

BRISBANE SEABIRD STUDY GROUP
Rare Seabird Forms



(Completed forms to be passed on to BQRAC or BARC, where appropriate).

Name: Paul Walbridge
Address:

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Vessel: 46 ft Badenach monohull MV Grinner II
Crew: Craig Newton (skipper)

No. of observers present: 6

Contact(s): (full name). **Contact details: (include address, phone no(s). E-mail, etc.).**

- 1). Rob Morris
- 2). Gus Daly
- 3). Elliot Leach
- 4). Brian Russell
- 5). Jon Norling

Date of sighting: 11/7/2020

Time & duration of sighting: 0640 hrs for approximately 3 minutes total.

Species name: **Common:** Collared Petrel **Scientific:** *Pterodroma brevipes brevipes*

No. of birds observed: 1

Location: NW of the Britannia Seamount, 28 36.49S/155 18.34E.
Be precise & include GPS readings when possible.

Habitat (indicate in appropriate box).

Bay/Inlet	Headland	River Mouth	Ocean Beach	Shelf Waters	Slope Waters	Open Ocean	Other
						X	

Optical and/or other aids used: Leica 10X50 BA binoculars,

Prior experience with this species: PW, RM, EL, JN and BR have prior experience with *Pterodroma b. magnificens* but not the nominate form.

Confidence in sighting? (e.g. 90%, 100% etc.): 100%

Received:

BQRAC Case No:

BARC Case No:

Recommendation:

(Office Use Only).

FORM B

Weather Conditions: (including wind speed & direction).

A high over the eastern Tasman brought northerly winds 15-20 knots to the region. Some high cloud cover with the occasional squall but generally fine with good visibility. Maximum air temperature 19° C, barometer 1019 hPa.

Sea Conditions: (including water temp. °C, when possible).

Seas to 1.5 metres on a metre swell with very little current running. Sea surface temps. ranging from 21.9° C west of the Britannia Seamount in deeper water to 23.7° C on the seamount in 311 fathoms of water.

General Observations: (include behaviour of bird(s), view, distance etc).

The bird was first sighted at a distance astern of the vessel by **GD** and as it approached was initially called as a Gould's Petrel but the observers could see that something wasn't quite right, **PW** had his bins on the bird as it passed right to left on the starboard side of the vessel and noted that rather than the head being hooded it appeared more capped and called it provisionally as a Collared Petrel.

Description of Bird(s): (be as detailed as possible).

Small '*cookilaria*', very much like a darker Gould's Petrel but with highly variable plumage even more so than Gould's with an identical flight pattern.

Bare parts: Bill, blackish and slender, appearing finer than say Gould's Petrel. Legs and feet not seen.

Head: Throat, lores and below the eye, white. Forehead, cap and nape, black with a complete blackish but weak collar, more diffuse than the rest of the head. The black area through the eye was in a horizontal line giving the appearance of a cap, rather than a hood.

Underparts: Belly and flanks were a dusky off-whitish grey with a darker grey, broad intrusion from the neck into the side of the breast, the undertail coverts were white, with tail tip black. The underwing, although appearing white were actually a pale dusky off-white, with a broad blackish trailing edge and dusky blackish primaries. There was an extensive black ulnar bar, solid around the carpal area, tapering off into the coverts.

Upperparts: Head and neck, a solid black. Upperwing coverts, secondaries, back and tail coverts grey with a black tail terminal band and a broad blackish 'M' consisting of the primaries, a broad bar through the upperwing coverts and through the uppertail coverts.

With the dusky underparts and underwing, this bird would be considered one of the intermediate examples of the nominate *P.b.brevipes*.

How was it distinguished from other similar species?:

From *Pterodroma brevipes magnificens* by it's much paler underparts and much less extensive ulnar bar on the underwing. Also the upperparts including upperwing more like Gould's Petrel, with paler coverts and secondaries and a more defined 'M' covert pattern. The head pattern different from Gould's Petrel, looking more capped, with the black cut off below the eye horizontal, before meeting the collar, whereas in Gould's Petrel the cut off is more diagonal down the side of the face. Slightly different jizz to '*magnificens*' with an apparent shorter lower body/tail appearance, not as slim and tapered looking. Compared to Gould's though, looks slimmer, with a longer looking rear body/tail combination behind the wing. Compared again with Gould's Petrel, the ulnar bar on the underwing of *P.b.brevipes* is more solid, lacking any white markings, where most Gould's Petrels show some speckling around the carpal area.

Other Comments:

As far as the authors are aware there are no July or Winter records of Gould's Petrel in Australian waters certainly none recorded in the Southport region and Northern Tasmantid Seamounts in this period, with the earliest Spring record on the Southport database being 13th September 2020. All of the much darker *P. b.magnificens* sightings recorded in this region so far have been in March/April and late October. Whether it's because we are travelling out more frequently into the deeper water around the northern Tasmantid seamounts or some other reason, sightings of Collared Petrel are on the increase in the southern Coral Sea and out toward Norfolk Island and even beyond. According to Bretagnolle and Shirihai 2010, both nominate '*brevipes*' and '*magnificens*' breed in Vanuatu with the latter around the Banks Islands in the north and the nominate taxon in the south of the island, in separate populations.

Bibliography:

SEABIRDS an identification guide by Peter Harrison 1985.

PHOTOGRAPHIC HANDBOOK OF THE SEABIRDS OF THE WORLD – JIM ENDICOTT AND DAVID TIPLING.

A new taxon of Collared Petrel *Pterodroma brevipes* from the Banks Islands, Vanuatu by Vincent Bretagnolle & Hadoram Shirihai The Australian Bird Guide, Peter Menkhorst, Danny Rogers, Rohan Clarke, Jeff Davies, Peter Marsack, Kim Franklin.

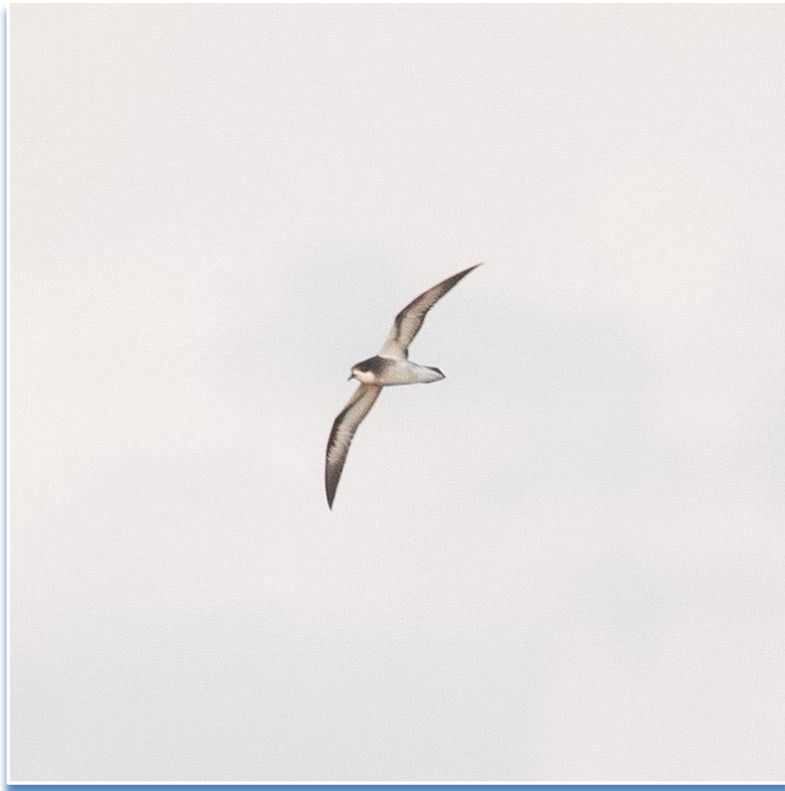
Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World, Derek Onley, Paul Scofield.

New distribution records of collared petrel (*Pterodroma brevipes*) in Fiji and development of a rapid assessment monitoring method

MARK O'BRIEN* JEREMY P. BIRD BirdLife International Pacific Secretariat, GPO Box 18332, Suva, Fiji

Plumage Variation, Morphology and Identification of Collared (*Pterodroma brevipes*) and Gould's (*P. leucoptera*) Petrels Dean J. Portelli

Form C



Collared Petrel *Pterodroma b. brevipes* 11/7/2020. G. Daly.



Collared Petrel *Pterodroma b. brevipes* 11/7/2020. G. Daly.



Collared Petrel *Pterodroma b. brevipes* 11/7/2020. G. Daly.



Collared Petrel *Pterodroma b. brevipes* 11/7/2020. G. Daly.



Collared Petrel *Pterodroma b. brevipes* 11/7/2020. G. Daly.



Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera* Southport 20/10/2013. P. Walbridge.



Top two cropped photos show the Collared Petrel from 11/7/2020 on the left compared with a Magnificent Petrel, also photographed in the region, showing the difference in extent of the dark plumage between the two taxon. The bottom two cropped images showing Gould's Petrel on the left and the July Collared Petrel on the right, showing the difference in the facial pattern, showing a diagonal cut below the eye in the Gould's Petrel and a more horizontal cut below the eye in the Collared Petrel.