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## Order CHARADRIIFORMES: Waders, Gulls and Terns

The family sequence of Christidis & Boles (1994), who adopted that of Sibley *et al.* (1988) and Sibley & Monroe (1990), is followed here.

### Suborder LARI: Skuas, Gulls, Terns and Skimmers

Condon (1975) and Checklist Committee (1990) recognised three subfamilies within the Laridae (Larinae, Sterminae and Megalopterinae) but this division has not been widely adopted. We follow Gochfeld & Burger (1996) in recognising gulls in one family (Laridae) and terns and noddies in another (Sternidae). The sequence of species for Stercorariidae and Laridae follows Peters (1934) and for Sternidae follows Bridge *et al.* (2005).

### Family STERCORARIIDAE Gray: Skuas

Stercorariinae G.R. Gray, 1870: *Hand-list Birds* 3: 110 – Type genus *Stercorarius* Brisson, 1760.

Skuas are often considered as a subfamily Stercorariinae within the family Laridae (Brooke 1978, Higgins & Davies 1996, Olsen & Larsson 1997) but we treat them as a separate family following Cramp & Simmons (1983); Furness (1987, 1996); Cohen *et al.* (1997); van Tuinen *et al.* (2004); Banks, R.C. *et al.* (2006) and Livezey & Zusi (2007). Osteological research has found no basis for recognising two skua genera (Olson 1985b) and a range of other research lends weight to this view (e.g. Cohen *et al.* 1997, Andersson 1999b). This reflects many earlier publications, which placed all skuas in the genus *Stercorarius* (e.g. Cramp & Simmons 1983). Nevertheless, many mainstream works in the last 20 years have maintained *Catharacta* and *Stercorarius* as distinct genera. A key finding of recent work was that the pomarine skua is more closely related to *Catharacta* skuas than to *Stercorarius* skuas (Furness 1996; Cohen *et al.* 1997; Andersson 1999a,b). We have, accordingly, adopted the recommendation of Braun & Brumfield (1998) by placing the pomarine skua in a monotypic genus *Coprotheres* Reichenbach, 1850, thereby retaining *Catharacta* for the largest skuas and *Stercorarius* for the smallest skuas. The greater skuas are also known as bonxies, and the lesser skuas as jaegers.

### Genus *Stercorarius* Brisson

*Stercorarius* Brisson, 1760: *Ornithologie* 1: 56 – Type species (by tautonymy) *Stercorarius* Brisson = *Larus parasiticus* Linnaeus = *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Linnaeus).

*Lestris* Illiger, 1811: *Prodromus Syst. Mamm. Avium*: 272 – Type species (by subsequent designation) *Larus parasiticus* Linnaeus = *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Linnaeus).

### *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Linnaeus)

### Arctic Skua

*Larus parasiticus* Linnaeus, 1758: *Syst. Nat.*, 10th edition 1: 136 – Within Tropic of Cancer of Europe, America and Asia, restricted to coast of Sweden (*vide* Peters 1934, *Check-list Birds World* 2: 311).

*Larus crepidatus* Banks, 1773: in J. Cook's *Voy.*, *Hawkesworth's ed.* 2: 15 – Atlantic Ocean, 8° 25' N, 22° 4' W.

*Lestris parasiticus* (Linnaeus); Hutton 1871, *Cat. Birds N.Z.*: 40.

*Stercorarius crepidatus* (Banks); Buller 1888, *History of the Birds of N.Z.*, 2nd edition 2: 66.

*Catharacta parasitica* (Linnaeus); Mathews 1912, *Novit. Zool.* 18(3): 213.

*Stercorarius parasiticus visitori* Mathews, 1915: *Austral Avian Rec.* 2: 126 – Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

*Stercorarius parasiticus* (Linnaeus); Checklist Committee 1953, *Checklist N.Z. Birds*: 49.

Breeds in arctic and subarctic regions; migrates to the Southern Hemisphere, where it is in New Zealand waters mainly between Oct. and May (Falla 1936, Higgins & Davies 1996). In New Zealand it occurs from the Kermadec Islands south to Foveaux Strait and east to the Chatham Islands; sometimes in large gatherings, e.g. Kaipara Heads, c. 50 in Dec. 1955 (Higgins & Davies 1996) and 60+ in Apr. 1996 (Johnson 1997). One seen off the Antipodes Islands (Warham & Bell 1979).