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SEASONAL ABUNDANCE, MARINE HABITATS AND BEHAVIOUR OF SKUAS OFF CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES

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Between April 1985 and March 1987, monthly cruises were made from Wollongong to approximately 66 km east. Using 20-minute censuses, the abundance of skuas was determined seasonally and in marine zones classified as inshore, offshore, neritic and pelagic. Regularly occurring species, listed in descending order of abundance, had the following zonal and seasonal distributions: Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*, most abundant, mainly offshore, November to May; Arctic Jaeger *S. parasiticus*, inshore, October to May; Long-tailed Jaeger *S. longicaudus*, offshore and pelagic, October to March; Great Skua *S. skua* (least abundant), offshore, May to September. South Polar Skuas *S. maccormicki* were not seen. Arctic Jaegers repeatedly parasitised Silver Gulls *Larus novaehollandiae*. Characteristics of behaviour are compared.