

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

**Date:** 19 February 2020BQRarities

**Submission No 202: Bulwer's Petrel, *Bulweria bulwerii*, Submitted by Gus Daly**

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° 51' 13"S; 153° 56' 29"E on the 12 January 2019. The submission was supported by a detailed description and some photographs of the bird; and all observers on-board the boat agreed with the identification.

This petrel was described as a small all dark petrel with long narrow-wings and tapering tail. The upperparts, including head and neck all dark brown, with blackish primaries, secondaries and tail, with a contrasting diagonal bar on the dorsal surface of the wing – forming a covert bar. 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.

This petrel was separated from other similar species including the Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax*, by the prominent wing carpal bar and the bill structure and from the all dark Storm-Petrels known from the region, Matsudaira's, *Oceanodroma matsudairae*, Swinhoe's Petrel, *O. leucorhoa*, and Tristram's Storm-Petrels, *O. tristrami*, by its long tapered tail, instead of a forked one and by its longer, more pointed wings.

This is the second Bulwer's Petrel record from Queensland to be assess by the Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee. The previous record was of a single bird observed approximately 30 nautical miles ENE off Southport on the 17 December 2017.

Unanimously accepted

David Stewart  
Birds Queensland  
Rarities Appraisal Committee  
Chairperson