

Memorandum to: The Director of BirdLife Australia

From: Birds Australia Rarities Committee (BARC)

Date: 13th April 2014

Voting Members: Chris Brandis Danny Rogers
Rohan Clarke Tony Palliser
Jeff Davies David Bishop
David James Andrew Silcocks

Cc.

Submission No: 805: Broad-billed Prion, *Pachyptila vittata*. Off Eaglehawk Neck, Tasmania, 31st August 2013. Submitted by: Dan Mantle, Kevin Bartram, Martin Cachard, Nikolas Haass, Raja Stephenson, Andrew Sutherland and Plaxy Barratt.

Verdict: Accepted

This submission relates to a sighting of a Broad-billed Prion *Pachyptila vittata* offshore, just inside the continental shelf break off Eaglehawk Neck, Tasmania on the 31st August 2013. The bird was observed twice for about 10-15 seconds over a 90 second interval.

Although the sightings were very brief many managed to see the bird and a series of photographs were taken the clearly depict the diagnostic dark bill, extensive grey sides to the neck, bulky appearance, steep forehead and a relatively very large head.

Members voted unanimously in favour of acceptance.

Although numerous beach-cast reports exist (HANZAB 1990) this is only the 9th record of this species to be accepted by BARC. In our region this species is recorded most often from seas off southern Tasmania.

References & Selected Bibliography:

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- Marchant, S. & Higgins, P.J. (Eds) (1990), *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand & Antarctic Birds. Vol. 1, Ratites to Ducks*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Harper, P.C. (1980), 'The Field Identification and Distribution of the Prions (genus *Pachyptila*), with Particular Reference to the Identification of Storm-cast Material', *Notornis* 27: 235-286.
- Harrison, P. (1983), *Seabirds: an identification guide*, Croom Helm, Beckenham, Kent.
- Harrison, P. (1987), *Seabirds of the World: A Photographic Guide*, Christopher Helm, London.
- Onley, D. & Scofield, P. (2007), *Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World*, Christopher Helm, London.

Tony Palliser
Chairman, BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee