

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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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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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.

NZ090	Matukituki River	Otago
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Location	New Zealand, Otago
Central coordinates	44.481075°S, 168.819695°E (confluence of East and West Branches)
IBA criteria	A1
Area	6,015 ha
Altitude	279 - 440m
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	1970-2011	320-952	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1971-2007	39-92	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable

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

NB: Kea (VU), Kaka (EN), Yellow-crowned Parakeet (NT), Long-tailed Cuckoo (LC), Shining Cuckoo (LC), Morepork (LC), Brown Creeper (LC) and Rifleman (LC) are found in adjacent forest areas; these will possibly be included in the IBA network in the next round (i.e. identifying sites triggered primarily by land-, water- and shore- birds).

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Matukituki River	Marginal Strip	Protected area contained within site
West Wanaka Bluffs	Conservation Area	Protected area overlaps site
Matakitaki Bluff	Conservation Area	Protected area overlaps site
Little Boggy Wetlands	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Matakitaki	Wetland Reserve	Protected area contained within site
Big Boggy Wetlands	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site

The IBA includes borders and areas (river flats) of the Mount Aspiring National Park.



IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Wetlands (inland)	Permanent Rivers; Extensive River Gravel Beds (Braided River); , Swamps; Permanent inland Deltas	Major
Introduced Vegetation	Lupins; Pasture grasses & rank weeds; willow margins	Major
Grasslands	Tussock on river flats; also Tundra-like mat plants	Major
Shrubland	Matagouri (<i>Discaria toumatou</i>), bracken	Major
Forest	Southern beech on river flats and along margins of the 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	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

Threats to the site (pressure) - contd.

Threat Level	Notes	Timing	Scope	Severity
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:

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

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Thorne, S. 2005. Matukituki River survey. Unpublished report. Wanaka, Department of Conservation.



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Photo: Frederic Pelsy
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