

- STRESEMANN, E. 1975. Ornithology from Aristotle to the Present. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- TRAVERS, W. T. L. 1873. Chatham Islands: avifauna and flora. Trans. NZ Inst. 5: 215.
- TURBOTT, E. G. 1940. A bird census on Taranga (The Hen). Emu 40: 158-161.
- TURBOTT, E. G. 1953. Notes on the occurrence of the Bellbird in north Auckland. Notornis 5: 175-8.
- TURBOTT, E. G. 1957. Native and introduced birds. In Science in New Zealand, the Handbook for the 1957 ANZAAS Conference. Wellington: Reed.
- TURBOTT, E. G. 1961. The interaction of native and introduced birds in New Zealand. Proc. NZ Ecol. Soc. 8: 62-6.
- TURBOTT, E. G. 1965. Birds of Auckland. In Kermode, L. O. ed. Science in Auckland. Handbook XI NZ Sci. Congr. Auckland: Roy. Soc. NZ.
- TURBOTT, E. G.; BUDDLE, G. A. 1948. Birds of the Three Kings Islands. Rec. Auck. Inst. Mus. 3: 319-336.
- TURBOTT, E. G.; BULL, P. C. 1954. A bird census and some recent observations on birds on Great Island, Three Kings Group. Rec. Auck. Inst. Mus. 4: 245-262.
- WARNER, R. E. 1968. The role of introduced diseases in the extinction of the endemic avifauna. Condor 70: 101-120.
- WARREN, R. L. M.; HARRISON, C. J. O. 1971. Type-specimens of Birds in the British Museum (Natural History). Vol. 2. Passerines. London: Trustees of the British Museum.
- WIENS, J. A. ed. 1982. Forum: avian subspecies in the 1980's. Auk 99: 593-615.
- ZIMMER, J. T. 1948. Letter. Science 108: 356.
- J. A. BARTLE, *National Museum of New Zealand, Private Bag, Wellington*;  
 P. M. SAGAR, *Fisheries Research Division, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries,*  
*P.O. Box 8324, Christchurch*

## SHORT NOTE

### Skuas mobbing Black-backed Gulls

On 24 January 1987 at Henderson Bay in the Far North, while beach patrolling in overcast, blustery conditions, we noticed a group of birds swirling in the air. The group of birds consisted of 23 juvenile and four adult Black-backed Gulls (*Larus dominicanus*) and 18 birds, which we later identified as skuas (*Stercorarius* sp.). The skuas were mobbing and chasing the gulls. Occasionally some of the gulls briefly chased a skua but stopped when chased by another skua. During the encounter a few of the skuas landed on the beach briefly, but most remained airborne. Several skuas also harried and chased a pair of Variable Oystercatchers (*Haematopus unicolor*) which were on the beach. After 15 minutes the gulls dispersed, and the skuas flew out to sea. The skuas were identified by the differences in flight, behaviour, and plumage, with juvenile Black-backed Gulls to compare with. The wings were more slender, and angled. The skuas were overall darker birds than the juvenile Black-backed Gulls. The skuas had a dark stripe above the eye. Observations were made in good light about 20 metres from the birds.

PETER AND SARA BROUWER, 3/91 Paice Avenue, Auckland 3;  
 BETTY BINNING, 7A Eastcliffe Road, Castor Bay, Auckland 9