Wilson's storm petrel

Oceanites oceanicus exasperatus





Conservation status

Regional | Migrant | National | Migrant



Main threats

Climate change, pollution





Length: 18 cm



Weight: 35 g





Migratory range



Nests are found in ice-free rocky crevices and small burrows around the Antarctic coast. Migrates to Northern Hemisphere for the austral winter. Occasionally migrates through waters around Aotearoa New Zealand.



Key Otago sites:

- Otago canyons in summer and autumn
- Rarely seen inshore

New Zealand native

A small black seabird with a steep forehead, tiny black bill and squared tail. Its white rump and flanks stand out in flight, as do its long black legs with yellow webbed feet. Wings are broad with a grey bar on their upper surfaces. Strictly nocturnal at colonies to avoid detection by predatory gulls and skuas. Forages beyond the pack ice in cold, deep water for small fish, squid and invertebrates.

Similar bird:



Black-bellied storm petrel / takahikare-rangi