
A FIRST RECORD OF LONG-TAILED SKUAS IN THE LESSER SUNDAS

by P. Roseveare and T. Alien

Ringkasan

Disajikan catatan past! pertama untuk kehadiran jenis *Stercorarius longicaudus* di perairan Indonesian.

While travelling by boat from Komodo to Sumbawa at dawn on 15 September 1990, a large number of Long-tailed Skuas *Stercorarius longicaudus* was observed by the authors.

The birds were flying east, in the opposite direction to the boat. They were passing continuously for about 30 minutes. It was estimated that there were 200 birds, but there were probably considerably more than this. Clearly, a very substantial migratory movement was occurring.

The first author is familiar with all the European skuas but had previously encountered the Long-tailed only on their breeding grounds in Finnish Lapland. He had seen the Arctic Skua *S. parasiticus* much more frequently. The present skuas had the characteristic grey-brown upperparts, and the much more noticeable dark brown crown. The underparts were creamy white, extending forward to form a white collar separating the dark crown from the rest of the upperparts. The long tails were clearly seen with terminal tail feathers virtually the same length as the body. The pale wing mark at the junction of primary and secondary wing feathers was much less distinct than that of the Arctic Skua and the plumage much more 'clear cut'. There were of course no dark phase birds as would have been expected had these been Arctic Skuas. The flight is more buoyant and there were no acts of the sort of air piracy that one always sees in groups of Arctic Skuas.

The boat was well out to sea when the birds were seen and about three hours from its destination at Bima (Sumbawa). The birds would not have been visible from land.

Though probable Long-tailed Skuas have been reported from Bali (J.S. Ash, unpubl., D. Gibbs *in litt.*) and off West Java (van Balen, this issue), this is the first substantiated record of this species in Indonesian waters.

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