

# Westland petrel/tāiko – be on the lookout!

Westland petrel/tāiko chicks fledge between November to January. Their first flight can be a tough one, as they are inexperienced fliers, and can become disorientated by bright lights and poor weather conditions. Adult birds are also found at any time of year.

Once on the ground they need our help, as they are unable to take flight again easily, and are very vulnerable to being struck by cars and attacked by dogs.

The Department of Conservation and Westland Petrel Conservation Trust work together to help these birds get back out to the sea, and document when/where all birds are found, so we can work to remove attractive lights sources or hazards.

We can all 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 and close curtains and blinds, as this confuses them
- Keep dog(s) secure at home
- Keep a cardboard box, with air holes and towel in your car, just in case!

If you find a bird on the ground,

1. Use a towel (or item of clothing) to cover the bird and gently lift it into a box (unwrap the bird once in the box), or move it away from danger (traffic).
  - \* If you feel uncomfortable handling the bird or require assistance, please immediately call the numbers provided.
2. Birds found can be transported to the “Petrel Drop Off Boxes” at the DOC Visitor Centre (if the centre is closed go through the gate to the left of the front door).
  - \* Leave your details in the log book.
3. If you are unable to transport the bird please call the numbers provided.
4. Please do not attempt to release the bird yourself.

What happens next?

- All birds are health checked by DOC or the WPCT. Those healthy and uninjured will be assisted to take flight again.
- Injured or underweight birds are provided veterinary and rehabilitative care by DOC.
- If you would like to know about your bird or attend its release, please let us know.



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