

Pomarine Skua

Knopstertroofmeeu

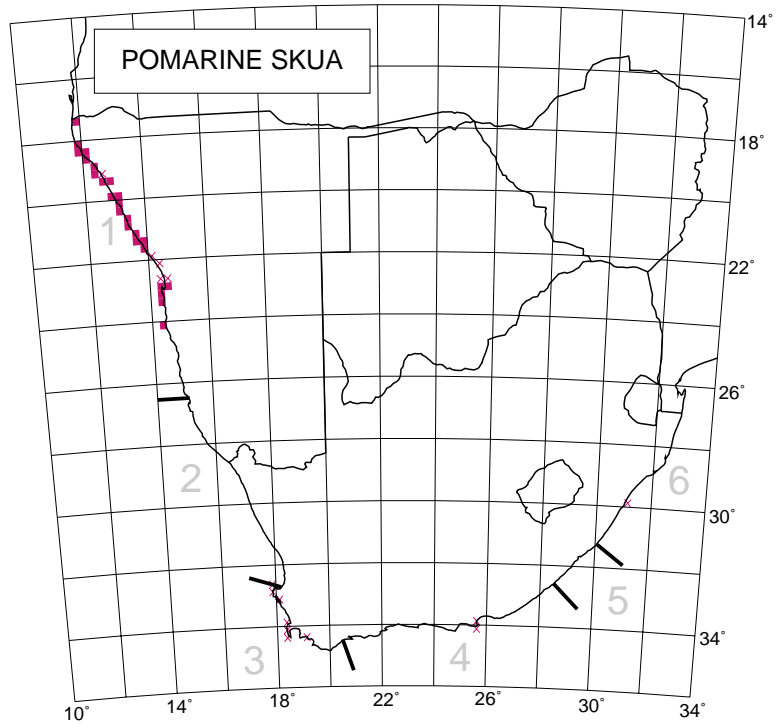
Stercorarius pomarinus

The Pomarine Skua is a fairly common non-breeding visitor to southern Africa. It has a circumpolar breeding distribution in the Holarctic tundra during the boreal summer. Non-breeding birds disperse throughout coastal waters in the southern hemisphere (Harrison 1983b). It is abundant off northern Namibia, uncommon farther south off the west coast, and rare off the east coast; there is only one record from Mozambique (Brooke *et al.* 1981).

It typically occurs inshore in coastal waters, kleptoparasitizing terns, gulls and gannets. It chases terns and other species over the surf zone, and occasionally over land. Most roost at sea, but some come ashore to roost, especially on the Skeleton Coast of Namibia (Ryan 1986). It is scarce out to the shelf edge, and rare in oceanic waters (Griffiths & Sinclair 1982). It attends trawlers, primarily off Namibia.

Most are present in summer (October–April), but some remain throughout the year (Ryan *et al.* 1984; Fraser & McMahon 1990). There are no recoveries of ringed birds to indicate their provenance.

P.G. Ryan



Recorded in 36 grid cells, 0.8%
 Total number of records: 102
 Mean reporting rate for range: 1.5%

