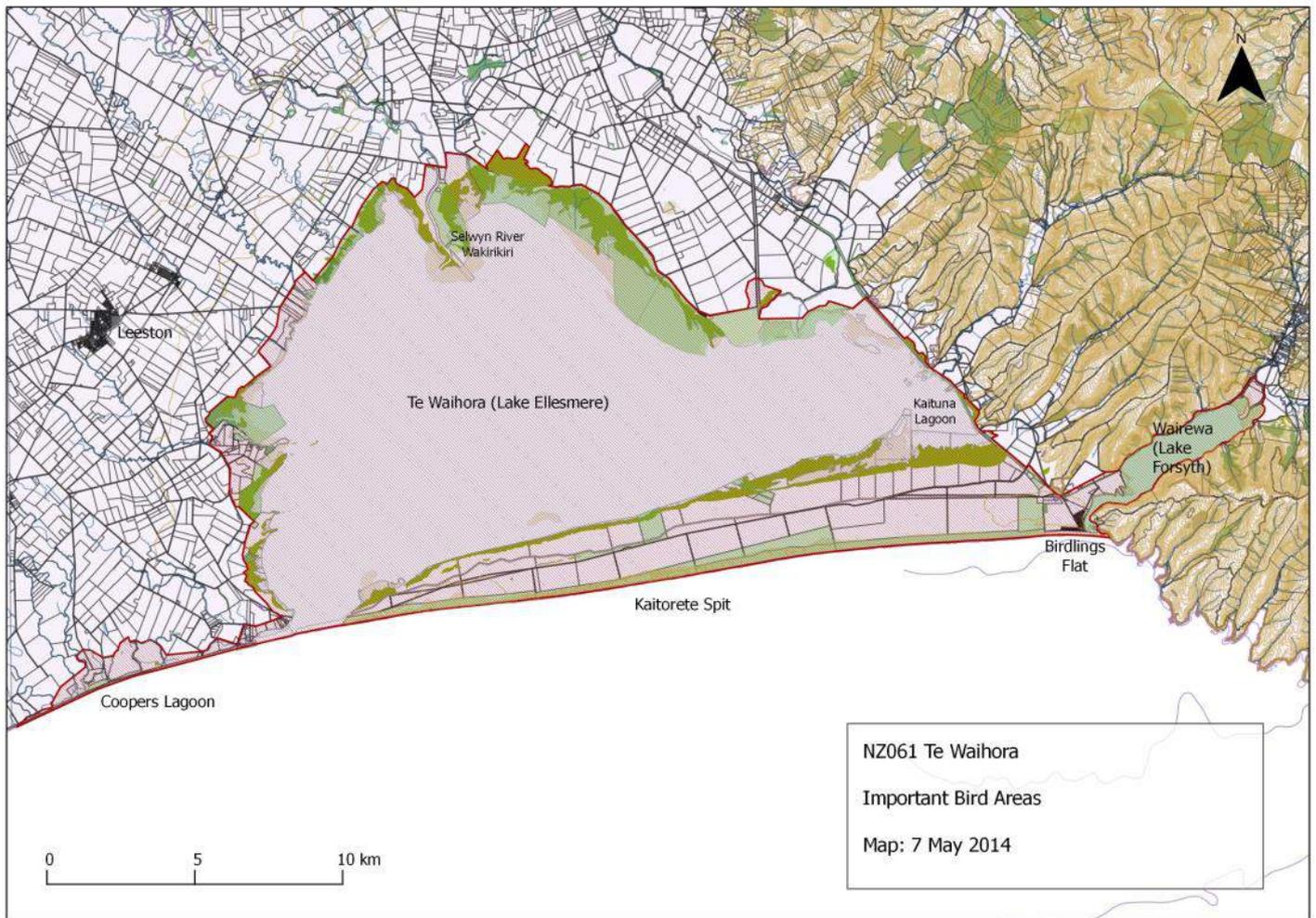
Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Black-billed Gull	Breeding & non-breeding		311-530 (individuals)	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Non-breeding	2006-2015	28-54 (individuals)	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable
Wrybill	Non-breeding	2009-2013	349-701 (individuals)	A1	VU	Nationally Vulnerable
Australasian Bittern	Resident		Present	A1	EN	Nationally Endangered
Great (Australasian) Crested Grebe ¹	Non-breeding	2006-2015	45-200 (individuals)	A4i	LC	At Risk - Declining
<i>Species group - waterbirds</i>			More than 20,000 individuals	A4iii		

¹ NZ Threat Classification system recognises subspecies.

