

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	Emily Mowat and Genevieve Kyi
Your email, phone or address	Emily.j.mowat@gmail.com / genevieve.kyi@gmail.com

Section B: Record details	
Common and scientific names Include subspecies if relevant	Herald Petrel - <i>Pterodroma heraldica</i>
Site location (with GPS if possible)	Phillip Island (off Norfolk Island) -29.12394, 167.95066
Date(s) and time(s) of record (First and last date of occurrence if known)	14/6/21 18:30, 15/6/21 12:00; 16:00
How many individuals were there?	One
What was the distance to the bird(s)?	Bird handled at night time when first encountered.
Habitat description	<p>Open grassy east-facing slope with scattered African Olive (<i>Olea europaea subsp. cuspidata</i>) and New Zealand Flax (<i>Phormium tenax</i>). Bird was sitting underneath a low African Olive shrub (see pic below).</p> 

Sighting conditions (e.g. weather, visibility, light conditions)	14/6/21 Night time, clear weather. 15/6/21 Observed again during day time sitting under same shrub, during clear sunny weather. Present until sunset when it left bush and flew around calling.
How confident are you in the identification (as a %) and why?	Photos, call recording, measurements
Did you find and/or identify the bird initially? Who else recorded the bird and do they agree with the identification?	Yes – bird heard calling at night underneath an African Olive shrub whilst searching for Kermadec Petrels (as part of ongoing study for Nicholas Carlile from DPIE NSW). Alerted by its unusual call and then captured and measured/photographed. The bird was again present the following day, sitting under same bush. Took a photograph of it <i>in situ</i> (attached) but did not handle in daytime. We came back in the late afternoon, when it was still under the bush, calling in response to our presence (call was recorded). At sunset it left the bush and flew around calling and was seen being chased by Providence Petrels.
What experience have you had with this species?	N/A
Has this species been seen at this location before? When?	No, but site is within known at-sea range.
Have photographs of the bird or discussion of it occurred on the internet? (Please provide the site name, a summary, electronic link, etc.)	No – only via email
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.



