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ecoLogical Solutions

Environmental Consultants



September 2026

SL1 Residential South Development Bird Management Plan

Prepared for:
Saxby Rd JV Limited



water



fauna



flora



land

Quality Assurance

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Ecological Solutions Limited has prepared the following Bird Management Plan (BirdMP) in accordance with the SL1 Residential South Development Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) prepared by Ecological Solutions (Ecological Solutions 2026). The EclA and associated suite of ecological management plans have been prepared as part of a Fast-track Approvals Act (FTAA) substantive application for the SL1 Residential South Development. The SL1 Residential South Development is located at 37a, 71 and 129 Saxbys Road, Hamilton (the 'Residential South Site') (Figure 1). The SL1 Residential South Development will involve the development of residential dwellings and associated infrastructure pertaining to stormwater management and roading.

The SL1 Residential South Site is exclusively within Waipa District and is contiguous with Hamilton City Council's southwestern boundary.

While the site contains no Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), the Mangakōtukutuku Gully is in close proximity (c. 1km) for volant species, and there are a small number of mature trees located on site that are likely to provide foraging and commuting habitat for bird species. An Ecological Impact Assessment (Ecological Solutions 2026) has documented the presence of a small assemblage of exotic and non-threatened native birds currently utilising the Residential South Site but there are a number of 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' species that occupy neighbouring areas or watercourses.

This BirdMP considers the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB; MfE 2025), the Wildlife Act 1953 and satisfies the requirements of the draft consent conditions.

