

BARC CASES PERTAINING TO NSW DECIDED IN 2025

636B	NZ or NC Storm Petrel	off Port Stephens	March 28, 2010	Accepted
1313	New Caledonian Storm Petrel	off Port Stephens	June 14, 2015	Accepted
1314	New Caledonian Storm Petrel	off Port Stephens	January 17, 2021	Accepted
1315	New Caledonian Storm Petrel	off Port Stephens	March 28, 2021	Accepted
1316	New Zealand Storm Petrel	off Port Stephens	April 24, 2022	Accepted
1317	N Rockhopper Penguin	Broulee Beach	October 28, 2023	Accepted
1339	Atlantic Y-n Albatross	off Sydney	August 12, 2023	Accepted
1345	Green Sandpiper	Googong Dam Yarrow	November 4, 2024	Accepted
1349	New Zealand Strom Petrel	off Terrigal	November 22, 2024	Accepted
1361	South Island Oystercatcher	Old Bar	December 28, 2024	Accepted
1362	Herald Petrel	Jervis Bay	January 23, 2025	Accepted
1365	New Zealand Strom Petrel	off Terrigal	December 20, 2024	Accepted

CASE SUMMARIES

Case 636B: This case involves the sighting of a *Fregetta* storm petrel which was seen and photographed off Port Stephens on March 28, 2010. It was originally submitted and accepted as a New Zealand Storm Petrel *Fregetta maoriana* but at that time New Caledonian Storm Petrel *F. lineata* was not recognised as a species. After two rounds of voting, six committee members voted in favour of acceptance but two members voted to accept the record as either New Zealand or New Caledonian Storm Petrel as the most important feature, the underwing pattern, could not be seen clearly in any of the available images. The record has therefore been accepted as either a New Zealand Storm Petrel or a New Caledonian Storm Petrel. Richard Baxter, Allan Richardson and Mick Roderick

Case 1313: This case involves the sighting of a New Caledonian Storm Petrel *Fregetta lineata* which was seen and photographed off Port Stephens on June 14, 2015. Although the bird was somewhat distant, diagnostic images were obtained and the submission contained a detailed description focusing on key identification features. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and it becomes the 8th confirmed record for NSW to be accepted by BARC. Allan Richardson and Mick Roderick

Case 1314: This case involves the sighting of a New Caledonian Storm Petrel *Fregetta lineata* which was seen and photographed off Port Stephens on January 17, 2021. The bird was well seen and photographed with the images, together with the detailed description, showing all key identification features to distinguish this bird from the similar New Zealand Storm Petrel *Fregetta maoriana*. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and it becomes the 9th confirmed record for NSW to be accepted by BARC. Allan Richardson and Mick Roderick

Case 1315: This case involves the sighting of a New Caledonian Storm Petrel *Fregetta lineata* which was seen and photographed off Port Stephens on March 28, 2021. The bird was well seen and photographed with the high quality images, together with the detailed description, showing all key identification features to distinguish this bird from the similar New Zealand Storm Petrel *Fregetta maoriana*. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and it becomes the 10th confirmed record for NSW to be accepted by BARC. Allan Richardson and Mick Roderick

Case 1316: This case involves the sighting of a New Zealand Storm Petrel *Fregetta maoriana* which was seen at close range and photographed off Port Stephens on April 24, 2022. The submission is supported by several high quality images which highlight the key diagnostic features and distinguish this bird from the similar New Caledonian Storm Petrel *F. lineata*. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and it becomes the third confirmed record for NSW to be accepted by BARC. Notably, this observation further supports the notion that both *F. maoriana* and *F. lineata* can occur off Australia's east coast – an important detail for regional seabird monitoring and identification. Allan Richardson and Mick Roderick

Case 1317: This case documents the discovery of a Northern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes moseleyi* at Broulee Beach on October 28, 2023 which was taken into care and later released at Mills Beach on November 14, 2023. Determining the exact species in this case was challenging with the under-flipper pattern being more varied than commonly acknowledged and with the metamorphics alone being inconclusive. After two rounds of voting, seven committee members voted in favour of acceptance with most agreeing that the under-flipper pattern and dark gape were more conclusive for Northern Rockhopper Penguin rather than either *E. c. filholi* or *E. c. chrysocome*. This becomes the first record to be accepted by BARC for NSW and the sixth confirmed record for Australia.

