

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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Back cover: Frederic Pelsy (Ahuriri River)

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NZ058	Ashley River Rakahuri	Canterbury
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Location	New Zealand, Canterbury
Central coordinates	43.229195°S, 172.229576°E (Ashley Gorge bridge)
IBA criteria	A1
Area	5130 ha
Altitude	0 - 500m
Year of Assessment	2013

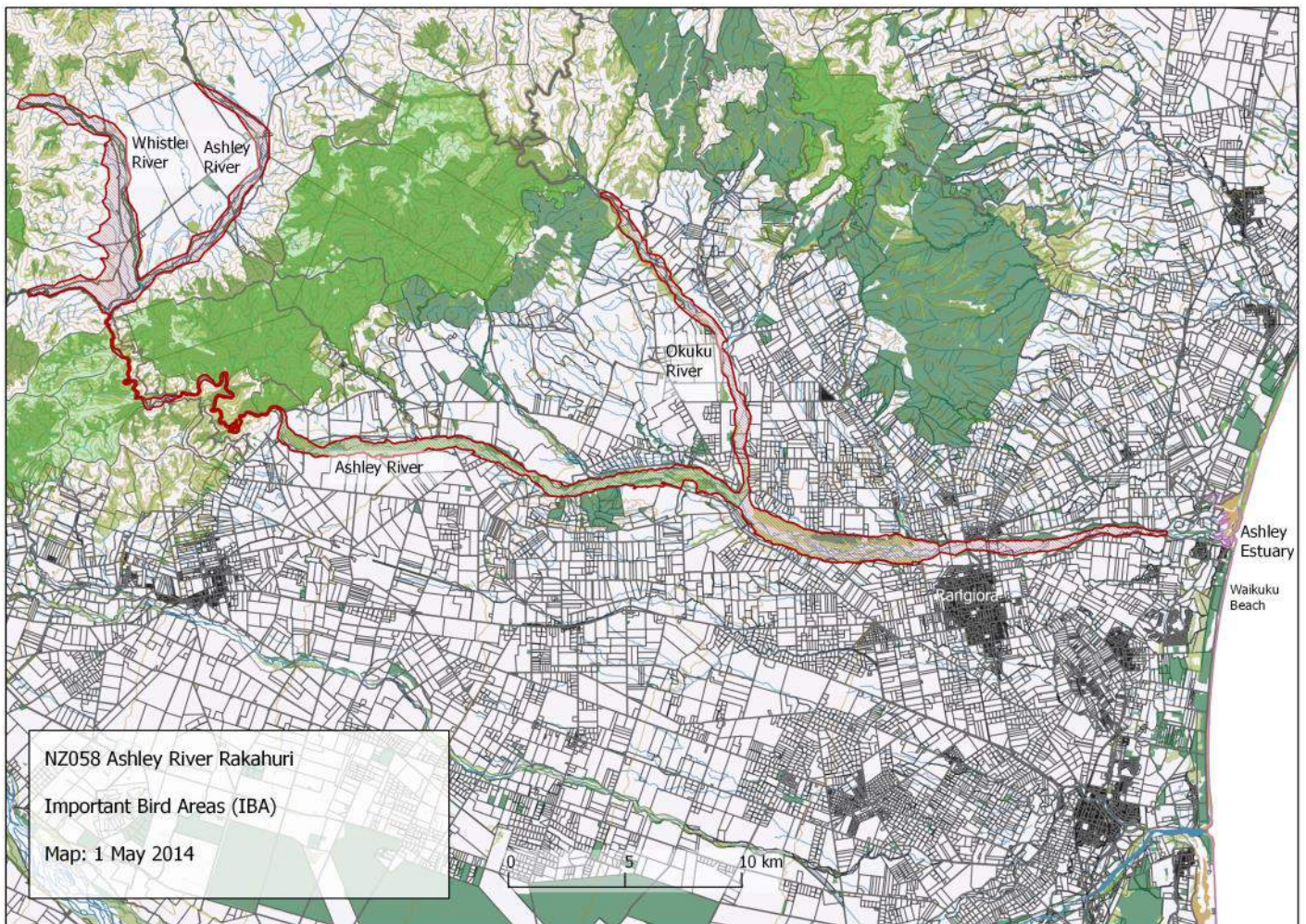
Populations of IBA trigger species:

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate (pairs)	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Black-billed Gull	Breeding	1981-2014	123-383	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1981-2014	43-88	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable
Wrybill	Breeding	2000-2013	5-7	A1	VU	Nationally Vulnerable

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

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Ashley Riverbed Rakahuri	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Okuku Riverbed Serenada	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Ashley Gorge	Marginal Strip	Protected area overlaps with site
Whistler Riverbed	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Whistler River	Marginal Strip	Protected area contained within site
Ashley Townshend River	Marginal Strip	Protected area overlaps with site

The IBA is bordered by the Oxford Forest Conservation Area in the Ashley Gorge area.



IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Wetlands (inland)	Permanent Rivers; Extensive River Gravel Beds (Braided River); Small Swamps	Major
Introduced Vegetation	Broom, gorse, pasture grasses & rank weeds, willow margins	Major
Grasslands	Tussock on river flats (upper reaches)	Major
Shrubland	Kanuka, matagouri (<i>Discaria toumatou</i>), bracken	Major
Forest	Southern beech on some river flats (upper reaches) and along margins of IBA	Minor

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 ground water (agricultural use)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration

Threats to the site (pressure) - contd.

Threat Level	Notes	Timing	Scope	Severity
Pollution	Agricultural & forestry effluents - nutrient loads (lakes and rivers)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	No or imperceptible 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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Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie