

The Westland Petrel, also known as the Taiko in Maori, is a seabird that is found only in New Zealand.

It is a large bird, with a wingspan of around 1.5 me-

ters! Westland Petrels are unique because they spend

most of their lives at sea, only coming to land to breed

in the rugged forests of the South Island's West Coast.

They are also known for their unusual habit of us-

ing their sense of smell to locate food - a rare ability

in birds. Unfortunately, Westland Petrels are classi-

fied as critically endangered, with only around 4,000

birds estimated to remain in the wild. Conservation

efforts are underway to protect this special bird and

its habitat.