

HELP! Federally Protected Shearwaters



Duncan Wright - US Fish and Wildlife Service



Oahu Seabird Group

Proper way to hold a distressed seabird (left). Shearwaters nest in burrows near the ocean (above).

WHAT TO DO IF A SHEARWATER IS FOUND:

Contact Base Environmental at (808) 285-6464/ (808) 781-7636

Or Contact Military Police at (808) 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).



ANNUAL SHEARWATER FALLOUT SEASON: September -December

- Juvenile Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (seabirds) are learning to fly within MCBH from the beginning of September through the end of December.
- During this period, young fledglings often get disoriented by urban lights or become exhausted while trying to fly out to sea.
- The birds can fly inland where they collide with power lines, lights, and other manmade structures.

This can result in injury or death to the seabirds!

How and When to Handle Shearwaters:

- If the seabird is in a safe location and will be picked up soon, leave it there!
- If the seabird is in harm's way (road kill, predation, operations, etc.) and it is after hours, the bird should be secured in a cardboard box with ventilation.
- When handling (see photo), cusp the bird **firmly without squeezing** and keep wings close to the body. Birds have strong muscles and fragile bones.
- Gloves, a towel or t-shirt can be used to cover seabird prior to handling.
- Keep the box in a quiet, cool location until picked up. Call the MP number to report ASAP.

NEVER feed or water the bird!