

Memorandum to: The Director of Birds Australia

From: Birds Australia Rarities Committee (BARC)

Date: 28th January 2012

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

cc.

Submission No 688: South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki* off Wollongong, NSW. 25th October 2009 (Unpublished). Submitted by: Nikolas Haass & Raja Stephenson.

Verdict: Accepted

This submission relates a South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki* seen and photographed at sea off Wollongong NSW on the 25th October 2009.

The submission details the diagnostic features of an intermediate morph South Polar Skua including the pale collar, pale head & back, and a pale underbody contrasting with darker underwings and this is supported further with many excellent photographs. The submission also details how other similar species were eliminated including: *S. antarctica lonnbergi*, *S. skua*, *S. chilensis* and *S. pomarinus*.

The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance. This is the 11th 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