



▲ *Mimulus repens*, NZ musk



▲ *Cotula coronopifolia*, bachelor's button

## The plants



The reserve contains a succession of vegetation from tidal mudflats to coastal forest. Marsh ribbonwood, coastal tree daisy, taupata, ngaio, kanuka and manuka make up the coastal scrub. Swamp flax, raupo, reeds, rushes, glasswort, sea primrose, halfstar, New Zealand spinach and wild celery are the principal wetland species.

The rare New Zealand musk, *Mimulus repens*, is present.

▼ *Juncus maritimus*, sea rush

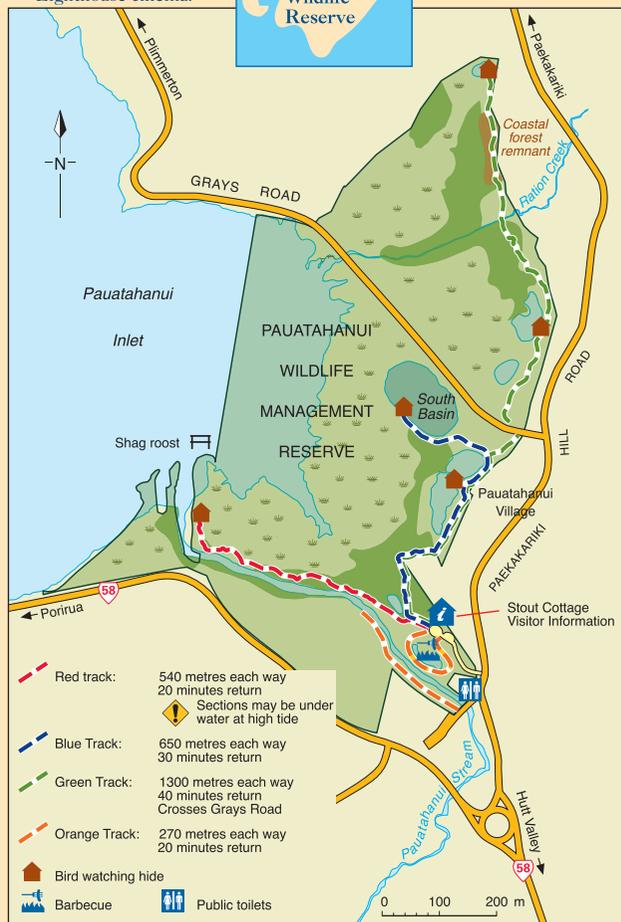


## Please remember



- Stay on formed tracks
- Close hide ports and doors
- Do not disturb birds
- Do not remove plants or animals
- No dogs
- No bicycles
- No fires
- No firearms
- No litter

Entrance to the reserve is from Pauatahanui village, beside the Lighthouse cinema.



Design by Richard Slagter, DAC.

Photography by David Cornick, Terry Fitzgibbon, and Jeremy Rolfe.

## Further information



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Wellington Visitor Centre  
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Wellington 6143.  
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# Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve



Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai



Forest & Bird  
GIVING NATURE A VOICE



## History ● ● ●

The Pauatahanui Wildlife Management Reserve is an area of approximately 50 ha that contains the most significant saltmarsh in the lower North Island. Of this, 4ha is owned by Forest & Bird and is covenanted to the Queen Elizabeth II Trust. The remaining 46 ha is administered by the Department of Conservation. The area was designated Wildlife Management Reserve in 1984 and is managed by a Forest & Bird committee in partnership with the Department of Conservation.

The primary purposes of the Reserve are:

To protect and enhance habitat for waterfowl.

To protect the saltmarsh and create a more diverse habitat by developing flaxswamp, manuka/kanuka forest and coastal shrubland around the saltmarsh.

To provide visitor access to significant parts of the Reserve so it can be used without disturbing wildlife.

▲ Pauatahanui Inlet

## Today ● ● ●

The first stage of development (1984–1990s) created a series of shallow ponds (scrapes) for wading birds, built tracks and boardwalks around the saltmarsh, and built ‘hides’ at strategic locations for observing birdlife. A plant nursery was established and the visitor centre built. Weed eradication and rehabilitation of the saltmarsh began.

The focus is now on the extensive planting programme, weed and predator control, the maintenance of hides, and, where possible, developing tracks suitable for wheelchairs.

The work is done by Forest & Bird volunteers with community support and funding. Donations to help with maintenance are appreciated, and can be put in the donations box by the path into the Reserve. Offers to help with work are welcomed.

▼ Mud-Flat Top Shell



▼ Mud Crab

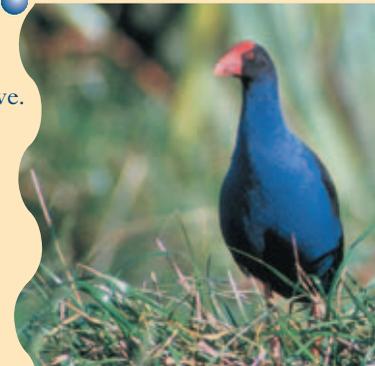


## The birds ● ● ●

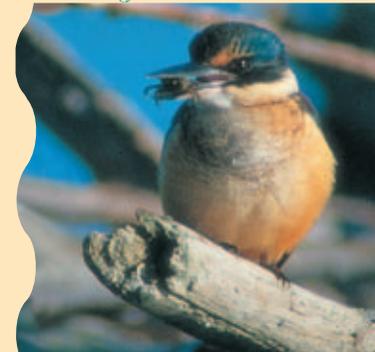
Many resident and migratory bird species may be seen on the reserve. The most commonly spotted are:

- ▶ Pied stilt
- ▶ NZ shoveler
- ▶ Paradise shelduck
- ▶ White-faced heron
- ▶ Spur-winged plover
- ▶ Welcome swallow
- ▶ Black shag
- ▶ Harrier hawk
- ▶ Banded dotterel
- ▶ Godwit
- ▶ Pukeko
- ▶ Kingfisher
- ▶ Little shag
- ▶ Fantail
- ▶ Little black shag
- ▶ Grey teal
- ▶ Tui
- ▶ Spoonbill
- ▶ Grey warbler
- ▶ Mallard
- ▶ Black swan

▼ Pukeko



▼ Kingfisher



▼ White-faced Heron



▼ Shag Roost

