

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

Date: 17 June 2015

Submission No 176: Mottled Petrel *Pterodroma inexpectata*, Submitted by Nikolas Haass and Raja Stephenson

This submission related to three Mottled Petrels, *Pterodroma inexpectata*, observed during an organised trip off Southport, Southeastern Queensland. These three Mottled Petrels were seen in two different location, the first location was on the on the slope waters at approximately 27° 53' S/153° 57'E; the other two petrels were observed over the self at about 27° 56'S; 153° 44'E. All observers on board the boat, saw at least one of the three Mottled Petrel, with most seeing all three birds. The submission was supported by a number of quality photographs and a detailed description of the petrels. The description included the frosted grey upperparts with a conspicuous M' shape marking across the upperwings and back, white under tail contrasting with a grey belly, and the conspicuous underwing pattern, all of which can clearly be seen in the photographs.

The authors separated the this species from other similar species, including the dark morph Collared Petrel, *Pterodroma brevipes*, and intermediate morph Soft-plumaged Petrel, *Pterodroma mollis*, by a combination of body shape and size and the underwing pattern. The Collared Petrel generally have slimmer bodies, narrower wings and dark hoods, darker underwings and the upperwings lack the frosted 'frosted' trailing edge. The soft-plumage petrel have dark unerwings.

Committee members commented on the detail in the submission and thanked both authors for the effort in preparing this submission.

Unanimously accepted

References

- Enticott, J. and D. Tipling, 1997.** *Seabirds of the World*. London.
- Flood, B. and A. Fisher, 2013.** *Multimedia Identification Guide to North Atlantic Seabirds: Pterodroma Petrels*.
- Harrison, P., 1983.** *Seabirds, an identification guide*. Beckenham.
- Harrison, P., 1987.** *Seabirds of the World. A Photographic Guide*. London.
- Heather, B. and H. Robertson, 2005.** *The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand: 2nd ed.*
- Howell, S.N.G., 2012.** *Petrels, Albatrosses, and Storm-Petrels of North America: A Photographic Guide*. Princeton.
- Del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargatal (eds), 1992.** *Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 1: Barcelona*.
- Marchant, S. and P.J. Higgins (eds), 1990.** *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Volume 1: Ratites to Ducks*. Melbourne.
- Onley, D. & P. Scofield, 2007.** *Albatrosses, Petrels & Shearwaters of the World*. Princeton.
- Shirihai, H. 2007.** *A Complete Guide to Antarctic Wildlife*. 2nd ed. London.