

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Pomarine skua: p 186.



## POMARINE SKUA

**Family** Stercorariidae

**Species** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

**Common names** Pomarine Skua, Pomarine Jaeger

**Status** Migrant

**Abundance** Uncommon

**Size** 480 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Arctic Skua 430 mm)

**Habitat** A coastal species which ranges into deeper waters.

**Worldwide range** Breeds in countries of the Arctic Circle.

**New Zealand range** Waters around New Zealand over summer.

**Discussion** Less common than the Arctic Skua but where they occur together at sea they are very difficult to separate.

**Similarities of Pomarine Skuas and Arctic Skuas**

- Both species come in two morphs.
- Both species have similar colouration.

## **Differences between Pomarine Skuas and Arctic Skuas**

- The Pomarine Skua is a larger and heavier bird.
- The tail of the Pomarine Skua is more elongated with central protruding feathers rounded.
- The central tail feathers of the Arctic Skua are pointed.
- The light morph of the Pomarine Skua has whiter wing-flashes.

### **Where to find**

In similar localities as the Arctic Skua, in particular the Hauraki Gulf. P. 289.