

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

Back cover: Frederic Pelsy (Ahuriri River)

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NZ088	Hunter River	Otago
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Location	New Zealand, Otago
Central coordinates	44.277286°S, 169.457932°E (Hunter delta)
IBA criteria	A1
Area	2,759 ha
Altitude	348 - 560m
Year of Assessment	2013

Populations of IBA trigger species:

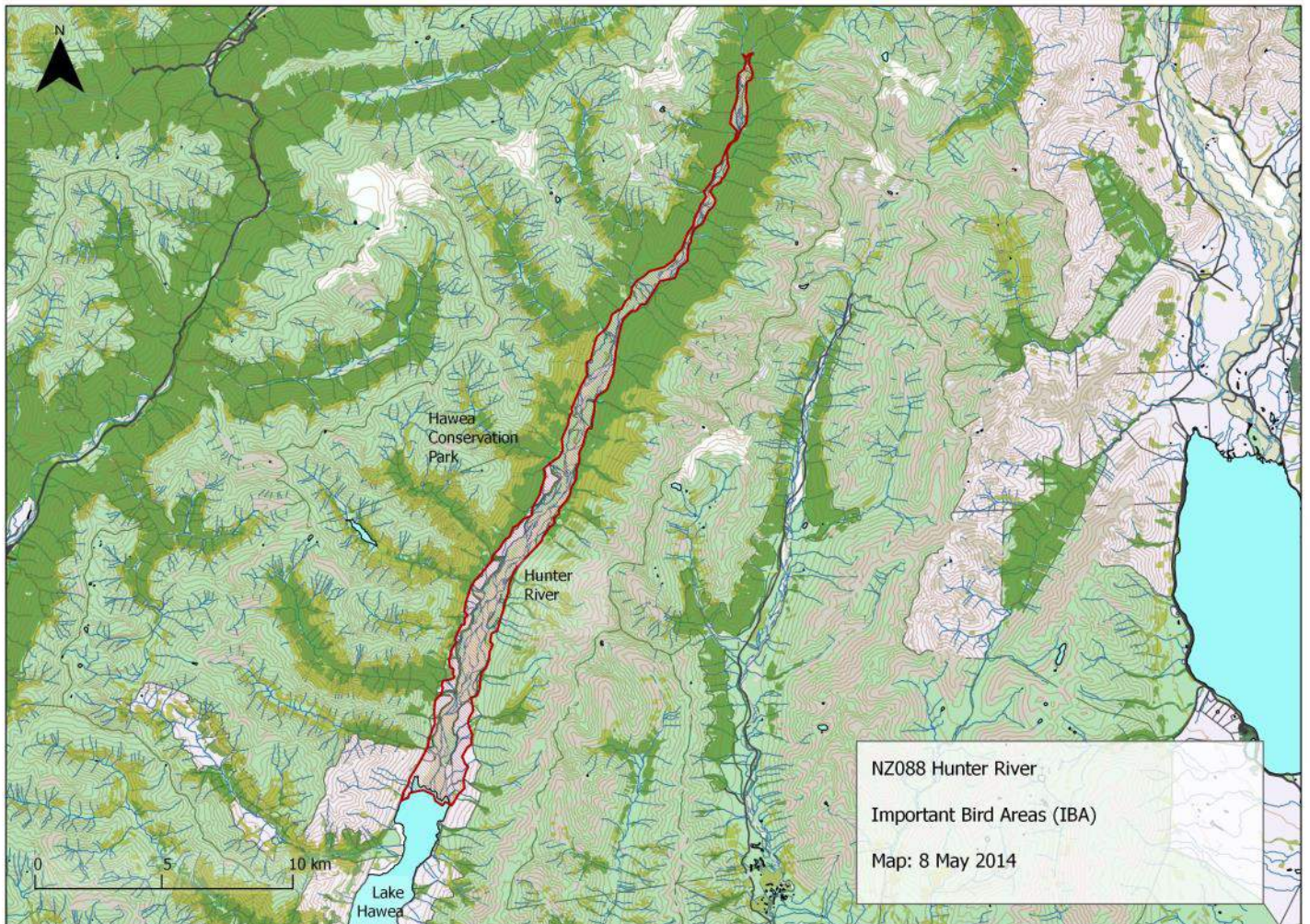
Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Black-billed Gull	Breeding	1969-2010	66-193	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1970-1995	44-62	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable

Ornithological information: Besides the trigger species the following species are confirmed or likely to be breeding: Black Shag, White-faced Heron, Black Swan, 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 Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit, South Island Fantail, South Island Tomtit, Grey Warbler, Silvereye, Bellbird, Skylark, Hedge-sparrow, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling, Australian Magpie. Other species recorded: Little Shag, NZ Falcon.

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Hunter River	Marginal Strip	Protected area contained within site
Hunter River	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site

The IBA includes areas (river flats) of the Hawea Conservation 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



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
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:

Child, P. 1960. The Hunter Valley, north-west Otago. *Notornis* 8: 189–191.

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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