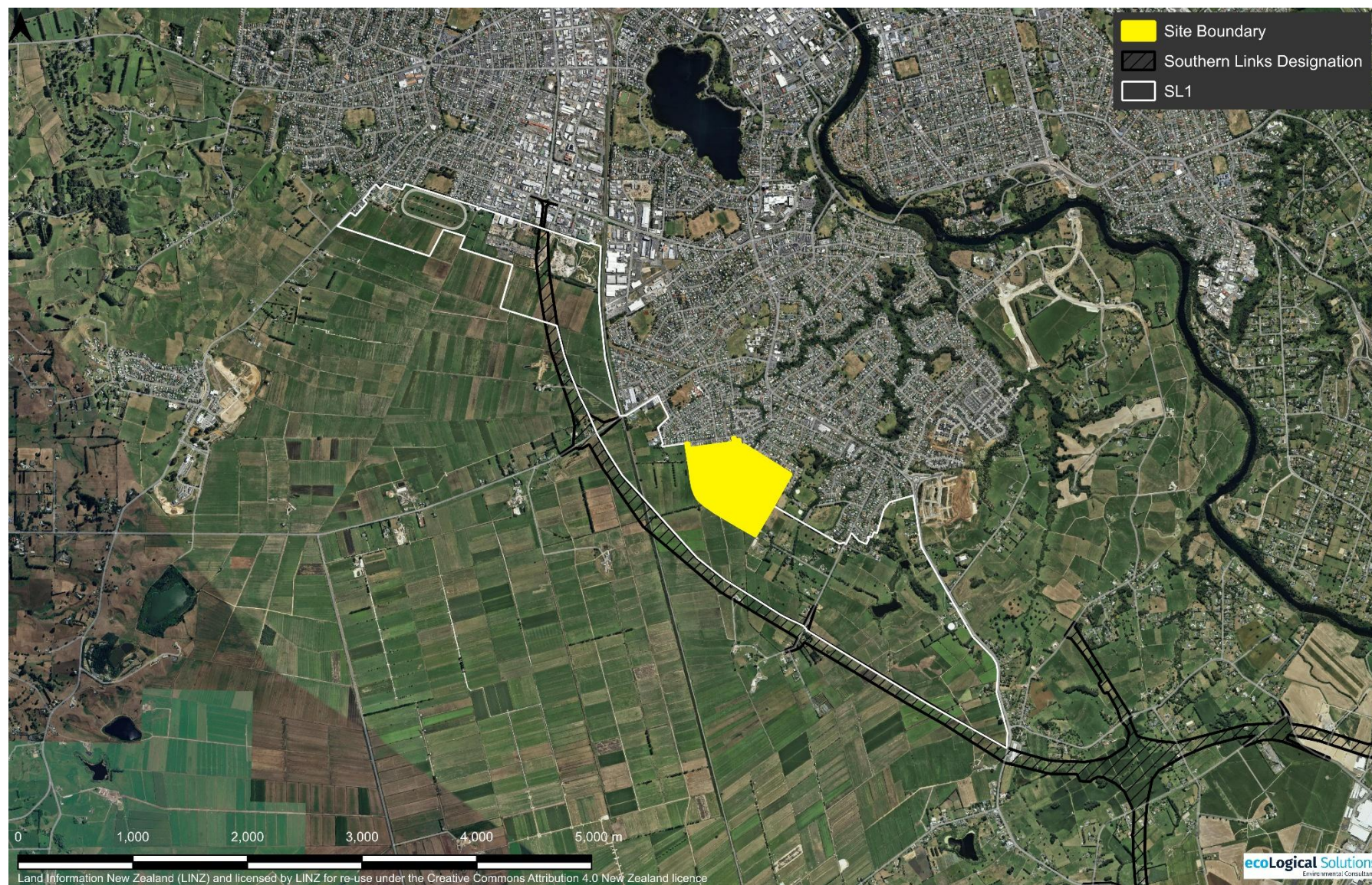


Figure 1: Location of the Site.

1.2 Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of bird management is to ensure adverse effects on protected birds during construction of the Project Site are minimised.

This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- Avoidance of vegetation clearance during the peak breeding season, where possible.
- Implementation of appropriate pre-clearance bird nest surveys, avoidance setbacks, and monitoring protocols for vegetation clearance during the breeding season that cannot be avoided

1.3 Responsibilities and Key Contacts

This BirdMP has been prepared by Ecological Solutions Limited.

Coordination of specific roles, functions and responsibilities will be undertaken by the consent holder to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of management actions.

Suitably qualified ecologists are required to hold responsibility for overseeing ecological aspects of the BirdMP and working with contractors to ensure delivery set out in the plan.

Accountability for the delivery of management actions and the achievement of expected outcomes will be embedded in the resource consent, implementation of the BirdMP and reporting on its outcomes.

2.0 Ecological Context

2.1 Site Description

Planning maps in the Hamilton Council operative district plan or the Waipa District Plan do not show any significant natural areas (SNAs) or protected trees within the Residential South Site. The nearest SNA was located c.1km to the northeast, in the Mangakōtutuku gully.

Terrestrial vegetation classes noted on-site are shown Figure 2. Historic and existing land use on site was agricultural, and the predominant vegetation consisted of managed/improved pasture. Mature vegetation within the Site consisted of a shelterbelt of London plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*) trees along the northwestern site boundary and four isolated exotic trees including Lombardy poplar and oak. Mature indigenous vegetation was limited to six isolated, mature kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*) situated in the southeast of the Site, and a c. 2–5m tall riparian margin planted along the Mangakōtutuku Stream (Figure 2 and Figure 3) and artificial Drains A and B. Riparian planting included mānuka (*Leptospermum scoparium* agg.), kānuka (*Kunzea* sp.), kōwhai (*Sophora* sp.) ribbonwood (*Plagianthus regius*) and cabbage tree (*Cordalene australis*), but also contained some exotic weed species including willow (*Salix* sp.), small leaved privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*).



Figure 2: Terrestrial vegetation map of the Residential South Site.



Figure 3: Landscape and vegetation features within the Residential South Site.

2.2 Bird Habitats within and Surrounding the Site

Potential bird habitat within the Site consisted of mature exotic shelterbelts, relatively immature riparian margin bordering streams and exotic pasture. The Mangakōtukutuku gully, located c. 1km to the northeast is designated an SNA, provides nesting and foraging habitat for indigenous and exotic birds

2.2.1 Desktop Assessment

Previous survey data was accessed using the eBird database (data retrieved April 2025) to search for records within 10km of the Site (Figure 4). Species with a conservation status of 'Threatened' or 'At Risk' (Robertson et al 2021) were identified and their potential to use habitats within and near the Site was assessed.

