

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

Date: 26 July 2014

Submission No 181: Light-mantled Albatross *Phoebetria palpebrata*, Submitted by Paul Walbridge

This submission related to adult Light-mantled Albatross, *Phoebetria palpebrata*, seen during an organised trip off Southport, Southeastern Queensland. This albatross was observed on the slope waters at approximately 9 nautical miles of Southport, 27° 54.47' S; 153° 35.67' 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 included the black concave bill, a thin pale blue sulcus along the lower mandible, 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, #####, by a combination of body shapes and the black bill; and the Sooty Albatross *Phoebetria fusca* which has a robust bill and a yellow sulcus and the mantle is similar in colour to that of the head, nape and upperwings. This is the ## 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, #####. *Photographic Handbook of the Seabirds the World*.

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

Date: 16 August 3012

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

This submission related to two adult Buller's Albatross, *Thalassarche bulleri*, seen during an organised trip off Southport, South-eastern Queensland. This albatross was observed on the slope waters at approximately 21 nautical miles of 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 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.

Details of the second Buller's Albatross seen during the day where 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 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*,

Unanimously accepted

References

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

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

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

Date: 16 August 3012

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

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 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*,

Unanimously accepted

References

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

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

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)
Date: 16 August 2012

Submission No 182: Campbell Albatross *Thalassarche impavida*, Submitted by Paul Walbridge

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

Date: 11 July 2015

Submission No 18#: Soft-plumaged Petrel, *Pterodroma mollis*, Submitted by Elliot Leach

This submission related to a single Soft-plumaged Petrel, *Pterodroma mollis*, observed during an organised trip off Mooloolaba, South-eastern Queensland. This petrel was observed on the slope waters approximately 30 km off Mooloolaba, 26° 36' 479'S/153° 43' 165'E. The submission was supported by a number of quality photographs and a detailed description of the petrel. The description included pale grey above with darker grey wings and a distinct 'M' shape mark across the upperwing. The underparts being white with thin grey collar, and a dark underwing. There was some evidence that this bird from the nominate race, *P. mollis mollis*, because of the combination of white outer retrices, pale head and narrow collar, compared to the only other subspecies, *P. m. dubia*, that normally occur in this region. In addition *P. m. dubia* usually has a more southerly distribution than birds from the nominate race (Brooke, 2004; Onley and Scofield, 2007).

The authors separated the this species from other similar species including the pale phase Kermadec Petrel, *P. neglecta* by the presence of the dark 'M' across the upperwing and the absence of 'flashes' on the primaries. (Marchant and Higgins 1990; Brooke 2004; Onley and Scofield 2007). The other similar species considered was White-headed Petrel, *P. lessonii*, this species is considerably larger and is generally paler above and does not have a collar

This record was unanimously accepted by the voting committee.

This is only the second accepted record by the Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee.

References

Brooke, M. 2004. *Albatross and Petrels across the world, Bird Families of the World*. Oxford University Press, New York.

Marchant, S. and P. Higgins. 1990. *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds Vol 1, Ratites to Petrels*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Onley, D. and P. Scofield. 2007 *Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World*. Christopher Helm, London.

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

Date: 11 July 2015

Submission No 180: White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*, Submitted by Elliot Leach

This submission related to a single White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*, observed during an organised trip off Mooloolaba, South-eastern Queensland. This petrel was observed on the slope waters approximately 30 km off Mooloolaba, 26° 36' 479'S/153° 43' 165'E. The submission was supported by a number of quality photographs and a detailed description of the petrel. The description included uniform black petrel except for a white chin and a horn coloured bill with a black culminicorn and sulcus.

The authors separated the this species from other similar species including both the Westland, *P. westlandica*, and Black Petrel, *P. parkinsoni* by the pale ungues and a white chin which could be seen when the bird was sitting on the water near the boat. It was also distinguished from juvenile giant-petrels, *Macronectes*, by the structure and colour patterning of the bill

This record was unanimously accepted by the voting committee.

This is only the second accepted record by the Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee.

Brooke, M. 2004. Albatross and Petrels across the world, Bird Families of the World, Oxford University Press, New York.

Marchant, S. and P. Higgins. 1990. Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds Vol 1, Ratites to Petrels. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Onley, D and P. Scofield. 2007 Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World, Christopher Helm, London.