

Memorandum to: The Director of BirdLife Australia
From: Birds Australia Rarities Committee (BARC)
Date: 9th March 2013

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

Cc.

Submission No 767: Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica* off Wollongong NSW. 15th December 2012. Submitted by: Nikolas Haass & Raja Stephenson.

Verdict: Accepted

This case relates to a Westland Petrel, *Procellaria westlandica*, was seen and photographed at sea at close range off Wollongong, NSW (34° 21'S - 151° 19'E) on the 15th December 2012.

The bird was seen and photographed in association with Black Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni* & Flesh-footed Shearwater *puffinus carneipes* providing ideal circumstances for positive identification. The extent of black on the bill, head shape and accurate size estimations clinched the identification beyond doubt.

Members voted unanimously in favour of acceptance, agreeing that the features mentioned supported the identification of what can be an extremely difficult bird to identify.

This is the 9th record of this species to be accepted by BARC.

References and Bibliography:

- Enticott, J. & Tipling, D. 1977. *Photographic Handbook of the Seabirds of the World*, New Holland, London.
- Harrison, P. 1989. *Seabirds of the World: A Photographic Guide*. Christopher Helm, London.
- Marchant, S. & P.J. Higgins. (Eds). 1990. *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand & Antarctic Birds*, Volume 1 (part A). Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Tony Palliser