Black Stilt (CR) have been recorded at Te Waihora

Ornithological information: Besides the trigger species the following species are confirmed or likely to be breeding: Pied Shag, Black Shag, Little Black Shag, Little Shag, White-faced Heron, Black Swan, Canada Goose, Paradise Shelduck, NZ Shoveler, Mallard, Grey Duck, Grey Teal, Australasian Harrier, Californian Quail, Pheasant, Little Owl, Pukeko, Marsh Crake, Variable Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Black-fronted Dotterel, Spur-winged Plover, Southern Black-backed Gull, Red-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, White-fronted Tern, NZ Pigeon, Shining Cuckoo, NZ Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit, Grey Warbler, South Island Fantail, Silvereye, Skylark, Hedge Sparrow, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling, Australian Magpie.

Other species recorded include: Australian Pelican, Spotted Shag, White Heron, Intermediate Egret, Little Egret, Cattle Egret, Royal Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Mute Swan, Chestnut-breasted Shelduck, Nankeen Kestrel, Australian Coot, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Turnstone, Pacific Golden Plover, Large Sand Plover, Mongolian Dotterel, Grey Plover, Turnstone, Red (Lesser) Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Asiatic Dowitcher, Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit, Asiatic Black-tailed Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, Siberian Tattler, Sanderling, Far-eastern Curlew, Whimbrel, Greenshank, Terek Sandpiper, Painted Snipe, Little Tern, White-winged Black Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Bellbird.



Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Lakelands Wildlife Reserve	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Greenpark Sands	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Yarrs Flat	Wildlife Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Selwyn	Wildlife Management Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Williams	Wildlife Management Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Te Waihora	Proposed Picnic Area	Protected area contained within site
Harts Creek	Wildlife Management Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Lakeside	Wildlife Management Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Coopers Lagoon	Wildlife Management Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Kaitorete Spit	Conservation Area (incl. marginal strip)	Protected area contained within site
Waihora	Scientific Reserve	Protected area contained within site

Protected area (contd.)	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Kaitorete Spit	Scientific Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Wairewa	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site

IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Marine Intertidal	Sandy and Shingle Shoreline/Beaches and Spit	Major
Marine Coastal/Supratidal	Coastal Saline Lagoon (Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere); Coastal Freshwater Lake (Kaituna Lake Forsyth)	Major
Wetlands (inland)	Swamps	Major
Introduced Vegetation	Broom, gorse, pasture grasses & rank weeds; willows at river and stream mouths	Major
Shrubland	Saltmarsh ribbonwood, bracken. Kaitorete Spit flora includes special plants	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 lake and beach users - includes dogs.	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Biological resource use	Hunting - intentional use (waterfowl - seasonal); Persecution	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
Pollution	Agricultural & forestry effluents - nutrient loads	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Climate change and severe weather	Floods; Closure of lake outlet	Likely in short term (within 4 years)	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration

References:

- Hughey K.F.D., Taylor K.J.W. (ed.) 2009. Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere: State of the Lake and Future Management. EOS Ecology, Christchurch.
- Kaitorete Spit Biodiversity Action Plan for Coastal Conservation Land 2003. Department of Conservation, Christchurch.
- Kitto, S.G. 2010. The environmental history of Te Waihora - Lake Ellesmere. Thesis for Degree of Master of Science, University of Canterbury
- Langlands, P. 2012. Current status of the Austrasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) in Canterbury. Report No. R13/25. Environment Canterbury.
- Ornithological Society of NZ (OSNZ) National Wader Database 2013.
- O'Donnell, C.F.J. 1985. Lake Ellesmere, a wildlife habitat of international importance. *Fauna Survey Unit Report No. 40*. New Zealand Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs, Christchurch
- O'Donnell, C.F.J. 2000. The significance of river and open water habitats for indigenous birds in Canterbury, New Zealand. Environment Canterbury Unpublished Report U00/37. Environment Canterbury, Christchurch.
- 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.
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu 2005. Te Waihora Joint Management Plan. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Department of Conservation, Christchurch.



Forest & Bird
GIVING NATURE A VOICE

www.forestandbird.org.nz/important-bird-areas

Photo: Frederic Pelsy
Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie