



## 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](mailto: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	Johannes Fischer & Rohan Clarke
Your email, phone or address	<a href="mailto:johannesfischer@live.nl">johannesfischer@live.nl</a> <a href="mailto:rohan.clarke@monash.edu">rohan.clarke@monash.edu</a>

Section B: Record details	
Common and scientific names Include subspecies if relevant	Whenua Hou Diving-Petrel ( <i>Pelecanoides whenuahouensis</i> )
Site location (with GPS if possible)	Marine waters within the Australian Economic Exclusion Zone surrounding Macquarie Island (ie a ~200 nM radius of the island)
Date(s) and time(s) of record (First and last date of occurrence if known)	Numerous records of Whenua Hou Diving-Petrel that pass through the Australian EEZ with the first reported date on 23 November 2015 and the last reported date 11 September 2019
How many individuals were there?	20+ individuals for which locations from GLS have been derived on outbound and return migration.
What was the distance to the bird(s)?	N/A – these are birds being tracked with light sensitive GLS tags, data from which was then used to estimate the geographical locations of birds.
Habitat description	Deep marine waters of the EEZ surrounding Macquarie Island
Sighting conditions (e.g. weather, visibility, light conditions)	All birds were fitted with GLS tags on Whenua Hou (Codfish Island) in far southern NZ off the west coast of Stewart Island.
How confident are you in the identification (as a %) and why?	GLS tags were fitted to birds within the breeding colony of Whenua Hou Diving-Petrels by researchers that are very familiar with this species.
Did you find and/or identify the bird initially? Who else recorded the bird and do they agree with the identification?	See above
What experience have you had with this species?	Very experienced. The lead author of this submission is also the lead author of the species formal description (Fischer et al 2018 – attached) and the tracking study (Fischer et al. 2021).
Has this species been seen at this location	

before? When?	
Have photographs of the bird or discussion of it occurred on the internet? (Please provide the site name, a summary, electronic link, etc.)	
Do you permit BARC to display your images etc. electronically (credited with your name)	

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.

This submission is based on data obtained from GLS tags that were fitted to Whenua Hou Diving-Petrels. The primary documents for this submission comprise two published papers – the first is the species description (Fischer et al. 2018) and the second is a large study documenting the at-sea distribution of the species (Fischer et al. 2021). As Fischer et al. (2021) presents modelled species distributions as 50 and 95% utilization distribution isopleths, individual tracks and waypoints are not directly visible. To address this, below are the summaries of all occasions when the research team have observed migrations of Whenua Hou Diving-Petrels through the Australian EEZ (based on GLS derived locations). As can be seen, migration of Whenua Hou Diving-Petrels through Australian waters is an annual phenomenon, peaking in late December-January (outbound migrations) and early September (homebound migrations). The period of time that different birds spend within the Australian EEZ is highly variable with some birds passing through rapidly, while others spend over a month within Australian waters. Longer occurrences are more common on the home bound migrations than the outbound migrations. The actual positions of individual records are not included as the number of locations within the Australian EEZ is close to 700. The track number provided against each record does however correspond with the track number on <http://www.seabirdtracking.org/> which can be used to visualise tracks.

Note BirdLife International and therefore BirdLife Australia have accepted Whenua Hou Diving-Petrel as a full species. It is on this basis that the submission is made to BARC. For further information see [Whenua Hou Diving-petrel \(\*Pelecanoides whenuahouensis\*\) - BirdLife species factsheet](#). By contrast, IOC treat this form as a subspecies of South Georgian Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides georgicus whenuahouensis* (Gill, F, D Donsker, and P Rasmussen (Eds). 2021. IOC World Bird List (v 11.2). Doi 10.14344/IOC.ML.11.2. <http://www.worldbirdnames.org/>).

#### Outbound migrations crossing the Australian EEZ:

- On 23 November 2015, an adult male (track 98515) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- During 27-29 November 2015, an adult male (track 98615) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- During 10-11 January 2016, an adult male (track 98415) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- On 13 December 2017, an adult male (track 4217) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- During 1-2 January 2018, an adult female (track 3317) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- During 5-6 January 2018, an adult female (track 2817) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- On 10 January 2018, an adult male (track 3217) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- During 14 January - 6 February 2018, an adult female (track 3517) slowly crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- During 16-18 January 2018, an adult female (track 57917) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to

the Polar Front.

