

BARC CASES PERTAINING TO NSW DECIDED IN 2014

764	Baird's Sandpiper	Tuross Estuary	9 July 2012	Not Accepted
776	Westland Petrel	off Wollongong	26 February 2005	Accepted
777	South Polar Skua	off Wollongong	23 February 2008	Accepted
780	South Polar Skua	off Wollongong	23 September 2012	Accepted
782	House Swift	Surfside	8 February 2012	Not Accepted
786	Westland Petrel	Port Kembla	25 December 2012	Accepted
790	Yellowhammer	Mt Eliza LHI	18 August 1949	Accepted
795	Tristan Albatross	off Wollongong	5 October 1997	Accepted
806	New Zealand Storm Petrel	off Swansea	14 April 2013	Accepted
807	Pacific Long-tailed Cuckoo	Lord Howe Island	2 December 2010	Accepted
808	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Hexham Swamp	18 January 2014	Accepted

CASE SUMMARIES

Case 764: This case concerned the report of a bird thought to be a Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* which was seen and photographed at Tuross Estuary on July 9, 2012 and again on July 20, 2012. The description was difficult to follow but the photographs revealed the bird to be a Red-necked Stint in first alternate plumage. The images depicted a bird that was too grey and too small to be a Baird's Sandpiper and the committee voted unanimously for non-acceptance.

Case 776: This case concerned the sighting of a Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica* which was photographed at sea off Wollongong on February 25, 2005. The photographs showed the extent of black on the bill, head shape and size estimation all of which ruled out the similar, but smaller, Black Petrel. One dissenting member felt that the images did not rule out Black Petrel conclusively but the committee voted by majority to accept the record and it becomes the 10th record of this species to be accepted by BARC. Nikolas Haass on behalf of Peter Milburn and Michael Double

Case 777: A South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki* was seen and photographed on a pelagic trip off Wollongong on February 23, 2008. The photographs showed clearly that this was an intermediate morph South Polar Skua and the committee voted unanimously to accept the record. This is the 17th record of this species to be accepted by BARC. Nikolas Haass on behalf of Lindsay Smith, Brooke Whyllie and Nigel Coghlan

Case 780: A South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki* was seen and photographed on a pelagic trip off Wollongong on September 23, 2012. The photographs showed clearly that this was an intermediate morph South Polar Skua and the committee voted unanimously to accept the record. This is the 18th record of this species to be accepted by BARC. Michael Rutkowski

Case 782: This case concerned the report of a bird thought to be a House Swift *Apus nipalensis* at Surfside, near Bateman's Bay on February 8, 2012. The bird was seen in association with Pacific (Fork-tailed) Swifts *A. Pacificus* and the observer felt that the shorter broader winged appearance combined with a bold, sharply defined, white throat patch ruled out Pacific Swift in tail moult and clinched the identity as a House Swift. This was a difficult case for the committee as Pacific Swift can be very variable in the field, the light was poor and there was only a single observer without photographs. House Swift is one of the most difficult identification challenges in Australia and only four members voted in favour of acceptance and thus the record was not accepted.

Case 786: A Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica* was rescued at Port Kembla by Australian Seabird Rescue on December 25, 2012 and taken to SOSSA (Southern Ocean Seabird Study Association) headquarters for identification and care. The photographs clearly showed the key identification features, the biometrics were conclusive and it becomes the 11th record of this species to be accepted by BARC. Nicolas Haass

Case 790: Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* was placed on the Australian list by Christidis and Boles (2004, 2008) on the basis of a single sight record by John Cunningham near the summit of Mt Eliza, Lord Howe Island on August 18, 1949. The account was published in Emu 50: 23-35 (Hindwood & Cunningham 1950). The corroborative information by the observer is very limited but the description of the bird and its 'chip' call matched well with the species. There are no other similar species which could be expected at this location, the observer had extensive knowledge of the species in New Zealand and the case was accepted unanimously by the committee. This is the 1st record of this species to be accepted by BARC. Submission prepared by David James

Case 795: This case concerns the banding recovery of a Tristan Albatross *Diomedea dabbenena* by Captain Carl Loves of the MV Sandra K about 44 km east of Wollongong on October 5, 1997. This male bird was banded as a chick on Gough Island and was rediscovered breeding on Gough Island in 2004. Although no biometrics or photographs of this bird were available to support the record, the fact that Tristan Albatross is the only Diomedea species breeding on Gough Island was sufficient for the committee to accept this record unanimously. This is the 1st record of this species to be accepted by BARC. Submission prepared by David James

Case 806: A New Zealand Storm Petrel *Fregatta maoriana* was seen and photographed on the continental shelf break off Swansea on April 14, 2013. The description and photographs were clearly supportive of the identification of this bird based on previous sightings in New Zealand and Australia and the committee voted unanimously to accept the record which becomes the 6th confirmed record for Australia. The committee noted that there are a number of unconfirmed reports of Storm Petrels similar to *F. maoriana* from seas around New Caledonia suggesting an as yet undescribed taxon. Should more information come to light in the future, it may be necessary to re-open this case. Mick Roderick, Allan Richardson and Mike Kuhl

Case 807: A Long-tailed Cuckoo *Urodynamys taitensis* was found dead after a window collision at a residence on Lord Howe Island on December 2, 2012. The photographs and biometrics clearly identified this bird as an adult and it was later determined to be a female after an examination by the staff at the Australian Museum. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and it becomes the first case to be accepted by BARC. However there are five previous reports from Lord Howe Island (two are represented by specimens) and specimens and credible reports also exist from Norfolk Island. Submission prepared by Walter Boles

Case 808: A Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* was seen and well photographed at Hexham Swamp, near Newcastle on January 18, 2014. The submission relied heavily on the photographs which showed the unpatterned face, bright yellow legs and almost wholly white underwings. The committee voted unanimously to accept the record which becomes the 9th confirmed Australian record. Rod Warnock and Christina Port

Roger McGovern

Secretary NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee

January 16, 2015