

BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee

Unusual Record Report Form

This form is intended to aid observers in the preparation of a submission to document a major rare bird in Australia. Its use is NOT mandatory. Please attach and/or include all relevant information including any digital images. Please Email the completed form/submission to the BARC Chair, Tony Palliser tonyp@bigpond.net.au

BARC considers submissions that include a minimum of the submitter's name(s), the bird species claimed and the location and date(s) of the record. However, more information and evidence will usually be required for BARC to accept a record. So, please submit as much detailed information about the bird as possible.

If you choose not to use this form please make sure all relevant information requested in this form is included in your submission. However, it is our preference that you fully complete sections "A" and "B", or follow their headings, so that BARC has some continuity between all submissions.

Section A: Submitter details	
Your name(s) Joint submissions are fine	Alan Stuart, Tom Clarke
Your email, phone or address	

Section B: Record details	
Common and scientific names Include subspecies if relevant	Pycroft's Petrel <i>Pterodroma pycrofti</i>
Site location (with GPS if possible)	Pinkatop, Broughton Island, near Port Stephens NSW. On the eastern side of Broughton Island (at S32 37 02 E152 19 35) near the highest point (called Pinkatop) there is a grove of casuarinas. Within the grove are six artificial nest boxes for Gould's Petrel (and also some White-faced Storm-petrel nest boxes) and there is a call playback system which plays Gould's Petrel calls all night.
Date(s) and time(s) of record (First and last date of occurrence if known)	25 October 2019 and 26 October 2019
How many individuals were there?	One bird
What was the distance to the bird(s)?	We had it in our hands
Habitat description	Artificial nest box
Sighting conditions (e.g. weather, visibility, light conditions)	The conditions were good. We had the bird in hand.
How confident are you in the identification (as a %) and why?	100%, because Matt Rayner in NZ said so.
Did you find and/or identify the bird initially? Who else recorded the bird and do they agree with the identification?	<p>Broughton Island is visited quarterly by Hunter Bird Observers Club members as part of a study of changes to bird populations post-eradication of feral animals. The artificial nest boxes are inspected at some stage during each quarterly visit.</p> <p>Alan and Tom inspected the nest boxes at 25 October 2019, beginning at c 2pm. Four nest boxes were empty, one had a Gould's Petrel in it, and the sixth nest box contained two birds. One of those birds was a Gould's Petrel; the other was much paler and we knew it was something different, although at that stage we didn't know what to conclude. We took a series of photos, of the head, wing and underwing, etc, and also of the two birds side by side for comparison.</p>

	The next morning, 26 October, when the tide was suitable (access to that part of the island is not feasible on foot at high tide) we returned to the nest box with equipment borrowed from bird banders who were on the island as part of the study team. We arrived there at c 11 am. Both of the Gould's Petrels had departed; fortunately however, the Pycroft's Petrel was still in the same nest box. We made various measurements of the bird (see part C of this submission) and took some more photos.
What experience have you had with this species?	An unconfirmed sighting by AS (with several others) during a pelagic trip off Swansea in 2002. That record has only recently been submitted to BARC.
Has this species been seen at this location before? When?	No.
Have photographs of the bird or discussion of it occurred on the internet? (Please provide the site name, a summary, electronic link, etc.)	Photographs have been circulated privately, initially to Mick Roderick who then forwarded them to various experts in Australia and New Zealand.
Do you permit BARC to display your images etc. electronically (credited with your name)	Yes.

You may choose to delete or ignore this page, but please include as much of the requested information in your submission as possible, especially Sections C and E.

Section C: Supporting evidence

Please include evidence that supports the identification, such as photographs, video, call recordings, etc. Digital images can be pasted into this document below, at the end, or provided separately. Digital video and sound recordings can be sent separately to this form. Label photos etc or insert captions to make note of relevant features they show.

A series of photographs (taken by AS) will be provided separately. Biometric data were measured by TC who is an experienced bird bander:

Wing: 216 mm

Head-bill: 61.9 mm

Bill: 24.4 mm

Tarsus: 28.5 mm

Weight: 140 g

Section D: Description of the bird(s)

Please provide a description of the bird(s) including all identification features recorded.

Provide all possible details that might corroborate the identification.

