

**From:** Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

**Date:** 29 June 2013

**Submission No 182: Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*, Submitted by Paul Walbridge**

This submission related to an adult Buller's Albatross, *Thalassarche bulleri*, seen during an organised trip off Southport, Southeastern Queensland. This albatross was observed on the slope waters at approximately 23.5 nautical miles ENE of Southport, 27° 50.44'S; 153° 51.09'E. All observers on-board the boat, and agreed with the identification. The submission was supported by a number of quality photographs and a detailed description of the albatross. The description for one of these Buller's Albatross included a black bill with a broad yellow culmenicorn extending to the base of the bill; an entirely yellow maxillary unguis and bright yellow half of the ramicorn and tip of the mandibular unguis and a white cap on the forehead.

The author separated this species from other similar species including the Grey-headed Albatross, *T. chrysostoma*, by the paler grey on the head and neck, a more robust bill and more yellow on the culmenicorn and ramicorn. From the Northern Buller's Albatross *T. platei* sp. nov. by being more delicate in appearance with a more extensive white cap and pale grey lores opposed to contrasting dark lores. Some other species also considered including albatrosses in the shy complex, *T. steadi*, *T. salvini* and *T. eremita*. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> record of Buller's Albatross for Queensland considered by the Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee.

Unanimously accepted

**References**

**Harrison, P. 1985.** *Seabirds: an identification guide*

**Endicott, J. and D. Tipling, 1998.** *Photographic Handbook of the Seabirds the World.*