- During 19-21 January 2018, an adult male (track 57917) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- During 20 January - 3 March 2018 an adult male (track 3717) slowly crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- During 21 January - 19 February 2018, an adult female (track 57817) slowly crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- On 26 November 2018, an adult female (track 3518) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- During 29 November 2018 - 3 February 2019 an adult male (track 3718) slowly crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front
- On 5 December 2018, an adult male (track 3318) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- During 8-9 December 2018, an adult female (track 2918) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- During 12-13 December 2018, an adult male (track 3218) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- During 25-26 December 2018, an adult female (track 2318) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front.
- During 17 January - 27 February 2019 an adult female (track 3718) slowly crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front
- On 19 January 2019 an adult female (track 3918) slowly crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to the Polar Front

#### **Homebound migrations crossing the Australian EEZ:**

- On 27 August 2016, an adult male (track 98615) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- On 9 September 2016, an adult male (track 98515) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- On 14 September 2016, an adult female (track 98115) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 15 June - 9 September 2018, an adult female (track 3317) slowly crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 27 July - 27 August 2018, an adult male (track 4117) slowly crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 8 August - 14 September 2018, an adult female (track 57817) slowly crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 16 August - 5 September 2018, an adult male (track 4217) slowly crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 25 August - 13 September 2018, an adult female (track 2817) slowly crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 3-4 September 2018, an adult male (track 3217) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 3-7 September 2018, an adult female (track 3517) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 3-11 September 2018, an adult male (track 58017) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 7-10 September 2018, an adult female (track 58317) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 9-10 September 2018, an adult female (track 2917) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 1-10 September 2018, an adult female (track 2517) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 14-15 September 2018, an adult male (track 58117) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou
- On 15 September 2018, an adult female (track 2517) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 15-17 September 2018, an adult male (track 3417) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to

Whenua Hou.

- During 19 August - 4 September 2019, an adult male (track 4118) slowly crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 30 August - 3 September 2019, an adult female (track 3918) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 31 August - 2 September 2019, an adult female (track 3518) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- On 9 September 2019, an adult female (track 3718) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 9-10 September 2019, an adult male (track 58018) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 9-11 September 2019, an adult female (track 3018) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 9-11 September 2019, an adult female (track 58318) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.
- During 10-11 September 2019, an adult female (track 2918) crossed the Macquarie EEZ on its way to Whenua Hou.

#### 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	Not applicable as these records were derived from a tracking study where GLS tags were fitted and recovered from birds within the breeding colony.
Bare parts	
Moult details	
Structure and 'jizz'	
Calls	
Behaviours	
Age, sex and/or taxonomy	

#### Section E: Confusion species

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

Not applicable as this was a tracking study where GLS tags were fitted and recovered from birds within the breeding colony.

#### 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?

The following two research papers are provided. Fischer et al. (2021) forms part of this submission, Fischer et al. (2018) is provided for additional background.

Fischer, Johannes H.; Debski, Igor; Miskelly, Colin M.; Bost, Charles A.; Fromant, Aymeric; Tennyson, Alan J. D.; Tessler, Jake; Cole, Rosalind; Hiscock, Johanna H. (2018) Analyses of phenotypic differentiations among South Georgian Diving Petrel (*Pelecanoides georgicus*) populations reveal an undescribed and highly endangered species from New Zealand. PLOS ONE. 13: e0197766.

Fischer, Johannes H.; Debski, Igor; Spitz, Derek B; Taylor, Graeme, A; and Wittmer, Heiko, U (2021) Year-round offshore distribution, behaviour, and overlap with commercial fisheries of a Critically Endangered small petrel. Marine Ecology Progress Series 660: 171–187.

<b>Would you like to acknowledge the assistance of others in the identification process or preparation of this submission?</b>	We thank all authors of Fischer et al. 2021.