

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD X**Species:** Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)**Date:** 10-14 Sept. 1995 **Number seen:** one**Sex:** ?**Plumage:** Def. Alternate**Elevation:** 5000'**Locality:** Barr Lake**County:** Adams**Nearest town:** Brighton**Time observed:** about 10:00 MDT on first day; various times throughout day on various days**Duration of observation:** about 10 minutes on first observation; various lengths on various days; a total of about three hours over four days

Description: I arrived at CBO's banding station on the AM of the 10th to be greeted by Scott Hutchings (my assistant) who said that there was a jaeger on the lake. I thought, "Oh, great, I slept in this morning for the first time in a long time and I miss my first chance at a jaeger in CO!" The bird had been found by Dick Pratt on the DFO's Fall Bird Count and Dick thought that it was a Long-tailed. I grabbed my camera and scope and Scott and I headed out to look for the thing. We were just getting to the lake shore when a brownish larid flew across our path. I said, "Well, that's certainly a jaeger." The bird then landed on the shore some 200 feet from us. We studied it in my scope and, after it flew off, I said that I thought that it was a Long-tailed. Eventually the entire DFO contingent and I got a couple good views of the bird standing and in-flight and over the course of many attempts, I got good to excellent photos of the bird (some enclosed).

The long, thin wings, very long central rectrices, the overall brownish upperparts and whitish chest immediately identified this bird as a jaeger. The crown was blackish with that color extending down the front of the face (to enclose the eyes) to the chin. In some lights and at particular angles, I could just discern a slight yellow cast to the auriculars. Otherwise, the rest of the face, throat, and breast were white. The upperparts were a smooth gray-brown with this color extending onto the wings (all secondary covert tracts). The belly was very nearly the same color as the back and this color extended well up the underparts to include the feathers around the legs; half the underparts were this brownish gray. The upper surface of the wing was two-toned with the primaries and primary coverts nearly black, contrasting with the secondary coverts. The secondaries were also very dark and also contrasted with the color of the secondary coverts. The outermost two primaries had whitish shafts. The rest of the primaries' shafts were not white. The tail was mostly dark, with the two central rectrices extending well past the tail tip to a length at least as far as the length of the other rectrices. The eyes were dark and the bill was dark with a bluish base. The bill appeared rather deep and short.

Similar species eliminated: Both other jaeger species are much warmer brown in Definitive Alternate (and in most other plumages) than this bird was. The color and pattern of the back and wings effectively eliminate both other jaeger species. Other field marks noted that point to Long-tailed and away from Pomarine and Parasitic are the shape and pattern of the bill, the number of white primary shafts, the belly coloration and the extent of that color, and the length of the central rectrices.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species? I have seen at least 30 Long-tailed Jaegers, in excess of 60 Parasitic Jaegers, and 100s of Pomarine Jaegers. No other species can really be considered when looking at an adult jaeger, at least light morphs. Jaegers are one of my very favorite groups of birds (my screen name is "jaegers") combining characteristics of two of my other favorite groups: seabirds and raptors.

Light conditions: various conditions over the four days on which I saw it (I did not see it on 11 Sept.)

Optical equipment used: Zeiss 7x42 and Kowa 30x

Distance, and how estimated: estimated closest approach of about 40 feet

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Scott Hutchings, Bob Righter, Dick Schottler, Karleen Schofield, Dick Pratt, Richard Bunn, Bill Maynard, Susan Craig, Mindy Hetrick, Chuck Aid, Nelda Gamble, and some others

Other observers who saw the bird independently: Joe Roller, Joe TenBrink, Jack Reddall, Hugh & Urling Kingery

If photographed, type of equipment and film: I photographed the bird many times with a couple frames enclosed (Nikon with Fujichrome)

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none **b) after observation:** none

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering

Signature: 

Address: Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Piccadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: 19 September 1995 from notes written within a few hours of the sighting; original description lost but refound in late 1996, therefore this tardy submission

22-95-35

29-5
and
29-6

orig. vote 5-2
Recie 5-2

Sped from TL recd 323-978
add
for this

Bob Righter
2358 So. Fillmore
Denver, Colorado 80210-5502

Sept 15-8

September 10, 1995

To: The Colorado Bird Record Committee

To Whom This May Concern:

