

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

Date: 12 March 2018

Submission No 192: Mottled Petrel *Pterodroma inexpectata*, Submitted Gus Daly

This submission related to a single Mottled Petrel, *Pterodroma inexpectata*, observed during an organised trip at approximately 28.0 nautical miles east of Southport (27° 45' 64" S; 153° 54' 77"E) on the 19th October 2016. This petrel was seen by all observers on board the boat when it approached to within 50-100 metres of the boat.

This submission was supported by several quality photographs of the petrel. Several BQ Rarities Appraisal Committee members commented that without these photographs, there would not have been sufficient information provided for this bird to have been identified as a Mottled Petrel. However, using the photographs provided, several diagnostic features of Mottled Petrel were evident, include the thickset body; grey upperparts, with dark 'M' mark across the upperwings; white underparts, with large dark grey chest/belly patch contrasting with the white chin, throat and undertail coverts; pale underwing, with contrasting broad black covert bar on the underwing; sooty eyepatch; and white of the underwing primaries extending well out towards the wing tip (Marchant & Higgins 1990, Menkhorst et al. 2017). This combination of characters provides unequivocal evidence that the bird was a Mottled Petrel and not Collared Petrel, *Pterodroma brevipes*, and intermediate morph Soft-plumaged Petrel, *Pterodroma mollis*, by a combination of body shape and size and the underwing pattern. The Collared Petrel generally have slimmer bodies, narrower wings and dark hoods, darker underwings and the upperwings lack the frosted 'frosted' trailing edge. The soft-plumage petrel have dark underwings.

Unanimously accepted

References

Marchant, S. and Higgins, P.J. (Ed.) 1990. Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Volume 1: Ratites to Ducks. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Menkhorst, P., Rogers, D., Clarke, R., Davies, J., Marsack, P. and Franklin, K. 2017. The Australian Bird Guide. CSIRO Publishing, Clayton South.

David Stewart
Chairperson
Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee