

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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NZ089	Makarora	Otago
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Location	New Zealand, Otago
Central coordinates	44.273783°S, 169.185591°E (Makarora Wilkin confluence)
IBA criteria	A1
Area	4,080 ha
Altitude	279 - 400m
Year of Assessment	2013

Populations of IBA trigger species:

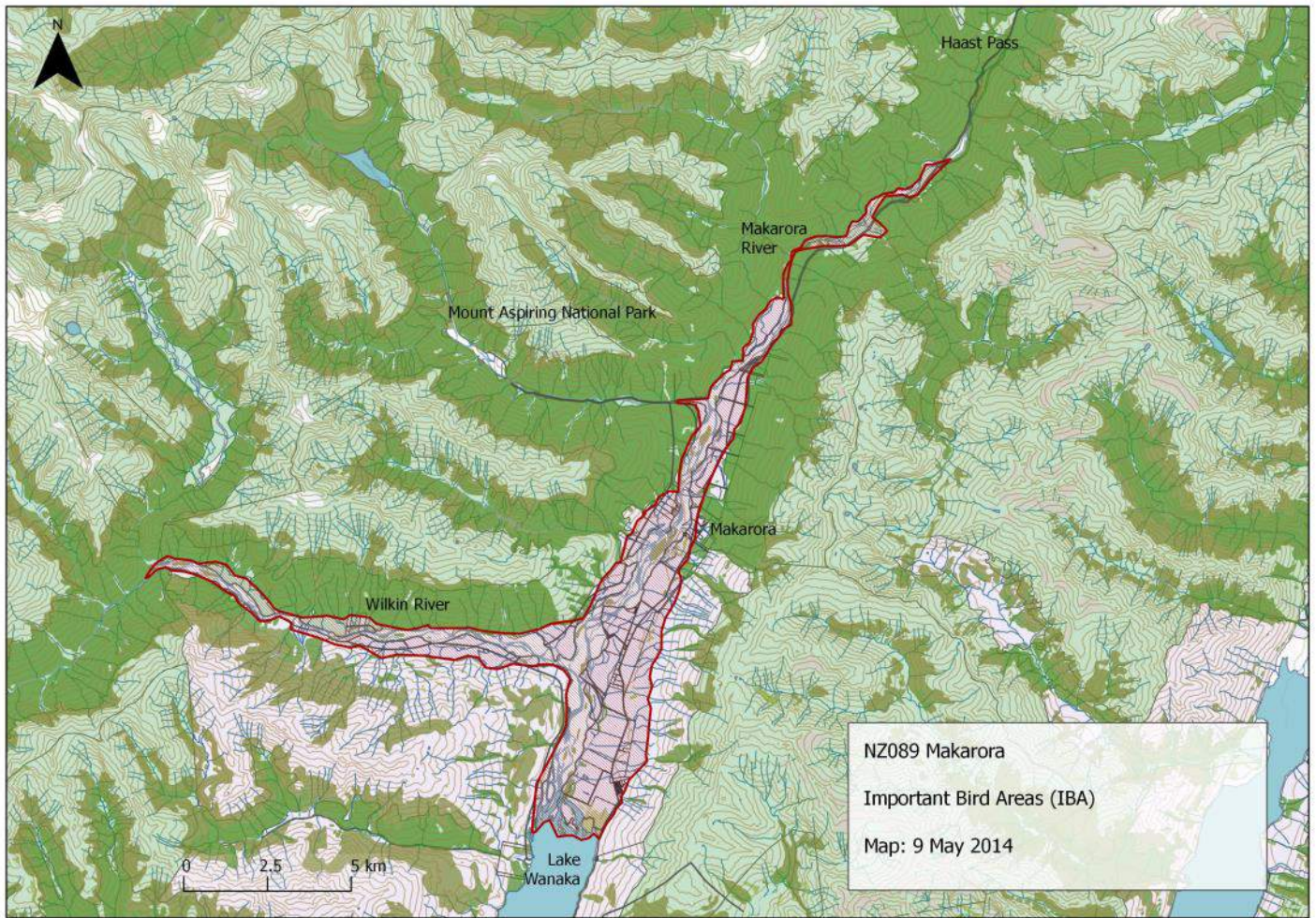
Species	Season	Period	Population estimate (pairs)	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Black-billed Gull	Breeding	1966-2009	142-344	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Breeding	1970-1995	16-36	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable

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, NZ Falcon, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Wrybill (VU), 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: Little Shag.

NB: Yellowhead (EN), Kea (VU), Kaka (EN), Yellow-crowned Parakeet (NT), Long-tailed Cuckoo (LC), Shining Cuckoo (LC), Morepork (LC), South Island Robin (LC), Brown Creeper (LC) and Rifleman (LC) are found in adjacent forest areas (Mount Aspiring National Park). These will 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
Makarora River	Marginal Strip	Protected area contained within site
Wilkin River River	Marginal Strip	Protected area contained within site

The IBA includes areas (river flats) of the Mount Aspiring National Park in the Makarora and Wilkin River valleys.



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:

Golding, C. 2006. Makarora River bird survey: October 2006. Unpublished report, Wanaka, 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 albostratus*) 1962-2008. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 35: 32-43

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