

BARC CASES PERTAINING TO NSW DECIDED IN 2013

742	South Polar Skua	off Sydney	14 April 2012	Accepted
745	Least Sandpiper	Tuross Estuary	24 January 2011	Not Accepted
746	Little Stint	Tuross Estuary	5 March 2012	Not Accepted
749	Temminck's Stint	Tuross Estuary	9 April 2012	Not Accepted
766	American Golden Plover	Boat Harbour	6 January 2009	Accepted
767	Westland Petrel	off Wollongong	15 December 2012	Accepted
768	House Swift	near Iluka	1 January 2013	Not Accepted
785	Barau's Petrel	off Sydney	9 February 2013	Accepted

CASE SUMMARIES

Case 742: An intermediate/pale morph South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki* was seen and photographed at sea off Sydney on April 14, 2012. The record was accepted unanimously and is the 14th record of this species to be accepted by BARC. Nikolas Haass

Case 745: This case concerned the report of a bird thought to be a Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* at South Point, Tuross Estuary on January 24 and 29, 2011. The observer placed a lot of emphasis on leg colour but the committee felt that the head pattern, breast pattern and structure of the bird were all inconsistent with Least Sandpiper and voted unanimously for non-acceptance.

Case 746: This case concerned the report of a bird thought to be a Little Stint *Calidris minuta* at South Point, Tuross Estuary on March 5, 2012. The observer felt that the bird was a Little Stint in winter plumage due to its perceived longer legs and finer bill than Red-necked Stint. The separation of these two species in winter plumage is one of the most difficult identification problems and only the combination of several diagnostic features would have helped secure the identity. None of these was clearly apparent and the committee voted unanimously for non-acceptance.

Case 749: This case concerned the report of a bird thought to be a Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* at South Point, Tuross Estuary on April 9, 2012. The written description did not contain a lot of pertinent detail and the committee concentrated their efforts on the photographs and considered them to show a Red-necked Stint. The committee voted unanimously for non-acceptance.

Case 766: This case concerned the sighting of an American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* at Boat Harbour from January 12, 2009 until at least March 28, 2009. The bird was seen and photographed by many observers through this period and had almost completely attained its non-breeding plumage in late February into March. The submission included a complete and very thorough analysis of the main identification characters along with a series of excellent supportive photographs and biometric evidence of tertial and primary feather tracts. The committee voted unanimously to accept this record and it becomes only the 3rd confirmed record for Australia. Tun Pin Ong, Nikolas Haass, Graham Buchan and David Stowe.

Case 767: A Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica* was seen and photographed at sea off Wollongong on December 15, 2012. The main identification features were well described and were clearly supported by excellent photographs. The committee voted unanimously for acceptance and it becomes the 9th record of this species to be accepted by BARC. Nicolas Haass and Raja Stephenson

Case 768: This case concerned the report of a bird thought to be a House Swift *Apus nipalensis* at Woody Head, north of Iluka on the Clarence River on January 1, 2013. The bird was seen in association with White-throated Needletails and was described as significantly smaller than White-throated Needletail with a short square tail and a white rump. Although the committee members felt that the observer may have seen a House Swift, the pitfall is that Fork-tailed Swifts are in tail moult at this time of the year and can appear to have short square tails and there was not enough detail in the description to discount this possibility. With only one vote in favour of acceptance, the record was not accepted.

Case 785: A Barau's Petrel *Pterodroma barau* was seen and well photographed by a number of observers at sea off Sydney on February 9, 2013. The many excellent photographs and the description convincingly ruled out all similar species and the committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance. This is only the second accepted record for Australia but a bird reported to be of this species was seen in the mid-Tasman on March 13, 2013. Nicolas Haass and Raja Stephenson

Roger McGovern

Secretary NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee

January 20, 2014