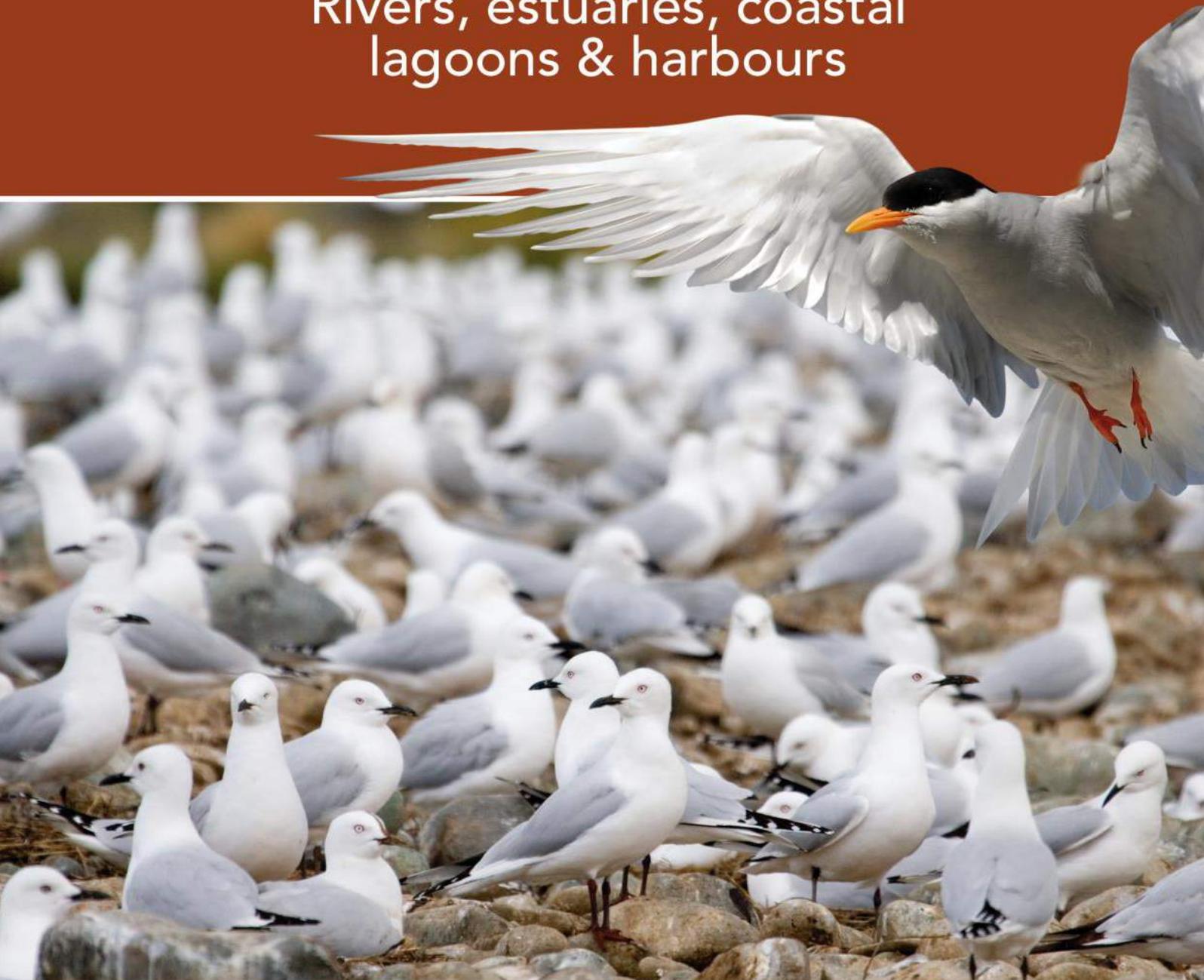


2 Important Areas for New Zealand Seabirds

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

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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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NZ046	Wairau Lagoons	Marlborough
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Location	New Zealand, Marlborough
Central coordinates	41.505492°S, 174.058113°E (Wairau river-mouth)
IBA criteria	A1
Area	3588 ha
Altitude	0 - 5m
Year of Assessment	2013

Populations of IBA trigger species:

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Black-billed Gull	Non-breeding		No counts ¹	A1	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Non-breeding	2008-2014	15-650 (individuals)	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable

