

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).

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

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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.

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.

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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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NZ095	Manuherikia	Otago
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Location	New Zealand, Otago
Central coordinates	44.855838°S, 169.916353°E (head of Falls Dam lake)
IBA criteria	A1
Area	1,406 ha
Altitude	570 - 700m
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	1967-2010	58-68	A1	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1967-2010	19-25 ¹	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable

¹ NB: Likely numbers are higher than this as in 2010 (the most recent survey) recorded 25 pairs plus another two uncounted colonies.

Ornithological information: Besides the trigger species the following species are confirmed or likely to be breeding: White-faced Heron, Black Swan, Paradise Shelduck, Mallard, Grey Duck, Australasian Harrier, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Spur-winged Plover, Southern Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, NZ Pipit, Silveryeye, Bellbird, Skylark, Hedge-sparrow, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling, Australian Magpie.

NB: The 'St Bathans fauna' from 16-19 millions years ago is described from a remarkable set of fossils found in this area by palaeontologists T. Worthy, P. Scofield and A. Tennyson : Includes over 20 bird species - six kinds of duck, an eagle, an adzebill, two birds like small weka, a big gull, a pigeon, three kinds of parrot, an owlet-nightjar, a swift, a diving petrel, a goose and three other species, one like a crow - all extinct.

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Manuherikia River	Marginal Strip	Protected area contained within site

The IBA includes some area of the Oteake Conservation Park and borders the Fiddlers Flat and Michael Peak Conservation Areas.

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
Climate change and severe weather	Floods	Likely in short term (within 4 years)	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration

References:

McKinlay, B. 1990. Manuherikia River survey. Unpublished file report BIR 7. Dunedin, Department of Conservation.

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



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Photo: Frederic Pelsy
Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie