

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

Date: 15 October 2016

Submission No 190: Buff-breasted Button-quail, *Turnix olivii*, Submitted by Peter Kaestner

Case 190 involved a single bird observed in flight at a location at which both the terrain and habitat features are known to be favourable for the Buff-breasted Button-quail *Turnix olivii* and, where the species has previously been reported from. The quail was flushed from only 5 m in front of the observer, which then flew off with a 'whir of wings' downslope 5-7 m above the ground.

Several species of quail are known to occur in this area including the very similar Painted Button-quail, *T. varia*, which needed to be separated from the Buff-breasted Button-quail.

Some voting members considered that the bird, may have been a Buff-breasted Button-quail, however there was not sufficient information provided by the author about the plumage tones on the upper side of the bird's body or, for that matter, any other details to provide additional support for the identification to be absolutely certain of the identification. Other voting members and Buff-breasted Button-quail experts consulted in relation to this observation were concerned about the observer not being able to distinguish the wing coverts from the back feathers and the lack of correct description of the rump and tail colour, both distinctive features used to separate this species from the Painted Button-quail. In addition, there was some concern about the time of year; Buff-breasted Button-quail are generally considered, yet not proven, to have moved from this area.

Not accepted