

FEDERALLY PROTECTED WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER SEABIRDS NEED YOUR HELP!

Nov/Dec is “annual shearwater fallout” season on base and around the islands. Juvenile Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (seabirds) are learning to fly, often get disoriented by city lights, fly inland instead of toward the sea, fall to ground and get injured or become vulnerable to predators, road kill, etc.

WHAT TO DO IF SHEARWATER IS FOUND

Contact Military Police at **257-2123**.

-working hours: seabird will be picked up

-after hours: response may be delayed until next day ,
seabird may need to be secured (see below)

How and When to Handle Shearwaters

If the seabird is in a safe location, and will be picked up soon, then leave it there. However, if after hours and/or seabird is in harm's way (e.g. road kill, predation), seabird should be secured in a **cardboard box**. When handling (see picture), cusp the bird “firmly without squeezing”. Keep wings close to body. Birds have strong muscles, but fragile bones. **Gloves are desirable**; although their bite is not hard, their fish-catching beak is very sharp. A towel or t-shirt may be used to cover seabird prior to handling. Keep the box in a **quiet location** until picked up.



Wedge-tailed Shearwaters nest in burrows near the ocean.



Juvenile shearwaters may still have down on their head. Handle them “firmly without squeezing”.