

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Wilson's storm petrel: p 65.

## WILSONS STORM PETREL

**Family** Hydrobatidae

**Species** *Oceanites oceanicus*

**Common name** Wilson's Storm Petrel

**Status** Circumpolar

**Abundance** Worldwide common in southern waters but a rare straggler in New Zealand waters.

**Size** 180 mm (House Sparrow 145 mm, Fluttering Shearwater 300 mm).

**Major breeding islands** Islands in the Antarctic region. Closest to New Zealand, Macquarie Island

**Breeding months** August to April. Nest is a shallow cup of grass and twigs above ground. One white egg is laid.

**Range worldwide** From New Zealand around southern hemisphere waters.

**New Zealand range** Waters around New Zealand.

### Description

**Head, neck, throat and upper breast** Sooty brown. **Upperwings** Dark brown with black primary feathers. **Rump** white. **Tail** Wide black tail tip. **Underparts** Brown. **Legs** Black. **Feet** Dark grey with yellow webs. **Bill** Black.

### Conspicuous features

- Feet extend behind tail when in flight.
- Tail is square.
- Dark brown underparts.
- White rump.
- Legs are long.

### Conspicuous characteristics

- Touches the sea with its feet when feeding.
- Dips constantly into the sea.
- Plunges erratically towards the water and then into the air again.
- Attracted to fishing boats.

### Where to find – South Island

**Kaikoura** – Worth looking for in deep water. P 345

**Stewart Island** – Worth looking for in deep water. 367.