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**Subject:** NSW ORAC – Historical Northern Royal Albatross Reports.

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**Date:** Saturday, April 12, 2014 2:55 PM

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Dear Nikolas and Raja,

Firstly, the committee would like to thank you for taking the time to compile and analyse the 12 reports of Northern Royal Albatross in NSW between 1999 and 2013. It would have been a lot of work and it is an immensely useful addition to our knowledge of the occurrence of this species in NSW waters.

You numbered these cases 4 through 9 and 11 through 16, with the final four cases having no photographic evidence or written descriptions. On the basis of the lack of corroborating material for these cases 13, 14, 15 and 16, the committee decided not to accept the records.

For the remaining cases, all of which had some photographic evidence, cases 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 12 were accepted unanimously. Case 8 received two ‘non accept’ votes and case 11 received three ‘non accept’ votes both as a result of insufficient photographic evidence and, of course, the lack of any written descriptive notes. Under ORAC Rules, it is usual for submissions receiving either two or three dissenting votes to be subject to a second round of voting. However, I see little value of following this course for these records and will record these as unconfirmed sightings.

For the six records accepted, I will assign them NSW ORAC case numbers and include them in the next annual report of cases decided in 2014.

Thank you again for taking the time to research and compile these records – it was a great effort and the committee is very appreciative.

Regards

Roger McGovern

Secretary NSW ORAC