

# Black-billed gull Tarāpuka

*Larus bulleri*



## Conservation status

Regional | Threatened: Vulnerable  
National | At Risk: Declining



## Main threats

Habitat loss and degradation,  
introduced mammalian  
predators

A bit about me...



**Length:**  
35–38 cm



**Weight:**  
230 g



Breeding  
range



Non-breeding  
range

## Range:

Nests primarily on braided  
riverbeds before migrating  
to the coast, where it feeds  
in estuaries, harbours and out  
to sea. Also found across  
Aotearoa New Zealand.

## Key Otago sites:

- Makarore / Makarora River
- Mata-au / Clutha River
- Tāhuna / Queenstown
- Waitete / Waitati Inlet
- Te Awa Ōtākou / Otago Harbour



## New Zealand endemic

A sleek and pale gull with white eyes, pointed wings and a long, slender bill. Despite the name, its bill and legs are only black for part of the year, and can be reddish or pinkish depending on age. Bill shape is more useful for identification. Young birds also start off with dark eyes and mottled upperparts. Grating 'caws' are given.

## Similar bird:



Red-billed gull / tarāpunga