

## BARC CASES PERTAINING TO NSW DECIDED IN 2015

818	White Wagtail	Newrybar	December 4, 2013	Accepted
849	Atlantic Y-n Albatross	off Wollongong	July 26, 2014	Accepted
850	Atlantic Y-n Albatross	off Wollongong	August 23, 2014	Accepted
853	South Island Oystercatcher	nr Coffs Harbour	January 5, 2015	Accepted
855	Citrine Wagtail	Mudgee	August 3, 2014	Accepted

## CASE SUMMARIES

Case 818: This case concerned the sighting of a White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* which was seen for about 30 minutes in a newly planted macadamia orchard 5km east of Newrybar near Byron Bay on December 4, 2013. The description and photographs depicted typical wagtail characteristics with predominately grey upperparts and white underparts, a black tail with white outer retrices and a prominent white wing patch. The committee voted unanimously to accept the record and it becomes the 15<sup>th</sup> confirmed record for Australia. James Dorey

Case 849: This case concerned the sighting of an Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* which was well seen and photographed at sea off Wollongong on July 26, 2014. The submission clearly shows the bird to have an obvious grey hood and a subtle white cap. Other features which eliminate the very similar Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. carteri* include the presence of a larger dark eye patch extending in front of the eye and a bill which had a broader yellow culminicorn stripe behind the nares than would normally be the case for Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and this record becomes only the 3<sup>rd</sup> confirmed sighting in Australia. Brook Whyllie

Case 850: This case concerned the sighting of an Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* which was well seen and photographed at sea off Wollongong on August 23, 2014. The submission clearly shows the bird to have an obvious grey hood and a subtle white cap. Other features which eliminate the very similar Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. carteri* include the presence of a larger dark eye patch extending in front of the eye and a bill which had a broader yellow culminicorn stripe behind the nares than would normally be the case for Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross. It may well be that this was the same bird which was seen on July 26, 2014 at the same location (BARC Case 849) although the grey hood on this bird appears more mottled. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and this record becomes only the 4<sup>th</sup> confirmed sighting in Australia. Nikolas Haass

Case 853: This case concerned the sighting of a South Island (Pied) Oystercatcher *Haematopus finschi* which was observed for about thirty minutes on a beach between Tuckers Rocks and Bundagen Headland, 15km south of Coffs Harbour on January 5, 2015. The description and photographs left no doubt as to the bird's identity and the committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance. This becomes the 8<sup>th</sup> confirmed record for Australia. Phil Gilmore

Case 855: This case concerned the sighting a Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* which was found at Putta Bucca Wetlands, Mudgee on August 28, 2014. The bird was subsequently seen and

photographed by many observers until September 8, 2014. The description and photographs left no doubt as to the bird's identity and the committee voted unanimously for acceptance agreeing that the bird was most likely an adult female in worn summer plumage. It becomes only the 4<sup>th</sup> confirmed record for Australia and the second record for NSW, the first being a bird at Botany Bay on July 1, 1962 (BARC Case 022). Sue Chatfield and Mick Roderick

Roger McGovern

Secretary NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee

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