

NSW ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS APPRAISAL COMMITTEE

Roger McGovern

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Cremorne NSW 2090

Ref: NSWORAC581

Date: 13-09-13

MEMORANDUM TO: Roger McGovern

c.c.

M. Roderick

R. Cooper

A. Morris

A. Palliser

C. Brandis

A. Rogers

A. Richardson

NSW ORAC CASE 581 – Soft-plumaged Petrel (*Pterodroma mollis*)

This report details the sighting of a Soft-plumaged Petrel by Roger McGovern, David James and others on board the MV Halicat off Sydney on May 11, 2013. The bird appeared at a distance of about 400metres behind the boat and was in view only for 20 seconds as it flew away diagonally from right to left. Although only one poor quality photograph was obtained, all but one of the committee felt that the photograph taken in conjunction with the description were conclusive factors in accepting this record even though the sighting was quite brief and distant. One committee member felt that the brevity and distance of the sighting meant that confusion species could not be adequately eliminated.

The committee accepted this record making it the 7th confirmed record of Soft-plumaged Petrel in NSW.

ACCEPT

NSW ORAC Secretary

Roger McGovern