

Submission No 795: Tristan Albatross *Diomedea dabbenena* Off Wollongong, NSW 5th October 1997: Submitted by David James

Verdict: Accepted

This submission concerns a banding recovery of a Tristan Albatross about 44 km east of Wollongong NSW on 5 October 1997 by Captain Carl Loves of the MV *Sandra K*. The record is supported by data held by the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (ABBS) and the South African Bird Ringing Unit (SAFRING). No photographs of the bird were taken in Australia.

David extracted the banding and recovery data for this bird as follows:

Species	Tristan Albatross <i>Diomedea dabbenena</i>
Band No.	J09313
Banding Authority	SAFRING (South African Banding Authority)
Bander	"Gough Island"
Banding Location	Gonydale, Gough Island
Age at banding	Chick
Bird Sex	Unknown
Recovery location	34°26'S, 151°23'E
Recovery Date	5 October 1997
Recovery Bander	Lindsay Smith (SOSSA)(= Carl Loves)
Age at Recovery	4 years and 11 months
Distance from Banding Station	11, 480 km

Although the sex was unknown at the time of banding and recovery, the bird has since been recovered breeding on Gough Island in 2008, when it was identified as a male according to the SAFRING website. The recovery was also reported in the literature by anon. (1997) and Leishman (1998).

As this bird was banded as a chick on Gough Island, in the South Atlantic Ocean and *D. dabbenena* is the only *Diomedea* albatross breeding on Gough Island (Brooke 2004) members voted in favour of acceptance. Although it was disappointing that no biometric data or photographs were available to support the record. In the past there have been rumours that SOSSA (Southern Ocean Seabird Study Association) have caught and identified Tristan Albatross off Wollongong on a number of occasions but BARC had not been provided with any evidence of support until this submission.

Tristan Albatross *D. dabbenena* is recognised as a distinct species in the IOC checklist and the recent Birdlife Australia checklist, following Brooke (2004). It was first split from Wandering Albatross *D. exulans* by Robertson & Nunn (1998). Additionally, this record has been recognized in three threatened species recovery publications by the Australian environment department; Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 2011; and the EPBC SPRAT Database. It was also listed as nationally vulnerable and given a recovery profile in Garnett et al. (2011). Significantly it is reported on the BirdLife International tracking database that Tristran Albatross may visit Australian territorial waters off south-west WA with some regularity (BirdLife South Africa).

References & Selected Bibliography:

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- Environment Australia (2001). *National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Giant-Petrels 2001-2005*. [Online]. Canberra, ACT: Environment Australia. Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/archive/biodiversity/threatened/publications/recovery/albatross/index.html> (Accessed 15th March 2014).
- Garnett, S.T., Szabo, J.K. & Dutson, G. (2011). *The Action Plan for Australian Birds 2010*. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Vic.
- Leishman, A.J. (1998). Recovery round-up. *Corella* 22: 34-36.

- Robertson, C.J.R. & Nunn, G.B. (1998). Towards a new taxonomy for albatrosses. Pp. 13–19 in *Albatross Biology and Conservation* (Eds G. Robertson and R. Gales) Surrey Beatty and Sons, Chipping Norton, NSW.

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