

## BARC CASES PERTAINING TO NSW DECIDED IN 2021

X109	Newell's Shearwater	off Wollongong	February 28, 1987	Accepted
1152	Collared Petrel	Britannia Sea Mounts	March 29, 2020	Accepted
1165	Lesser Yellowlegs	Ash Island, Newcastle	September 24/25, 2020	Accepted
1174	South Island Oystercatcher	Woy Woy	October 22/28, 2020	Accepted

### CASE SUMMARIES

**Case X109:** This case relates to a bird seen off Wollongong on February 28, 1987 which was originally identified and accepted as an Audubon's Shearwater (BARC Case 109) and which later became a record of Tropical Shearwater due to taxonomic revision. This submission explores the latest developments in taxonomy and identification features and concludes that the bird was, in fact, a Newell's Shearwater *Puffinus newelli* – the detailed analysis which reached this conclusion can be seen in the submission which can be found on the BARC website. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance of this bird as a Newell's Shearwater and it becomes the 3<sup>rd</sup> accepted record for Australia although it is the earliest of the three records. David James and Jeff Davies

**Case 1152:** This case concerned the sighting of a Collared Petrel *Pterodroma brevipes* at the Britannia Sea Mounts on a pelagic trip out of Southport on March 29, 2020. The bird was in view for about 2 minutes and excellent diagnostic photographs were obtained. The extent of dark grey-brown colouring on the breast, belly and flanks is, as pointed out by the authors, unique to dark-phase collared petrels with the darkest birds matching the form *magnificens*. The committee voted unanimously in favour of accepting the bird as a Collared Petrel but, with the taxonomy of Collared Petrel still in a transitional phase, there is some uncertainty as to the status of the form *magnificens*. There are only 8 previous records of Collared Petrel in Australia, six from around Norfolk Island and two from the Britannia Sea mounts in 2014. In the future, should further research result in *P. b. magnificens* being accepted as a distinct taxon, then this case could be reopened for further appraisal. Elliot Leach

**Case 1165:** This case concerned the sighting of a Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* on Ash Island near Newcastle on September 24, 2020. The bird was relocated the following day and was seen by many with clear views and diagnostic photographs obtained. The photographs and description showed the bird to be an adult Lesser Yellowlegs in worn alternate (breeding) plumage. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance of the record and it becomes the 3<sup>rd</sup> confirmed sighting in NSW with the previous records being at Ash Island in September 2001 (BARC Case 325) and Jerseyville between October 2007 and January 2008 (BARC Case 550). Jon Spicer-Bell

**Case 1174:** This case concerned the sighting of a South Island Oystercatcher *Haematopus finschi* at Woy Woy Memorial Park on October 28, 2020 and followed the report of a bird in the vicinity a week earlier. The bird had a missing right foot which led one committee member to vote against acceptance based on the fact that the missing foot contributed to the short-legged and dumpy appearance, while the lack of in flight photographs was also of concern. The record was accepted by majority and becomes the 10<sup>th</sup> confirmed record for NSW. Neil Broekhuizen

Roger McGovern

Secretary NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee

January 12, 2022