

# 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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Back cover: Frederic Pelsy (Ahuriri River)

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NZ048	Lake Grassmere	Marlborough
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Location	New Zealand, Marlborough
Central coordinates	41.722002°S, 174.160767°E
IBA criteria	A1, (A4ii)
Area	1491 ha
Altitude	0 - 5m
Year of Assessment	2013

**Populations of IBA trigger species:**

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Black-billed Gull	Non-breeding	2003-2015	35-3,600 (individuals)	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Non-breeding	2003-2008	280-1,100 (individuals)	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable
Wrybill	Non-breeding	2003-2011	7-16 (individuals)	A1	VU	Nationally Vulnerable

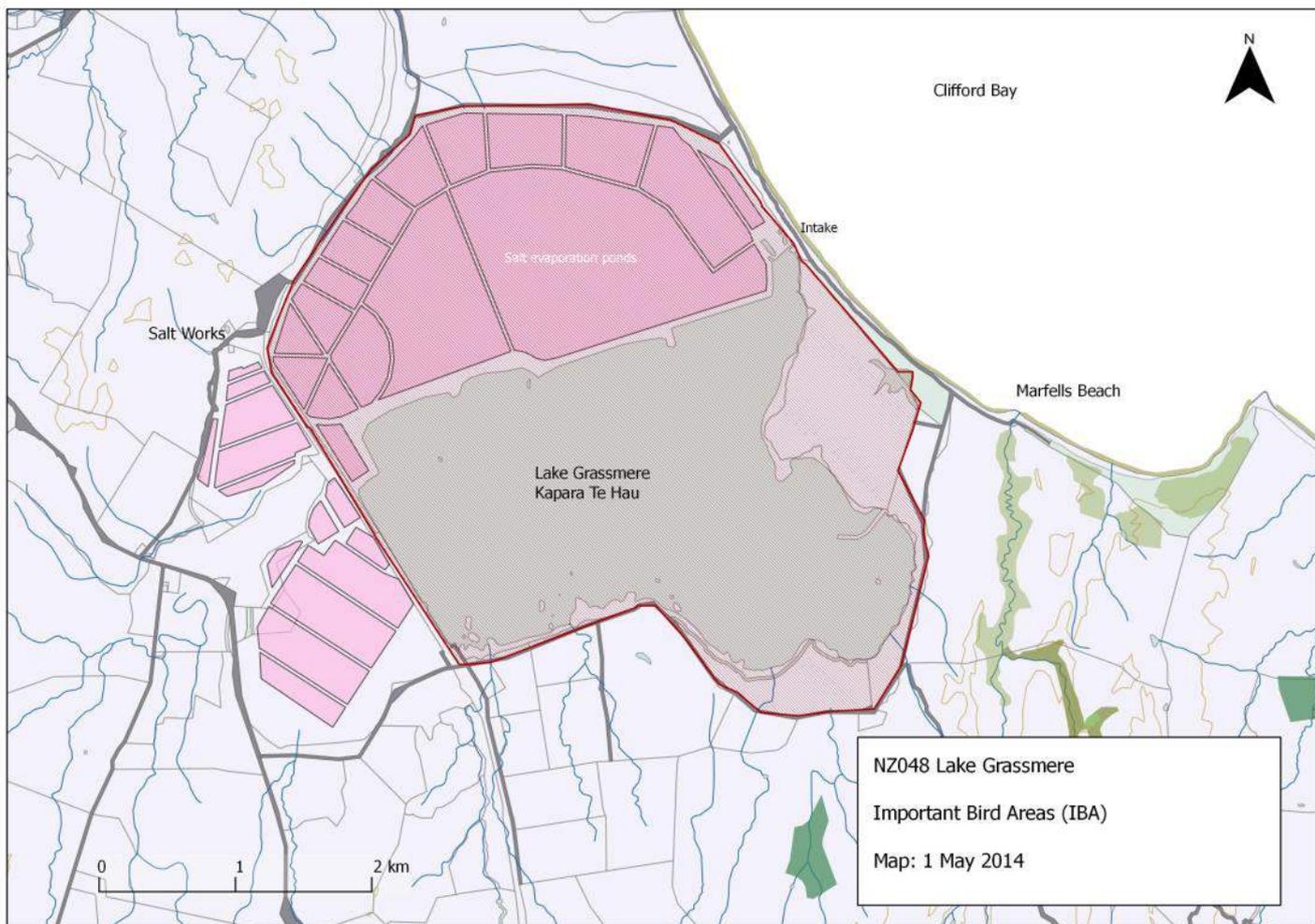
**Ornithological information:** Besides the trigger species the following are confirmed or likely to be breeding: Black Swan, Canada Goose, Paradise Shelduck, Grey Teal, Mallard, NZ Shoveler, NZ Scaup, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Black-fronted Dotterel, Spur-winged Plover, Southern Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Rock Pigeon, NZ Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit, Silvereye, Skylark, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Cirl Bunting, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Starling, Australian Magpie.

Other species recorded: White-faced Heron, Australasian Harrier, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Pacific Golden Plover, Turnstone, Red (Lesser) Knot, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Marsh Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit, Sanderling, Red-necked Phalarope, Red-billed Gull, White-fronted Tern, .

Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Grassmere Beach	Conservation Area	Protected area overlaps with site

The IBA includes one area (1 sq km) between the lake and the beach that is subject to Part IVA Section 24 Conservation Act 1987. Access salt pans is restricted by owners, Dominion Salt, who also own the lake.

IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Marine Intertidal	Extensive salt marsh	Major
Marine Coastal/Supratidal	Coastal Lake; Sand-dunes with marram grass	Major
Introduced vegetation	Pasturelands	Major
Artificial - aquatic	Salt Exploitation Sites	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, hedgehogs	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration
Human intrusions and disturbance	Recreational activities by lake, river and beach users - includes dogs.	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Biological resource use	Hunting & collecting terrestrial animals - intentional use (waterfowl - seasonal)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	No or imperceptible deterioration

#### References:

Ornithological Society of NZ (OSNZ/Birds NZ) National Wader Database 2013.

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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Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie