

Antarctic Petrel *Thalassoica antarctica*: Case # 1070
Submission to BARC seeking endorsement of another Australian record, remnants of a beached carcass found by Martin Schulz on 23rd August 1984 at Discovery Bay, Victoria

MIKE CARTER 19th June 2019

Here I provide photographic evidence that remains found at Discovery Bay, Victoria on 23rd August 1984 were those of an Antarctic Petrel *Thalassoica antarctica*. The finder was Martin Schulz, a regular beach patroller at that time. This record is published in the 1984 Victorian Bird Report and in Marchant & Higgins (1990). Like that of 1978, the winter of 1984 was exceptional for the abundance of seabirds found dead on our beaches and significantly, for the number of rarities.

This submission should be read in conjunction with BARC case 1069, Antarctic Petrel, beach-washed carcass found on Gunnamatta Beach on 13th August 1978, 'first record for Australia'. However, it should be noted that in his assessment of that submission, David James a member of BARC that voted on that submission, commented as follows. 'The subject bird is unlikely to be the first Australian record, no matter how 'Australia' is defined. The Museum of Victoria houses twelve specimens of Antarctic Petrel from 'mainland' Australia (<https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/search?query=Thalassoica+antarctica>), which are summarised in Table 1, four of which predate the subject bird. The two mounts from 1881 (45506, 45507) are of questionable provenance. The 1957 and 1959 records are more likely to be valid beach cast records, but the reliability of the collection details should be assessed. In addition, the Museum of Victoria contains three specimens collected on Macquarie Island in 1964 and 1965 by the late Ken Simpson that would be completely reliable'.



Fig. 1. Remains of an Antarctic Petrel found at Discovery Bay, Victoria, 23rd August 1984.
Photo by Mike Carter.

The black tipped but otherwise wholly white tail and wholly white not chequered wing bar clearly identify the species (Marchant & Higgins 1990; Onley & Scofield 2007; Shirihai 2007; Menkhorst *et al.* 2017).

Acknowledgements

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