

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

Date: 28 June 2015

Submission No 187: Light-mantled Albatross *Phoebetria palpebrata*, Submitted by Paul Walbridge

This submission related to an adult Light-mantled Albatross, *Phoebetria palpebrata*, seen during an organised trip off Southport, Southeastern Queensland. This albatross was observed on the slope waters, approximately 22.5 nautical miles east of Southport, 27° 53.93' S; 153° 51.71' E. All observers on-board the boat agreed with the identification. The submission was supported by a number of quality photographs and a detailed description of the albatross. The description included the black concave bill and thin pale blue sulcus along the lower mandible and a hooded appearance produced by a dark head, contrasting with grey nape and mantle.

The author separated this species from other similar species, including both giant petrels, *Macronectes* spp., by a combination of body shapes and the black bill; and Sooty Albatross *Phoebetria fusca* which has a robust bill with a yellow sulcus and the mantle being similar in colour to the head, nape and upperwings. This is the 4th record of Light-mantled Albatross assessed 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.*

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

Date: 26 July 2014

**Submission No 181: Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*, Submitted by Paul Walbridge
*Thalassarche bulleri***

This submission related to two adult Buller's Albatrosses, *Thalassarche bulleri*, seen during an organised trip off Southport, South-eastern Queensland. These albatrosses were observed on the slope waters at approximately 21 nautical miles off Southport, 27° 50.87' S; 153° 47.20'E and 32 nautical miles of Southport, 27° 48.25' S; 153° 58.09'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 culmenicorne 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. White cap on the forehead. Details of the second Buller's Albatross seen during the day were not as detailed as that for the first albatross, as the bird did not approach the boat as close, however the grey head with a white cap and the bill pattern were characteristic Buller's Albatross

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 culmenicorne 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 3rd 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.*

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. 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 4th 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.*