

about the names, the groupings of the different populations, their affinities and their relationship to other gull-like birds. Some of these problems are now being confronted using both classical techniques (plumage, body form, dimensions) and molecular biology, and skuas are proving a more interesting group than even the most pessimistic observers recognised. The recent paper by 16 biologists, evolutionary and population geneticists, parasitologists, and molecular biologists has raised more problems than it solved (Cohen *et al.* 1997). It concludes with an unusual reference by Conan Doyle: "It has been said that...when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however, improbable, must be the truth! and with the despairing "Further work on the evolution of the Stercorariidae is desirable".

All of this is a bit unfortunate for current guides attempting to place the skuas in some sort of order. Especially one that wants to provide certainty in identification of birds seen at sea, during migration, as vagrants, or one like this one that wants to gain acceptance for its nomenclature. A guide that can do all this is still some years into the future.

What this book should give for readers is assured recognition of a range of skua taxa identifiable with a breeding locality - whatever they are later to be called. At present the only certainty for great skuas is association with breeding place. For example, the skuas breeding on the Chatham Islands are pretty safely recognised as - "the big brown skua (great skua) that breeds on the Chatham Islands". But what this skua should be called, and how it is related to other Southern Hemisphere brown skuas that occupy all the islands of the Southern Ocean, is currently a matter of taste, and uncertainty.

This book is a guide to the skuas, to their identification, as an aid to sorting out the problems of juvenile, immature and adult plumages, and for the jaegers especially, recognition of several colour morphs. The first section, about a third of the book, is an introductory account, an overview of the taxonomy and breeding, and includes a section of skuas and man. All of this is of interest and is very current, bringing up to date in summary form Bob Furness' account (Furness 1987). But as noted above, the taxonomic section needs to be received cautiously, although in fairness to the authors they have very fairly outlined the difficulties that exist here and are clearly very familiar with and appreciate the recent genetical studies bearing on the taxonomy. The second section comprises a specie-by-species account including valuable documentation of geographical variation and clear maps of breeding, migratory and vagrant ranges. This is the first comprehensive account of the species ranges, and considerably extends the information available to Furness.

The coloured illustrations by Hans Larsson are quite exceptionally good, capturing not only the colouring and plumage patten of the various forms, but also the general appearance. He has portrayed the bored, short-neck posture of a sleepy skua perfectly. there are 13 of these plates, and they are one of the great attractions of the work. It is worth buying the book for these alone.

So how good, how useful, how successful? As a modern account of the skuas, this is an excellent buy. It is up to date, informative and accurate. As a guide to

helping identify birds in the hand - excellent. As a guide to identifying birds at sea, I have some reservations. I would have liked a more comparative approach, especially more on relative size, even in relation to other common species in each area - say, to some of the gulls, and in the illustrations, comment and labelling of critical features of identity. Jaegers away from the breeding ground with loss of breeding plumage are always going to be a challenge. Especially seen at a distance in poor light.

LITERATURE CITED

- COHEN, B.L. *et al.* 1997. Enigmatic phylogeny of skuas (Aves: Stercorariidae) Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B 264: 181-190.
- FURNESS, R.W. 1987. The skuas. Poyser, Calton.

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If a computer has a fault, it is more economical to throw it away and buy another than to mend it. 2_ This trend isn't confined to computers either. Germany, Europe's richest nation, discards 1,5 million tons of electrical appliances every day. Only about 100,000 units are recycled. The manufacturer Loewe has developed a green TV which contains just 39 grams of plastic as opposed to the standard 6.7 kilos and 50 grams of toxic materials against 5 kilos. It is expected to last up to 30 years, twice as long as other TVs. Companies like this are showing the way forward, and it is to be hoped that the others will soon follow. TASK 2. Read the text again and decide whether the following statements (6-10) agree with the information in the text? Mark them I can't remember who you said had won. say. Who did you say was the winner? Despite the _ (suggest) by many critics that reality TV would be a very short-lived phenomenon, it is still increasing in _ (popular). suggestion, popularity. Several reality shows are _ (current) watched by millions of viewers each night, and it's clearly a form of _ (entertain) that's here to stay. currently, entertainment. Indeed, a number of people have become _ (fame) because of their _ (involve) in reality TV shows, and have gone on to have successful careers as singer, _ (act) or TV presenters. A. more hard C. hardest B. harder D. hard 16. Rebecca and Ted aren't here right now; they have gone to the movies. A. have been C. had gone B. had been D. have gone 17. Most of the book is about scientific discovery through the ages - for example, how we have developed from travelling everywhere by foot or horse to the invention of the motor car. It even goes on to discuss how we might travel in the future, as we explore other planets. The detailed information along with the realistic pictures in this book tells you all about everyday life in the 15th century. It contains instructions for making clothes and even recipes from that period for you to try at home! TEXT 1. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR in our lives today. I. Warm-up activities. 1.1. Pronounce the following words properly and state the part of speech We cannot deny that information technology has become the most significant part of our daily lives and it has taken human life to whole new and an intellectual level. Furthermore, it has opened infinite routes of receiving information anytime anyplace allowing us to live a much qualified and informed life. III. Comprehension check. 3.1. Answer the following questions: 1. What does the term «Information Technology» mean? 2. What industries are associated with information technology? SMOKE Though easy to spot, when allowed to plume, It is hard to see, When held in a room. EYES Be you ever so quick, With vision keen, By your eyes, We are. BOOK It is a journey whose path depends, on another's vision of where it ends. BLADE Blessed are the first. Though not a beast, has spine. Though many wouldn't need this thing, 'Tis more valuable than wine. PLOW Four legs in front, two behind. Its steely armor scratched and dented by rocks and sticks.