



reservation of this forest in 1981 as an important seasonal food source for forest birds and as a rare example of a once widespread wetland habitat.

Kumara Reservoir bush W.M. (830 ha — lowland podocarp/hardwood forest). This forest contains a mosaic of regenerating cutover terrace forest and unlogged stands of rimu, miro and kahikatea. The forest is rated by the Wildlife Service as a significant regional wildlife habitat in a region where there is little such forest remaining after more than a century of bush clearance.

Lookout Forest W.M. (300 ha — terrace edge forest).

A small remnant of unmodified rimu — miro forest along an escarpment above the Hokitika River sought for reserve because of its wildlife and scenic values. It contains a range of common forest birds and a little shag colony.

Paynes Gully W.M. (240 ha — freshwater wetland).

A remnant of unlogged forest on hillslopes adjoining the Paynes Gully wildlife management reserve. The reserve covers swampland on a flat beside the Taramakau River.

Ianthe E.R. (230 ha — dense terrace rimu forest).

The only sizeable remnant of unlogged forest in the large Ianthe Forest, the rest of which is now being clearfelled to meet contracts to mills at Hokitika and Harihari. The University of Canterbury Forestry School and the Forest Service are very keen to reserve this education area because it has been used since 1971 for ecological research by students from their nearby lodge. It also contains special ecological features including:—

- The only known locality of yellow silver pine (*Dacrydium intermedium*) between Hokitika and Okarito.

- The southern limit of a rare fern *Hypolepis distans*.
- It is a refuge for robin of particular importance because the rest of Ianthe Forest is being clearfelled.

Wanganui W.M. (320 ha); **One One Creek W.M.** (810 ha); **Pye Creek W.M.** (30 ha — wetlands).

South Westland's rivers meet the sea in flax-lined lagoons surrounded by great kahikatea forests. The Okarito and Saltwater lagoons and the Waitangiroto white heron colony are the best known areas, however further north the Wanganui and Poerua river mouths are also a maze of flax swampland, virgin and regenerating kahikatea and kowhai.

In places along the Wanganui riverbank, kahikatea form a magnificent wall of closely spaced trunks — a rare sight in New Zealand today. The impressive view from the coast across forests to the Southern Alps is regarded by Harihari locals as one of