Records from eBird were found for 75 species of bird within a 10km radius of the Site (Appendix A). The assemblage is typical of a modified farmland site, with a large proportion of exotic species. Of the native species, 23 are considered to be 'At Risk' or 'Threatened', 17 of which are waterbirds which are unlikely to utilise the Site due to a lack of quality habitat. Spotless crane (*Zapornia tabuensis*), and New Zealand grebe (*Poliocephalus rufopectus*) have been observed in nearby watercourses and so have the potential to cryptically utilise on-site watercourses. Three additional endemic species including New Zealand kākā (*Nestor meridionalis*), New Zealand falcon/kārearea (*Falco novaeseelandiae*), and North Island robin/toutouwai (*Petroica longipes*) are usually found in mature indigenous forest and therefore are also unlikely to use the Site due to lack of

habitat. New Zealand pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*) may utilise the pasture and is considered 'At Risk – Declining'.

2.2.2 Site Surveys and Ecological Value

An on-site habitat survey was conducted in July 2025 (Ecological Solutions 2026). Birds observed during this survey were mostly exotic species including skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) and mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Native species included welcome swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*), pukeko (*Porphyrio melanotus*), swamp harrier (*Circus approximans*) and fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*). These native species are all considered 'Not Threatened' (Robertson et al. 2021) and are common in rural and semi-urban habitats.

2.3 Potential Effects on Birds

The bird assemblage observed on the Site is likely to be disturbed by habitat clearance and loss of habitat. The removal of habitat can impact birds by causing injury or mortality of nesting birds which can have material effects on the health and survival of local bird populations.

Habitat clearance and construction work operating during the breeding season represents a risk of injury/mortality to nesting birds. Due to the low level of mature indigenous vegetation on-site, the Ecological Impact Assessment (Ecological Solutions 2026) has indicated that the overall ecological value for birds and bird habitat within the Site is 'low' however both exotic and indigenous bird species may utilise exotic vegetation and pasture for nesting.

The predominant impacts on birds within the Site will be the loss of nesting sites, which includes both arboreal nest sites and ground-nesting sites. The removal of mature trees will reduce the potential nesting sites for both exotic species (e.g. chaffinch, goldfinch) and native species (e.g. fantail, welcome swallow). Ground-nesting species are also located on-Site, including skylark, swamp harrier, and pukeko. None of these species is of conservation concern, several of these species are absolutely protected under the Wildlife Act 1953. Cryptic wetland species such as spotless crane and New Zealand grebe have not been found within the Site; however, are known from surrounding areas and so have potential to be utilising the riparian vegetation for nesting.

