

NSW ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS APPRAISAL COMMITTEE

Roger McGovern

1/67 Cremorne Road

Cremorne NSW 2090

Ref: NSWORAC518

Date: 13-12-11

MEMORANDUM TO: Nikolas Haass/Dan Mantle

c.c.

R.Cooper

A. Morris

A. Palliser

C. Brandis

R. Gardner

A. Rogers

M. Roderick

NSW ORAC CASE 518 –White-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta grallaria*

This report details the sighting of a White-bellied Storm-Petrel at the shelf break off Ulladulla on March 29, 2009 by Nikolas Haass, Dan Mantle, Lindsay Smith and other experienced participants on a pelagic trip out of Ulladulla. Although the bird was seen no closer than 50metres and with only one poor quality photograph available, the committee overall felt that the description that was provided adequately showed the bird to be a White-bellied Storm-Petrel. The main confusion species, Black-bellied Storm-Petrel was discounted by the fact that this bird was smaller, was without trailing feet, and had a black throat extending to the breast and not the belly. Even though the demarcation feature is not 100% reliable, the committee felt that the other characteristics were described adequately for the record to be accepted.

The committee voted in favour of ACCEPTANCE of this record with only one dissenting vote which was based primarily on the fact that the observers claimed only 90% certainty of the identification. The committee would like to thank Nikolas and Dan for taking the time to prepare such a detailed and high quality submission. This is the 16th confirmed record of White-bellied Storm-Petrel for NSW.

ACCEPT

NSW ORAC Secretary

Roger McGovern

