

## BARC CASES PERTAINING TO NSW DECIDED IN 2022

1178	White-bellied Storm Petrel	Britannia Seamount	March 26, 2021	Accepted
1179	Hudsonian Godwit	Lord Howe Island	March 17 – 25, 2021	Accepted
1180	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Lake Wollumboola	Dec12,20–Mar15,21	Accepted
1183	Collared Petrel	Britannia Seamount	July 11, 2020	Accepted
1187	Collared Petrel	Britannia Seamount	March 14, 2021	Accepted
1190	Band-rumped Storm Petrel	Britannia Seamount	March 29, 2020	Accepted
1202	Black-fronted Tern	Newcastle	June 20, 2021	Accepted
1213	Band-rumped Storm Petrel	Britannia Seamount	March 14, 2021	Accepted
1216	Canada Goose	Lord Howe Island	Dec18,21-Jan19,22	Accepted
1224	Aleutian Tern	Farquhar Inlet	2018-19 season	Accepted
1225	Aleutian Tern	Farquhar Inlet	2019-20 season	Accepted
1226	Aleutian Tern	Farquhar Inlet	2020-21 season	Accepted
1227	Aleutian Tern	Farquhar Inlet	2021-22 season	Accepted

## CASE SUMMARIES

**Case 1178:** This case involves a White-bellied Storm Petrel *Fregetta grallaria* seen and photographed at sea over the Britannia Seamount on March 29, 2020. The description and associated photographs left no doubt as to the identity and clearly eliminate other storm petrel species. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and it becomes the 11<sup>th</sup> record to be accepted by BARC. Rob Morris

**Case 1179:** This case concerns the sighting of a Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* on Lord Howe Island between March 17 and March 25, 2021. The bird was seen and photographed by many observers at the Old Settlement Beach, North Beach and the Lord Howe Island airstrip during its stay. The dark underwing coverts, faintly upturned bill, white rump and black tail were all clearly visible. The primary moult and the worn conditions of the old outer primaries suggest a first winter bird moulting into first summer immature plumage. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and it becomes the 14<sup>th</sup> confirmed Australian record and the first for Lord Howe Island. Hans Wohlmuth and Susan Inglis

**Case 1180:** This case concerns the sighting of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis* at Lake Wollumboola from December 12, 2020 until at least March 15, 2021. The bird was seen and photographed by many observers during this period. The submission described all the salient diagnostic features and the excellent photographs corroborated the identification. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and it becomes the 16<sup>th</sup> confirmed Australian record and the 10<sup>th</sup> for NSW. Jesse Gibson

**Case 1183:** This case concerns the sighting of a Collared Petrel *Pterodroma brevipes* at the Britannia Seamount on a pelagic trip out of Southport on July 11, 2020. The bird was seen well and photographs were provided to support the submission. It was a pale bird similar to a Gould's Petrel but with a more capped appearance to the head and a black collar joining across the chest. The lower chest was smudgy grey fading towards the belly, flanks and underwing which is indicative of an intermediate morph Collared Petrel. Members voted unanimously in favour of acceptance although identification to subspecies level is problematic since P. b. '*magnificens*' is not confirmed as a valid subspecies. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> confirmed record to be accepted by BARC with the two previous records also being from the Britannia Seamount, BARC Case 837B in April 2014 and BARC Case 1152 in March 2020. Paul Walbridge

**Case 1187:** This case concerns the sighting of a Collared Petrel *Pterodroma brevipes* at the Britannia Seamount on a pelagic trip out of Southport on March 14, 2021. The bird was seen well and photographs were provided to support the submission. The bird was similar in size to a Gould's Petrel with relatively dark sooty brown underparts becoming darker towards the head. The underwings were mostly dark owing to broad dark margins and carpal bar, and there was a strong 'M' pattern across the upperwings. Members voted unanimously in favour of acceptance although identification to subspecies level is problematic since P. b. '*magnificens*' is not confirmed as a valid subspecies and it becomes the 12<sup>th</sup> record to be accepted by BARC. Gus Daly

