

Pomarine Skua. At sea, 6' South of St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly. 16th August 2008.  
Photo: Ashley Fisher.



# List of Skuas

with References

Compiled by Joe Hobbs



## Introduction

This is the final version of the Skuas list, no further updates will be made. Grateful thanks to Ashley Fisher ([www.scillypelagics.com](http://www.scillypelagics.com)) and Kieran Fahy for the cover images and all those who responded with constructive feedback. All images © the photographers.

Please note that this and other Reference Lists I have compiled are **not exhaustive** and are best employed in conjunction with other sources.

Joe Hobbs

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The general order of species follows the International Ornithologists' Union World Bird List (**Gill, F. & Donsker, D.** (eds.) 2019. IOC World Bird List. Available from: <https://www.worldbirdnames.org/> [version 9.1 accessed January 2019]).

## Final Version

Version 1.3 (March 2019).

## Cover

Main Image: Pomarine Skua. At sea 6' south of St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly. 16th August 2008. Picture by Ashley Fisher.

Vignette: Chilean Skua. At sea between Valparaiso and Puerto Montt, Chile. 3rd February 2009. Picture by Kieran Fahy.

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## Chilean Skua

***Stercorarius chilensis*** [Bonaparte].

Coastal South America from Concepción (SC Chile) and Deseado (S Argentina) S to S Tierra del Fuego. Winters: Probably along coasts of Chile & Argentina N to S Peru and possibly E to W Falkland Islands.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1996 as *Catharacta chilensis*.

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## South Polar Skua

***Stercorarius maccormicki*** [Saunders].

Antarctic, especially in the Ross Sea area. Winters: Juveniles and immatures are long distance migrants moving as far N as Alaska, Greenland & Japan, adults probably remain closer to the breeding grounds.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1996 as *Catharacta maccormicki*.

Other names: MacCormick's Skua, Antarctic Skua.

**Robert McCormick** (1800-1890), Royal Navy surgeon, explorer and naturalist who collected the type specimen on Possession Island, Victoria Land, Antarctica.

1st WP Record: 3rd June 1983. North Beach, Eilat, Israel. Remained until the 6th June (**Shirihai, H.** 1996. *The Birds of Israel*. Academic Press).

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## Brown Skua

***Stercorarius antarcticus*** [Lesson].

[*S.a. antarcticus*] Falkland Islands & SE Argentina. Winters: Off SE South America.

[*S.a. hamiltoni*] Tristan da Cunha & Gough Island (S Atlantic). Winters: Near the breeding grounds.

[*S.a. lonnbergi*] Antarctic peninsula, subantarctic islands of Atlantic, Indian & Pacific Oceans. Winters: Near the breeding grounds.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1996 as *Catharacta antarctica*.

Other names: Antarctic Skua, Southern Great Skua, Southern Skua, Hākoakoa, Falkland Skua (*antarcticus*), Tristan Skua (*hamiltoni*), Hamilton's Skua (*hamiltoni*), Subantarctic Skua (*lonnbergi*), Lönnerberg's Skua (*lonnbergi*).

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**Axel Johan Einar Lönnerberg** (1865-1942), Swedish zoologist.

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## Great Skua

***Stercorarius skua*** [Brünnich].

Iceland, Faroe Islands, Shetland Islands, N Scotland, NW Ireland, Svalbard, Bear Island, Norway, Jan Mayen & Veshnjak Island (Kola peninsula, NW Russia). Winters: Off Iberia with immature birds S to Cape Verde Islands & Brazil and some in the vicinity of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland (NW Atlantic).

Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1996 as *Catharacta skua*.

Other name: Bonxie.

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## **Pomarine Skua**

***Stercorarius pomarinus*** [Temminck].

Tundra of N Russia, N Alaska & N Canada. Winters: At sea close to coasts mainly between Tropic of Cancer and the equator and off Australia.

Other names: Pomarine Jaeger, Pomatorhine Skua.

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## Arctic Skua

***Stercorarius parasiticus*** [Linnaeus].

Circumpolar in coastal tundra mainly between latitudes 57°N and 80°N. Winters: In oceans of the Southern Hemisphere, especially close to the coasts of South America, S Africa, S Australia & New Zealand.

Other names: Parasitic Jaeger, Parasitic Skua.

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- Furness, R.W.** 1978. Kleptoparasitism by great skuas (*Catharacta skua* Brünn.) and Arctic skuas (*Stercorarius parasiticus* L.) at a Shetland seabird colony. *Animal Behaviour* 26(4): 1167-1177.
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## Long-tailed Skua

***Stercorarius longicaudus*** [Vieillot].

[*S.l. longicaudus*] Arctic and subarctic uplands of Scandinavia & Russia E to the delta of the R Lena. Winters: In subantarctic waters and offshore of S South America & S Africa.

[*S.l. pallascens*] Arctic Greenland, North America & Siberia E of the delta of the R Lena. Winters: In subantarctic waters and offshore of S South America & S Africa.

Other name: Long-tailed Jaeger.

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