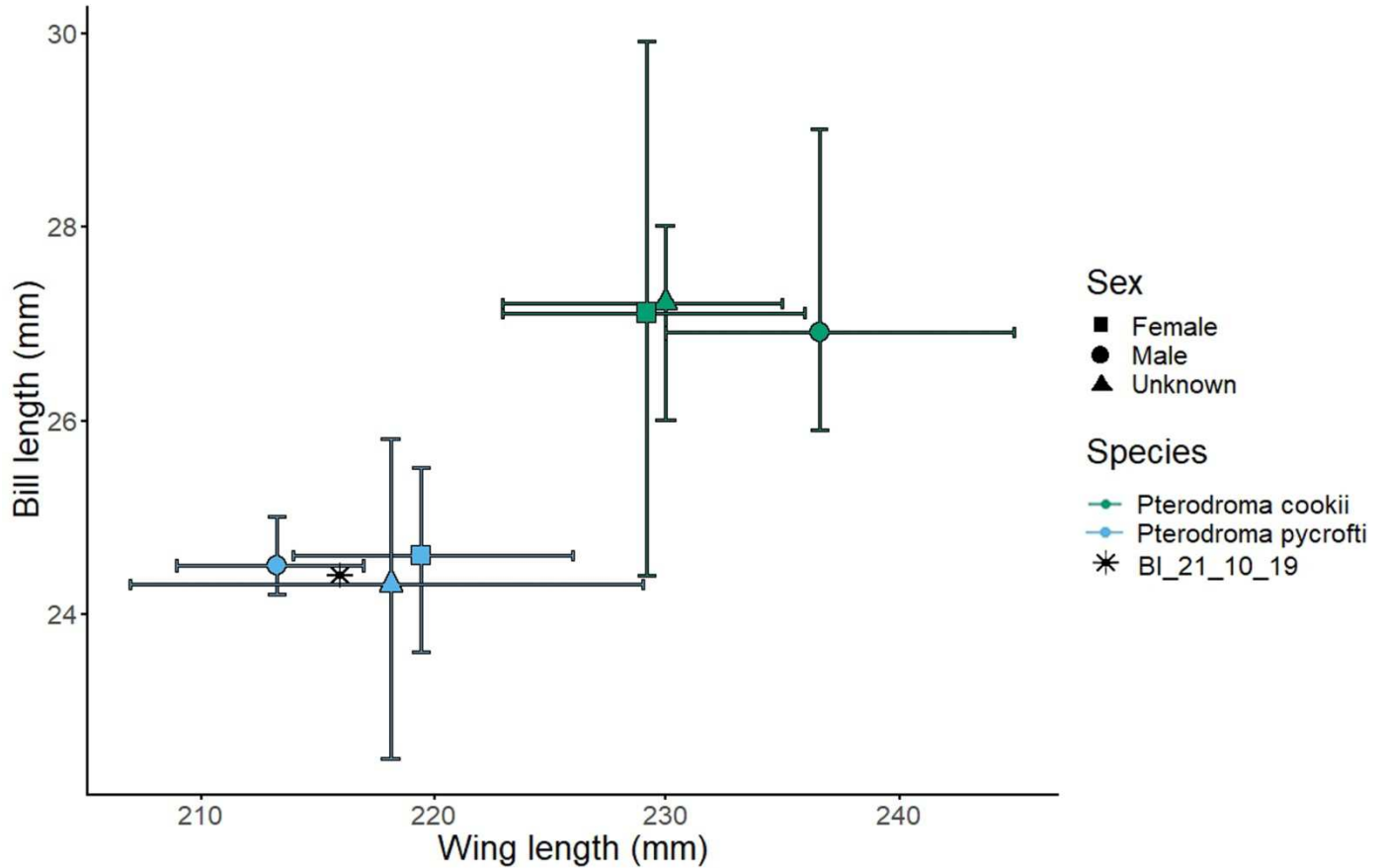
Please refer to the photos provided separately.

Plumage	
Bare parts	
Moult details	
Structure and 'jizz'	
Calls	
Behaviours	
Age, sex and/or	

Section E: Confusion species

Please indicate other species that the bird(s) might be confused with and how they can be eliminated

Cook's Petrel is a potential confusion species. However, the biometrics are wrong for Cook's Petrel whereas they are correct for Pycroft's Petrel, as the graph below (prepared by Simon Gorta) shows (graph is based on data in HANZAB).

**Section F: References and aids**

Did you use books, journal articles or on-line sites or pages to help you prepare this submission? Which ones?

None used

Would you like to acknowledge the assistance of others in the identification process or preparation of this submission?

Mick Roderick was extremely helpful in pursuing the identification of the bird, sending the images and biometric data to several experts in New Zealand and Australia and later following up with them. Simon Gorta produced the graph.



Figure 1. Pycroft's Petrel, Broughton Island, 25 Oct 2019 (Photo by Alan Stewart)



Figure 2. Pycroft's Petrel, Broughton Island, 26 Oct 2019 (Photo by Alan Stewart)



Figure 3. Pycroft's Petrel, Broughton Island, 26 Oct 2019 (Photo by Alan Stewart)



Figure 4. Pycroft's Petrel, Broughton Island, 26 Oct 2019 (Photo by Alan Stewart)



Figure 5. Pycroft's Petrel and Gould's Petrel, Broughton Island, 25 Oct 2019 (Photo by Alan Stewart)