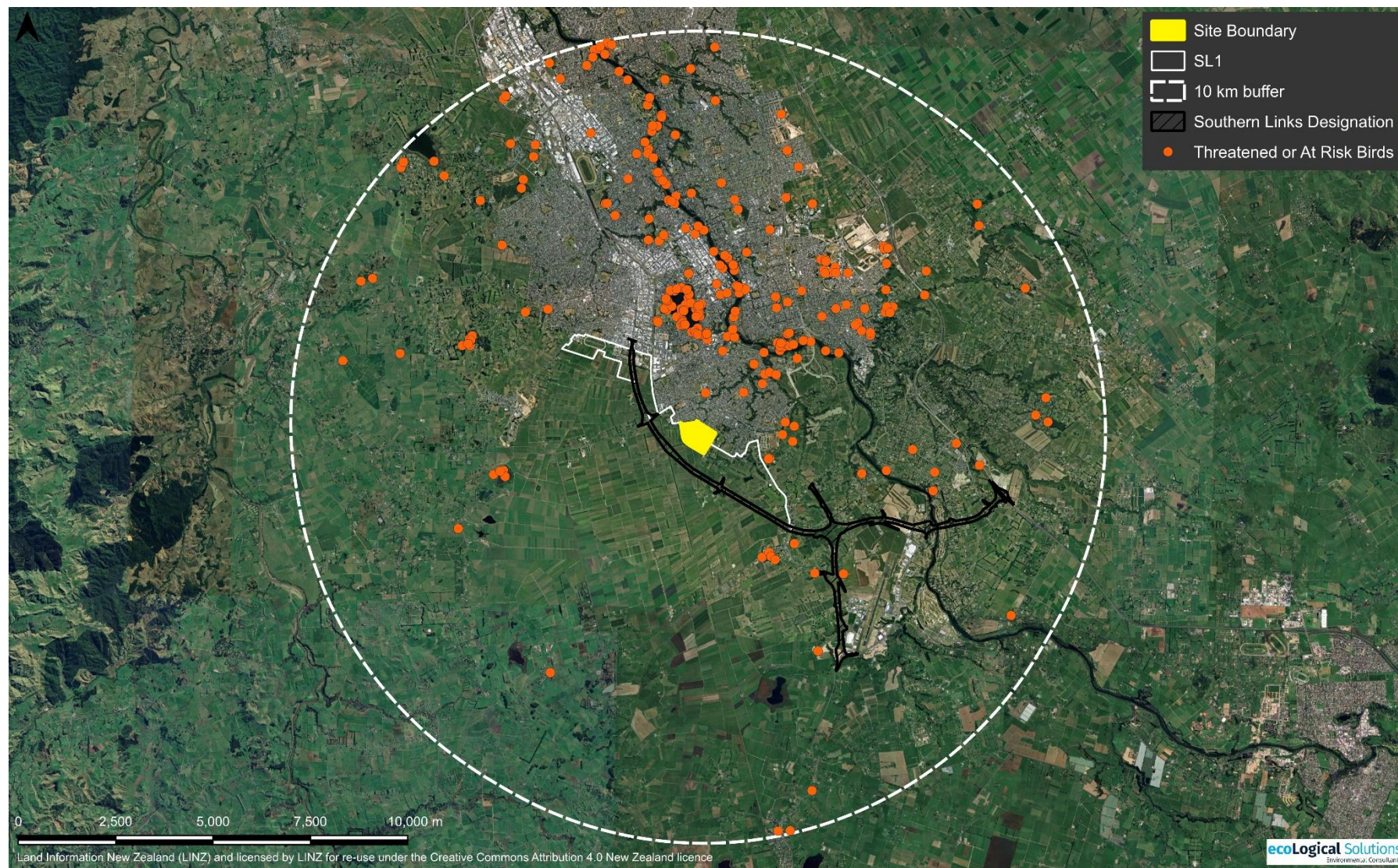


Figure 4: eBird records of 'Threatened' or 'At Risk' species within 10 km of the Site.

3.0 Managing Effects on Birds

3.1 Vegetation Removal

The principal risk to resident birds within the Site is from the removal of vegetation during the nesting period, when birds have higher energetic needs and are occupying nests. The risks of death or injury to bird species by removal of vegetation is highest during the Austral summer (September–February). Clearance of vegetation outside of the breeding season will require no specific management of birds.

To mitigate impacts on ground-nesting birds and/or if vegetation clearance must occur during the bird breeding season (September–February), the following process will be followed to minimise impacts on native birds, their nests, and their offspring.

- No more than seven days prior to vegetation clearance, a bird nest survey will be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist. Given the presence of ground-nesting species on-site, these surveys should include ground surveys and arboreal vegetation surveys.
- Where trees are too tall or dense to properly assess from the ground, certified tree-climbing arborists or drone operators will be used to identify bird nests
- If no active nests are found during surveys, trees may be felled and/or earthworks may commence within seven days of the survey
- If active nests are found, a 20m setback for earthworks/construction works will be established around the nest. The area must be clearly marked, cordoned off and left undisturbed until nesting has been completed (ie. offspring have fledged or been naturally abandoned). This must be assessed by a qualified ecologist.
- Records will be kept of any data collection including date and time of survey, GPS coordinates/location, any bird nest findings including the species and development stage of the nest if known.

As the bird assemblage on-site is relatively small and indicative of a highly modified environment with 'low' ecological value, no ongoing bird management, monitoring or offsetting is required.

4.0 Reporting and Closure

The results of surveys undertaken by qualified ecologists to assess vegetation for habitat clearance during the breeding season will be provided to Waikato Regional Council as part of consent conditions.