**Case 1190:** This case concerns four sightings of Band-rumped Storm Petrel *Hydrobates castro* which were seen on the Britannia Seamount on March 29, 2020. Sightings of the birds were brief but photographs were obtained to aid in confirming the identification. The submission carefully eliminated Leach's Storm Petrel and Wilson's Storm Petrel from contention commenting that Leach's Storm Petrel has an obvious forked tail and the white rump of Leach's Storm Petrel is more extensive than in Band-rumped Storm Petrel. With one dissenting vote, the committee voted for acceptance by majority and it becomes the 3<sup>rd</sup> record to be accepted by BARC, the previous being a record from the same location in April 2016 (BARC Case 971). Paul Walbridge

**Case 1202:** This case relates to the remarkable sighting of a Black-fronted Tern *Chlidonias albobristatus* at Fort Scratchley, Newcastle on June 20, 2021. The bird was discovered foraging on urban lawns and on a raised hill overlooking an oceanic beach and prolonged views and photographs were obtained. However, the bird did not remain at the site and could not be relocated on the following day. A review of the photographs revealed that it was an adult (alternate plumaged) Black-fronted Tern with bright orange bill, black cap extending to the bill, white cheek stripe and pale rump contrasting with the otherwise all grey plumage. The committee voted unanimously for acceptance and it becomes the first record for Australia and the first known record away from New Zealand. Jon Spicer-Bell

**Case 1213:** This case concerns two sightings of Band-rumped Storm Petrel *Hydrobates castro* which were seen on the Britannia Seamount on March 14, 2021. Sightings of the birds were extended with the birds spending some time in the slick and excellent diagnostic photographs were obtained to aid in confirming the identification. The submission carefully eliminated Leach's Storm Petrel and Wilson's Storm Petrel from contention and the committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance of this record which becomes the 5<sup>th</sup> confirmed record for Australia. David Stewart (Jnr)

**Case 1216:** This case concerns the sighting of two Canada Geese *Branta Canadensis* on Lord Howe Island from December 18, 2021 until January 19, 2022. During this period, the birds were seen at various locations on the island including the Old Settlement, the Lord Howe Island airstrip and the Lord Howe Island Golf Course. The photographs left no doubt as to the identification and the committee agreed that the birds were very likely to be wild individuals from New Zealand. The record was accepted unanimously and it becomes the 3<sup>rd</sup> record to be accepted by BARC and the first since four birds were recorded near Milton in December 2007 (BARC Case 551). Hank Bower, Phillip Whistler, Erin Mayo, Jack Shick, Peter Higgins, Dr Mike Letnic and Kate Dignam

**Case 1224:** This submission follows the first occurrence of Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleuticus* at the Manning River estuary in the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 seasons (BARC Case 1001) and covers all records for the entire 2018/2019 season. The photographs are conclusive and leave no doubt as to the identity and the committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance. It is not entirely clear exactly how many birds were present with images revealing at least six but it is more likely that there were at least ten birds present. This becomes the second record of Aleutian Tern to be accepted by BARC. Greg McLachlan

**Case 1225:** This submission concerns the occurrence of Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleuticus* at the Manning River estuary covering all records for the entire 2019/2020 season. The photographs are conclusive and leave no doubt as to the identity and the committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance. It is not entirely clear exactly how many birds were present with images revealing at least three but it is more likely that there were at least ten birds present in November 2019. This becomes the third record of Aleutian Tern to be accepted by BARC. Greg McLachlan

**Case 1226:** This submission concerns the occurrence of Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleuticus* at the Manning River estuary covering all records for the entire 2020/2021 season. The photographs are conclusive and leave no doubt as to the identity and the committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance. It is not entirely clear exactly how many birds were present with images revealing at least two but it is more likely that there were at least twelve birds present in February 2021. This becomes the fourth record of Aleutian Tern to be accepted by BARC. Greg McLachlan

**Case 1227:** This submission concerns the occurrence of Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleuticus* at the Manning River estuary covering all records for the entire 2021/2022 season with the birds being recorded only in the period from January 21, 2022 through February 27, 2022. The photographs are conclusive and leave no doubt as to the identity and the committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance. It is not entirely clear exactly how many birds were present with images revealing at least six individuals at any one time. This becomes the fifth record of Aleutian Tern to be accepted by BARC. Greg McLachlan

Roger McGovern

Secretary NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee

February 4, 2023