

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

**Date:** 29 June 2013

**Submission No 183: Campbell Albatross *Thalassarche impavida*, Submitted by Paul Walbridge**

This submission related to an adult Campbell Albatross, *Thalassarche impavida*, seen during an organised trip off Southport, Southeastern Queensland. This albatross was observed on the slope waters at approximately 24 nautical miles ENE of Southport, 27° 50.44'S; 153° 51.69'E. All observers on-board the boat saw the albatross and agreed with the identification. The submission was supported by a detailed description of the albatross and a single photograph. The description of the albatross included white head with a dark eye-brow extending back behind the eye and a blackish smudge in front of the eye. The mantle and lower back being dark blackish grey and the tail blackish. The underparts were white and the underwings white with a broad black border. The bill was pale orange-pink bill with bright pink unguis and the iris straw coloured.

The bird was separated from the only other similar species, an adult Black-browed Albatross, by the straw coloured iris as opposed to dark brown in the adult Black-browed Albatrosses (Harrison 1985; Haricott and Tipling 1998). Other characteristics that helped to separate this Albatross from the Black-browed Albatross included the black mark intruding from the leading edge through to the secondaries midway along the innerwing of the underwing (Harrison 1995; Endicott and Tipling 1998) and slightly duller coloured bill (orange-pink in the Campbell Albatross compared to the rose/pink in the Black-browed Albatrosses).

This is the 2<sup>th</sup> record of Campbell 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.*