

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)  
Based on: Watola, G. 2009. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (2nd Edition)  
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.  
Updated and amended text supplied by George Watola, October, 2011.  
Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)  
Long-tailed skua: pp 166-167.

**Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus* Vieillot 1819, Migrant (59)  
30/04/1864 Wanganui

One found on Muriwai Beach on or before 10/1/1964, by the Misses Perrin, was until recently accepted as the first record. R.B. Sibson (1967) identified this specimen and mentioned possible sightings by Bernard Sladden south of the Alderman Islands before 1959.

However, Melville (1985) made a good case for the specimen shot on the beach in 1864 by Buller at Horowhenua being the first Long-tailed Skua record, rather than the first Arctic Skua record. Buller illustrated the tail of his 1864 specimen compared to an Arctic Skua from Europe (Buller 1878, p. 358), and this is clearly different. Measurements and plumage features such as “breast greyish white, abdomen ashy-grey, undersurface wings uniform dark ashy-grey” also indicated it was a Long-tailed Skua. This record was accepted as the first by Checklist Committee (OSNZ) (2010).