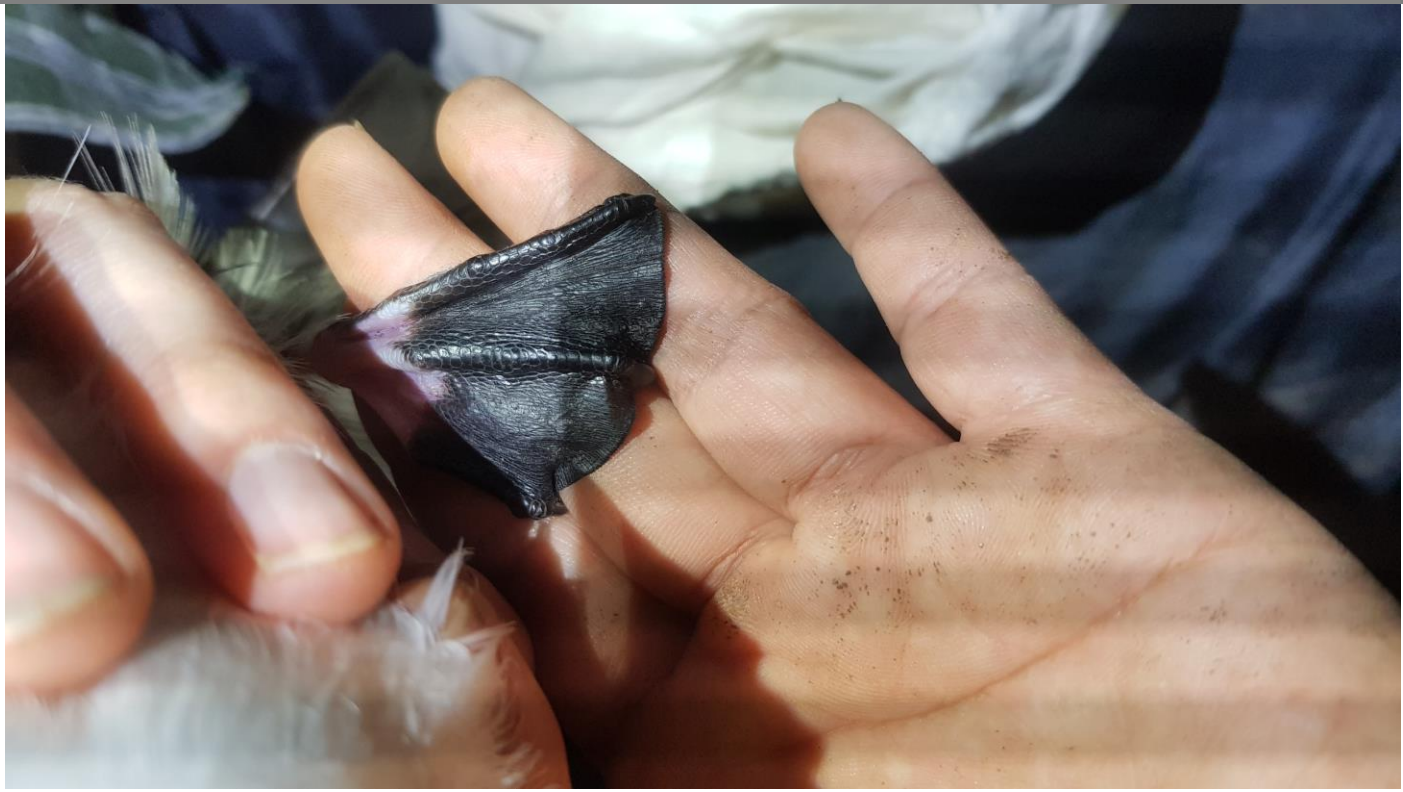






Primary shafts appear light due to head lamp lighting affecting photograph. Primary shafts were black.







NOTE: sound recording sent via email + copies of the above photos

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.

Plumage	<p>Head: Ashy grey. Lores white. Forehead scalloped. White “noseband”. Dark under eye. White above eye. Chin white.</p> <p>Crown ashy grey with “whispy” longer feathers scattered throughout (moulting?).</p> <p>Upperparts: Upperwings dark ashy grey. Primary shafts on upper wing <u>dark</u> (unfortunately the photos are overexposed by head torch, making them appear whitish). Primaries on upper wing had white trailing edge (see photos).</p> <p>Underwings: primaries with white bases, lesser underwing covets with white bases (leading edge of wing).</p> <p>Underparts: Breast and belly white. Tail appeared long and tapered.</p>
Bare parts	Bill fine, black. Legs slender, pink. Feet bicoloured - pink and black. Eye dark.
Moult details	
Structure and ‘jizz’	Smaller in the hand than Kermadec Petrels, with slimmer wings, body and legs.
Calls	Recorded (see attached to email). Rapid, high pitched. Calling on ground in response to our presence, and also heard calling in flight.
Behaviours	Appeared to be potentially prospecting for a nest site – present under the same shrub for a night, throughout the following day and into the evening. Note that it was the right time for Heralds to be nesting at their only Australian breeding site on Raine Island.
Measurements	<p>Weight 310 g</p> <p>Head bill (total head length) 71.6 mm</p> <p>Wing length 265 mm</p> <p>Tail length 112 mm</p> <p>Exposed culmen length inc. nostril 27.9 mm</p> <p>Bill depth at nostrils 12.3 mm</p> <p>Bill depth at gonys 10.3 mm</p> <p>Bill width over nostrils 10.5 mm</p>
Age, sex and/or taxonomy	<p>No sexual dimorphism in plumage or size</p> <p>Have received advice from David Stewart that birds on Raine darken with age – and that this bird may be immature given its lighter plumage compared with those breeding on Raine.</p>

Section E: Confusion species

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

Kermadec Petrel – call different, larger and stockier, wider wings, larger head, heavier bill, white primary shafts on upper wing. Weight of the bird in question was below range for Kermadec Petrel.

Trinidad Petrel – call different, dark lores, heavier-bodied, larger-billed, longer wings, white median panel on underwing

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?	<p>Xeno Canto</p> <p>NZ birds online</p> <p>Australian Bird Study Association species profiles: Herald Petrel, Kermadec Petrel</p>
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	<p>The Australian Bird Guide – Menkhorst et al</p> <p>Oceanic Birds of the World – Howell and Zufelt</p> <p>HANZAB</p>
<p>Would you like to acknowledge the assistance of others in the identification process or preparation of this submission?</p>	<p>Thanks to Paul Wallbridge, Mick Roderick, David Stewart and Rohan Clarke for assistance with confirming identification. Paul and Mick also provided assistance with the BARC submission process.</p>