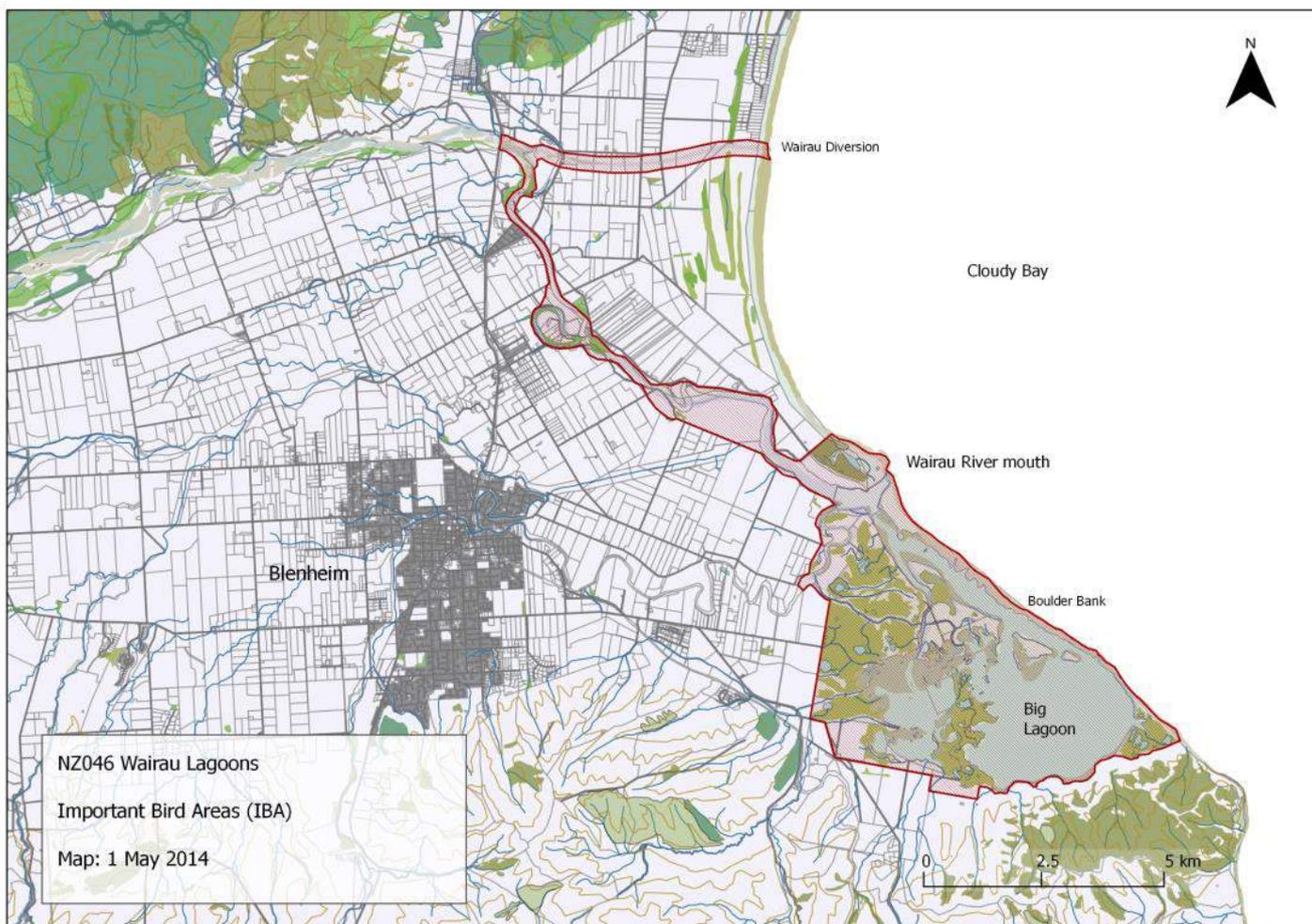
¹Wairau Lagoons and the adjacent areas (including Wairau Bar and areas offshore) are very important congregation and feeding areas for this species post-breeding.

Ornithological information: Besides the trigger species the following are confirmed or likely to be breeding: Black Shag, Little Shag, White-faced Heron, Black Swan, Canada Goose, Paradise Shelduck, Mallard, Grey Duck, Grey Teal, New Zealand Shoveler, NZ Scaup, Australasian Harrier, Pukeko, Coot, 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 Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, South Island Fernbird, NZ Pipit, Grey Warbler, South Island Fantail, Silvereye, Bellbird, Tui, Skylark, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Cirl Bunting, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling, Australian Magpie.

Other species recorded: Spotted Shag, Pied Shag, Little Black Shag, White Heron, Cattle Egret, Royal Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Pacific Golden Plover, Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit, Far-eastern Curlew, White-winged Black Tern.

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Wairau Lagoons	Wetland Management Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Wairau Diversion Mouth	Conservation Area	Protected area overlaps with site

The IBA also includes some land designated Marginal Strip , and Riverbed and Public Purpose Reserves.



IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Marine Intertidal	Shingle beach and boulder bank	Major
Marine Coastal /Supratidal	Coastal Brackish Lakes	Major
Wetlands (inland)	Swamps (Big Lagoon area)	Major
Wetlands (inland)	Permanent Rivers; River gravel beds; Bogs, small swamps	Major
Introduced Vegetation	Lupin, gorse, pasture grasses & rank weeds; Willow margins	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, river and beach users - includes dogs.	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Biological resource use	Hunting & collecting terrestrial animals - intentional use (waterfowl - seasonal)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	No or imperceptible deterioration

Threats to the site (pressure) - IUCN Classifications

Threat Level	Notes	Timing	Scope	Severity
Natural system modifications	Water management/use - abstraction of surface & ground water (agricultural use)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration
Natural system modifications	Weed encroachment on nesting sites (rivers)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Pollution	Agricultural effluents - nutrient loads (lakes and rivers)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	No or imperceptible 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