

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

Date: 17 June 2015

Submission No 177: Mottled Petrel *Pterodroma inexpectata*, Submitted by Nikolas Haass and Raja Stephenson

This submission related to two Mottled Petrels, *Pterodroma inexpectata*, observed during an organised trip at 32.5 nautical miles offshore from Mooloolaba, at approximately 26° 37'S; 153° 44'E. These two petrels were seen by all observers on board the boat with both birds approaching within 100 metres of the boat and all observers. 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 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 underwings.

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

Unanimously accepted

References

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