

NSW ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS APPRAISAL COMMITTEE

Roger McGovern

1/67 Cremorne Road

Cremorne NSW 2090

Ref: NSWORAC626

Date: 22-01-15

MEMORANDUM TO: Nikolas Haass/ Raja Stephenson

c.c.

M. Roderick

R. Cooper

A. Morris

A. Palliser

C. Brandis

A. Rogers

A. Richardson

NSW ORAC CASE 626 – Grey-headed Albatross (*Thalassarche chrysostoma*)

This report details the sighting of what was described as a stage 1 (juvenile or younger immature) Grey-headed Albatross by Nikolas Haass, Raja Stephenson and all those on the Sandra K on a pelagic trip off Wollongong on September 22, 2012. The detailed discussion and inclusion of comments received from overseas experts indicated that young Grey-headed Albatross have paler bills with darker tips only when they are very young. Two members of the committee therefore questioned why this bird was not identified as a juvenile rather than juvenile/younger immature. In this submission the authors have done an excellent job of analysing the key characteristics of young Grey-headed Albatross and the discussion of bill colour and structure goes further than was covered in Case 621. The description and excellent photographs left no doubt as to the identification of this bird.

The committee unanimously accepted this record and thanks Nikolas and Raja for taking the time to prepare an excellent submission. This is probably about the 30th 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