

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

Date: 11 July 2015

Submission No 185: White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* Submitted by Elliot Leach

This submission related to a White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*, seen during an organised trip off Mooloolaba, SEQ. This petrel was observed on the slope waters, approximately 30 km east off Mooloolaba. 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 petrel. Information within the description and the photographs were diagnostic for a White-chinned Petrel, including the combination of uniformly dark plumage, large size (at one stage, mistaken by at least one observer as a giant-petrel *Macronectes* spp.), and overall pale bill (including most of the unguis) but with black saddle and sulcus, would be sufficient to be sure the bird in question was White-chinned Petrel. The final characteristic to confirm the identity of this petrel was the small white chin patch, visible in all photographs. No other species possesses this plumage feature (Marchant and Higgins 1990).

This species was separated from other similar species, in particular the other species in the *Procellaria* complex and were methodically ruled out leaving only White-chinned Petrel. This is the 2nd record of White-chinned Petrel accepted by the Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee.

Unanimously accepted.

References

Harrison, P. 1985. *Seabirds. An Identification Guide*. Christopher Helm, London.

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