Submitted by Simon Gorta and Penny Beaver

Case 1339: This case concerns the sighting of an Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* approximately one and a half nautical miles west of Brown's Seamount offshore Sydney on August 12, 2023. The submission contains a thorough description with supporting photographs that leave no doubt as to the identity. The images clearly separate the bird from Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross by the obvious blackish wedges that surround the eyes, the grey hood and the yellow bill stripe that remains broad well behind the nostrils and terminates in a relatively blunt point at the base of the bill. It should be noted that the plumage details of this bird showed it to be a different individual from the one sighted at the same location on July 16, 2023 (BARC Case 1337). The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and it becomes the 12th record to be accepted by BARC and the sixth record for NSW. David Mitford and Greg McLachlan

Case 1345: This case relates to the sighting of a Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* which was observed and photographed at Shannons Inlet on Googong Dam near Yarrow on November 4, 2024. Observations were quite brief and the submission relies mainly on the photographs as well as the

description of the bird by the observers. The white rectangular rump patch, relatively unmarked upperparts, broad black tail bands, short supercilium not extending behind the iris, relatively long and fine bill and the long dark legs are all consistent with Green Sandpiper. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and it becomes the first record to be accepted by BARC for NSW and only the second record for Australia. Julia and Peter Hudd

Case 1349: This case documents the sighting of a New Zealand Storm Petrel *Fregetta maoriana* which was well seen and photographed at sea off Terrigal on November 22, 2024. The submission is supported by several high quality images which highlight the key diagnostic features and distinguish this bird from the similar New Caledonian Storm Petrel *F. lineata*. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and it becomes the fourth confirmed record for NSW to be accepted by BARC. Notably, this observation further supports the notion that both *F. maoriana* and *F. lineata* can occur off Australia's east coast – an important detail for regional seabird monitoring and identification. Andrew Robinson, James Bennett and Stephanie Owen

Case 1361: This case concerns the observation of a South Island Oystercatcher *Haematopus finschi* at Farquhar Inlet, Old Bar on December 28, 2024. The bird was seen well and had reportedly been seen around the mouths of the Manning River (Old Bar and Harrington) since January 2021. The submission includes images which leave no doubt as to the identity and the bird also bore a red leg flag inscribed 1N identifying the individual as the bird previously reviewed and accepted by BARC from Western Port Bay, Victoria on June 18, 2017 (BARC Case 970). The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance but the sighting does not constitute an additional record – it does however become the 9th accepted record for NSW. David James

Case 1362: This case concerns the remarkable sighting of a Herald Petrel *Pterodroma heraldica* at Cape St George Light house, Jervis Bay on January 23, 2025. The bird was discovered flying over coastal heath on the headland, marking an exceptional land-based observation. The report is supported by a compelling series of photographic images which are conclusive and comfortably rule out the similar Kermadec Petrel and Phoenix Petrel. Key features are the pale loral spots, lack of pale primary shafts, relatively long tail, elongated head and pale leading edge to the inner wing. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and it becomes the 14th record to be accepted by BARC and the ninth record for NSW. Peter Noakes

Case 1365: This case documents a well-supported and compelling sighting of New Zealand Storm Petrel *Fregetta maoriana* at sea off Terrigal on December 20, 2024. The sighting was made at close range and is supported by a series of high quality images and a thorough written account which highlight the key diagnostic features and distinguish this bird from the similar New Caledonian Storm Petrel *F. lineata*. The committee voted unanimously in favour of acceptance and it becomes the fifth confirmed record for NSW to be accepted by BARC. It follows a similar observation at the same location one month earlier (BARC Case 1349) with careful scrutiny of the images showing that these were two different individuals. Andrew Robinson

Roger McGovern

Secretary NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee

January 27, 2026