Any death or injury of native birds must be reported to DOC and local Iwi.

5.0 References

Ecological Solutions 2026. SL1 Residential South Development Ecological Impact Assessment. August 2026.

Ministry for the Environment (MfE) 2025. National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2020, amended December 2025.

Robertson, H.A., Baird, K.A., Elliott, G.P., Hitchmough, R.A., McArthur, N.J., Makan, T.D., Miskelly, C.M., O'Donnell, C.F.J., Sagar, P.M., Scofield, R.P., Taylor, G.A., Michel, P., 2021. Conservation status of birds in Aotearoa New Zealand, 2021.

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APPENDIX A

ebird database records of birds within 10km of the Site

Common name	Scientific name	Conservation status (Robertson et al. 2021)
Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Threatened - Nationally Critical
Australasian bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Threatened - Nationally Critical
New Zealand falcon	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i>	Threatened - Nationally Increasing
New Zealand grebe	<i>Poliocephalus rufopectus</i>	Threatened - Nationally Increasing
Pacific black duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable
Caspian tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable
Long-tailed koel	<i>Urodynamis taitensis</i>	Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable
New Zealand pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	At Risk - Declining
Silver gull	<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i>	At Risk - Declining
Yellow-crowned parakeet	<i>Cyanoramphus auriceps</i>	At Risk - Declining
South Island oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus finschi</i>	At Risk - Declining
North Island robin	<i>Petroica longipes</i>	At Risk - Declining
New Zealand fernbird	<i>Poodytes punctatus</i>	At Risk - Declining
White-fronted Tern	<i>Sterna striata</i>	At Risk - Declining
Baillon's crane	<i>Zapornia pusilla</i>	At Risk - Declining
Spotless crane	<i>Zapornia tabuensis</i>	At Risk - Declining
Eurasian coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	At Risk - Naturally Uncommon
Little black cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>	At Risk - Naturally Uncommon
Royal spoonbill	<i>Platalea regia</i>	At Risk - Naturally Uncommon
New Zealand kaka	<i>Nestor meridionalis</i>	At Risk - Recovering
Pied cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	At Risk - Recovering
Little pied cormorant	<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>	At Risk - Relict
Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	At Risk - Relict
Cook's petrel	<i>Pterodroma cookii</i>	At Risk - Relict
Gray teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>	Not Threatened
New Zealand bellbird	<i>Anthornis melanura</i>	Not Threatened
New Zealand scaup	<i>Aythya novaeseelandiae</i>	Not Threatened
Shining bronze-cuckoo	<i>Chalcites lucidus</i>	Not Threatened
Swamp harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>	Not Threatened
Black swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	Not Threatened
White-faced heron	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>	Not Threatened
Gray gerygone	<i>Gerygone igata</i>	Not Threatened
New Zealand pigeon	<i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae</i>	Not Threatened
Pied stilt	<i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>	Not Threatened
Welcome swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	Not Threatened
Kelp gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Not Threatened
Morepork	<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>	Not Threatened
Tomtit	<i>Petroica macrocephala</i>	Not Threatened
Pukeko	<i>Porphyrio melanotus</i>	Not Threatened
Tūī	<i>Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae</i>	Not Threatened
New Zealand fantail	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>	Not Threatened
Australasian shoveler	<i>Spatula rhynchotis</i>	Not Threatened
Paradise shelduck	<i>Tadorna variegata</i>	Not Threatened
Sacred kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>	Not Threatened
Spur-winged plover	<i>Vanellus miles</i>	Not Threatened
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	Not Threatened
Eastern cattle-egret	<i>Ardea coromanda</i>	Migrant
Latham's snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Vagrant
Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Common myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Introduced and Naturalised

Common name	Scientific name	Conservation status (Robertson et al. 2021)
Eurasian skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Graylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Sulphur-crested cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
California quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
European goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
European greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Rock pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Common chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Australian magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Wild turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Helmeted guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Indian peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Ring-necked pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Eastern rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Spotted dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
African collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
European starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Eurasian blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Introduced and Naturalised
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Introduced and Naturalised