

# Arctic skua

*Stercorarius parasiticus*



Otago  
Regional  
Council



## Conservation status

Regional | Migrant  
National | Migrant



## Main threats

Disease

A bit about me...



**Length:**  
46–56 cm



**Weight:**  
330–610 g



Otago Distribution



Migratory range

## Range:

Inshore waters of mainland Aotearoa New Zealand from spring until autumn (less common further south). Breeds in the Arctic Circle before migrating to the Southern Hemisphere for the summer.



## Key Otago sites:

- Aramoana Mole

## New Zealand native

A stocky yet sleek seabird with several variable plumage morphs. The dark morph has entirely blackish-brown colouring, while the pale morph has a buff face and a white belly. Many birds are between the two, but all have a long, pointed tail and wings with white patches underneath. Active and graceful flight, often in pursuit of terns for their catch.

## Similar birds:



Southern black-backed  
gull / karoro (juvenile)



Subantarctic skua /  
hākoako