

**Memorandum to:** The Director of Birds Australia

**From:** Birds Australia Rarities Committee (BARC)

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012

**Voting Members:** Andrew Silcocks            Rohan Clarke  
Chris Brandis                            Jeff Davies  
Mike Carter                                David Bishop  
Tony Palliser                                Danny Rogers

**cc.**

**Submission No 689: South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki* off Sydney, NSW. 9th April 2011 (Unpublished). Submitted by: David James, Raja Stephenson, Nikolas Haass & Roger McGovern.**

**Verdict: Accepted**

This submission relates to a South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki* seen and photographed at sea off Sydney NSW on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

The submission details the diagnostic features of a pale / intermediate morph South Polar Skua including the pale collar, pale head & back, and a pale underbody contrasting with darker underwings. This is supported further with many excellent photographs.

The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance. This is the 12th record of this species to be accepted by BARC.

**Selected Bibliography:**

- Enticott, J. & Tipling, D., (1997), *Photographic Handbook of Seabirds of the World*, Hew Holland, London.
- Higgins, P.J. & Davies, S.J.J.F., (1996), *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand & Antarctic Birds, Vol. 3, Snipe to Pigeons*, Oxford, Melbourne.
- Harrison, P., (1987), *Seabirds of the World: a Photographic Guide*, Christopher Helm, Bromley.
- King, J. & D. Parkin (1997), 'Great skua upheavals', *Birding World*, **10**, 362-363.
- Olsen, K.M. & Larsson, H. (1997), *Skuas and Jaegers, a Guide to the Skuas and Jaegers of the World*, Pica, Sussex.
- Parmelee, D.F. (1988), 'The hybrid skua: a Southern Ocean enigma', *Wilson Bulletin*, **100**, 345-356.

Tony Palliser  
Chairman, Birds Australia Rarities Committee