

Memorandum to: The Director of Birds Australia

From: Birds Australia Rarities Committee (BARC)

Date: 4th May 2011

Voting Members: Mike Carter Jeff Davies
Andrew Silcocks Danny Rogers
Rohan Clarke Chris Brandis
Tony Palliser Dion Hobcroft

Submission No. 636 New Zealand Storm-Petrel *Pealeornis maoriana*, off Port Stephens, NSW, 28 March 2010 (Unpublished). Submitted by: Richard Baxter, Allan Richardson and Mick Roderick.

This submission documents an observation of a New Zealand Storm-Petrel *Pealeornis maoriana* 25 nautical miles east of Port Stephens, NSW (between 32° 55.772" S, 152° 33.927" E and 32° 57.134" S, 152° 32.613" E) on 28 March 2010. The bird was viewed by 11 observers on an organised pelagic trip. Five photographs taken by three different photographers were provided as part of the submission, and these adequately show most of the important aspects.

The bird was a small storm-petrel similar in size and flight style to a Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*. It had long foot projection and rather narrow, pointed wings. Dorsally, it was uniformly dark except for a narrow white rump-band. Below it was dark on the breast and head with dense blackish streaking on the white belly. The central underwing coverts were white.

Committee Members voted unanimously to accept the record. The contributors are congratulated for the find, the thoroughness of the submission and the speed with which it was prepared.

This record represents the first confirmed Australian record to be accepted by BARC, and is an addition to the list of Australian birds.

Selected Bibliography:

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- Enticott, J. & Tipling, D. (1997), *Photographic Handbook of the Seabirds of the World*, New Holland, London.
- Marchant, S. & Higgins, P.J. (Eds) (1990), *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand & Antarctic Birds. Vol. 1, Ratites to Ducks*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Harrison, P. (1983), *Seabirds: an Identification Guide*, Croom Helm, Beckenham, Kent.
- Harrison, P. (1987), *Seabirds of the World: A Photographic Guide*, Christopher Helm, London.
- Murphy, R.C. & Snyder, J.P. (1952), 'The "Pealea" phenomenon & Other Notes on Storm Petrels', *American Museum Novitates*: 1596.
- Onley, D. & Scofield, P. (2007), *Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World*, Christopher Helm, London.
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Verdict: Accepted

Tony Palliser
Chairman, Birds Australia Rarities Committee