

Memorandum to: The Director of Birds Australia

From: BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC)

Date: 12th March 2013

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

cc.

Submission No 777: South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki* off Wollongong NSW 26th February 2008. Submitted by: Nikolas Haass following a report prepared by Lindsay Smith and photographs taken by Brook Whyllie and Nigel Colghlan.

Verdict: Accepted

This submission relates to the sighting of a South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki* seen and photographed off Wollongong NSW on the 23rd February 2008.

The submission relies on two photographs that depict an intermediate morph bird. One in flight taken by Brook Whyllie and another settled on the water by Nigel Colghlan.

Members voted unanimously in favour of acceptance.

This is the 17th record of this species to be accepted by BARC.

Selected Bibliography:

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- 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.
- Pringle, J.D. (1987), *The Shorebirds of Australia*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney.
- Shiriha, H & Jarrett, B. (2008). *The complete guide to Antarctic Wildlife: Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic Continent and the Southern Ocean* (2nd Ed.) Princeton University Press.

Tony Palliser
Chairman, Birds Australia Rarities Committee