

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

Date: 16 May 2018

Submission No 194: Bulwer's Petrel, *Bulweria bulwerii*, Submitted by Paul Walbridge

This submission related to a Bulwer's Petrel, *Bulweria bulwerii*, seen during an organised trip off Southport, southeastern Queensland. This petrel was observed on the slope waters, approximately 30 nautical miles ENE off Southport, at 27° 47' 42"S; 153° 57' 11'E on the 17 December 2017. All observers on-board the boat agreed with the identification. The submission was supported by a detailed description and some photographs of the bird

This petrel was described as a small all dark petrel with long narrow-winged and long-tailed. The upperparts, including head and neck all dark brown, with blackish primaries, secondaries and tail, with a broad buffish brown covert bar from the base of the secondaries not quite reaching the front of the carpal area of the wing. The underparts were all dark brown, including underwing. In flight, the wings were held forward at the carpal joint and bowed reminiscent of a small Wedge-tailed Shearwater; the flight was erratic.

This petrel was separated from other similar species including the Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax*, by the smaller size and bill structure and from the Christmas Shearwater by the structure of the bill and the presence of the pale bar across the coverts of the upperwing; and from the all dark Storm-Petrels known from the region, Swinhoe's, *Oceanodroma monorhis*, Tristram's, *O. tristrami* and Matsudaira's Storm Petrels *O. matsudairae* by its long tapered tail, instead of a forked one and by its longer, more pointed wings

Unanimously accepted

David Stewart
Birds Queensland
Rarities Appraisal Committee
Chairperson

27.7951667
153.953167