

NSW ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS APPRAISAL COMMITTEE

Roger McGovern

1/67 Cremorne Road

Cremorne NSW 2090

Ref: NSWORAC604

Date: 26-08-14

MEMORANDUM TO: Brook Whyllie

c.c.

M. Roderick

R. Cooper

A. Morris

A. Palliser

C. Brandis

A. Rogers

A. Richardson

NSW ORAC CASE 604 – Grey-headed Albatross (*Thalassarche chrysostoma*)

This report details the sighting of an immature Grey-headed Albatross by Brook Whyllie and all those on the Sandra K on a pelagic trip off Wollongong on August 12, 2006. Grey-headed Albatross was recently reinstated to the NSW ORAC Review List because it was believed that many reports of Grey-headed Albatross off the NSW coast could well have been juvenile or immature Black-browed/Campbell Albatross, particularly those seen only at distance. This submission is for a historical sighting in 2006 and the author has done an excellent job of analysing the key differentials and the photographs clearly show most of the diagnostic features. The committee felt that the all dark bill, the appearance of colour on the lower side of the lower mandible, the proportionately longer bill and short necked appearance were all diagnostic of a 2nd or 3rd year Grey-headed Albatross.

The committee unanimously accepted this record and thanks Brook for taking the time to prepare a detailed and thorough submission. This is probably about the 27th confirmed record of Grey-headed Albatross that has been reported in NSW but, with the species removed from the Review List for a number of years, it is difficult to be sure of the exact number of valid records.

ACCEPT

NSW ORAC Secretary

Roger McGovern