

# Westland petrel/tāiko

It's that time of year again... Westland petrel/tāiko chicks are due to fledge any day now and start their long journey to South America. Their first flight can be a tough one, as they are inexperienced fliers and can become disorientated by bright lights and poor weather conditions.

Luckily, we can help them on their journey by following a few basic steps;

## To give them the best chance of success:

- Avoid leaving on bright outdoor lights as this confuses them
- Close curtains and blinds
- Keep dog(s) secure at home

## If you find a stranded bird here's what to do:

1. If possible, move them away from danger; be careful as they have a nasty bite. Use gloves or an old towel can help.
  - \* **If you feel uncomfortable handling the bird or require assistance, please immediately call the DOC Emergency Hotline on 0800 362 468.**
2. Place them in a cardboard box (or similar) with air holes and transport to the "Petrel Drop Off Boxes" at the Punakaiki DOC Visitor Centre (if the centre is closed go through the gate to the left of the front door) or the Punakaiki Tavern.
3. Call 03 7311895 if after hours and leave a message about where you found the bird and any observations made.

Birds need to be checked by a DOC Ranger to ensure they are in good health; once ready they will be released.

**Please do not attempt to release the bird yourself.**



Westland petrel in flight

For more information, pop into the Punakiaki Visitor Centre or visit the DOC website:  
[www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/westland-petrel-taiko/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/westland-petrel-taiko/)



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*