

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Arctic skua: p 166.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Linnaeus 1758), Migrant
Summer 1897 Bay of Islands
29/8/1997 Norfolk Island

The supposed first specimen collected by Buller at Horowhenua on 30/4/1864 is almost certainly a Long-tailed Skua *S. longicaudus* (Melville 1985). Finsch (1875) also thought it might be *S. longicaudus*. "Arctic Skuas" were then recorded in February 1875; Wellington Harbour January 1877 and Cape Campbell November 1877 (Buller 1875 & 1878).

However, Melville (1985) says that these and many other records cannot be now identified or assessed. It appears that museum specimens may need to be traced to ascertain the first acceptable record. The earliest I have found so far are two specimens AWMM 95.2 & 95.3 from the Bay of Islands dated 1897 in the Auckland Museum (Falla 1936).