Sept. 10th. 1995 while on the fall count lead by Dick Schottler, at 11:40am., standing on the east side of Barr Lake State Park, Adams Co., Colorado, we saw Tony Leukering of the Colorado Bird Observatory about a quarter of a mile away, frantically jumping up and down trying to gravitate our attention toward the west. Standing and facing us at 45 degree angle we all saw a jaeger through our scopes. The field marks that caught my immediate attention was an all white breast, a thin dark/black cap, unders that showed a shadowy gray wash from the rear of the bird to the tarus region. When the jaeger sat down on a sandy part of an island, we walked closer till we were about 50 yards away. A long thin tail feather, finely pointed, proturded from the rear of the jaeger. While the jaeger was still sitting, the back appeared very dark black-gray. I thought to myself the color tone is reminiscent of the back color of a Mississippi Kite. The cap was solid black, not pale towards the bill. The lower line of the cap came to just the base of the lower mandible and angled back towards the nape. The bill was solidly black, small, parallel sided with no discernible gonydeal angle. The face below the black cap showed a pale yellow wash that continued to the rear of the neck. The breast/belly was all white too about the tarsus. There was no dusky markings at side of breast; just a sharp demarcation of dark wing to white side of breast. The tail feather was long and on the drawing I tried to give the actual proportion. I did not observe the jaeger in flight. Tony leukering did and related to us that he observed the contrast of lighter upperwing coverts with darker flight feathers. Tony said he took photos and hopeful they will substantiate this upper wing contrast. All the field marks we observed convinced us we were fortunate to be sharing the same space with a jaeger that was suggestive of a Long-tailed. Other observers present, aside from Dick Schottler and Tony Leukering, that I can remembert were: Bob Spencer, Karleen Schofield, George Armbrust and Dick Pratt. There were two birders from Colorado Springs but unfortunately I can't recall their names.

This report is intended to supplement forthcoming documentation, principally from Tony Leukering.

Same as 22-95-35 2.
1st at Barr Lake Sept 10, 1995

22-95-35 22-96-20 (d) 11

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Accepted 6-1

SUPPORTING DETAILS: UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES/HIGH NUMBERS

CBC Name _____ Date _____ Compiler _____
Observer writing this account & date Ric Olson 3-1-96 FROM FIELD NOTES to 9/4
9/6

SPECIES Long Tailed Jaeger NUMBER, AGE, SEX one/ADULT
Distance from bird(s) 100 yds/75 yds Relative size of bird MEDIUM LARGE

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line, etc.) BLACK CROWN, Forehead to MANDIBLE EXTENDING BACK BELOW EYE
INTO THE NAPE REGION

EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color, etc.) BLACK

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES BLACK

LEGS & FEET NOT SEEN

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail covers, etc.) 1/2 NAPE
AND NECK - WHITE, BACK THROUGH RUMP SLATEY BLACK, TAIL - WEDGED
SHAPED WITH TWO LONG CENTRAL FEATHERS (APPROX 2X TAIL LENGTH)

UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum, etc.)

THROAT, BREAST, 1/2 belly - WHITE

FLANKS, 1/2 belly - TURNING GRAY TO SLATEY BLACK THE FURTHER POSTERIOR

RECTRICES (Describe inner, middle, outer tail feathers, color pattern, shape, etc.) WEDGED SHAPED TAIL of uniform color, TWO LONG CENTRAL FEATHERS

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading & trailing edges, etc.) Fairly uniform gray black color UPPER AND LOWER -
WINGS LONG AND NARROW held RATHER STIFF WHILE FLYING

VOCALIZATION NONE

BEHAVIOR 9/4/95 - SEEN BATHING IN 1-2" OF WATER, FLYING SHORT DISTANCES ALONE
9/6/95 - FOUND SITTING/STANDING ON SHORE APPROX 10-20 FT FROM WATER; ALONE, ISOLATED FROM NUMEROUS FRANKLIN GULLS

9-4-95 10-10:30 A CALM/HOT

Date of observation 9-6-95 Time 7:30-8:30 A Weather CALM/HOT Sky CLEAR

Duration of observation 1/2 hr/1/2 hr Bird - Sun orientation SUN ON OBSERVER'S BACK

Exact location 9-4 SW corner Milton Res 9-6 SE corner Milton Res

Habitat SANDY Shore/1/20 Other observers NONE

Optical equipment 2 less 10x40, Kowa TSN4

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TRIED to GET PICTURES ON 9-6 however I had EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS. I believe this is the same bird SEEN ON BARR LAKE

9-10-95 - 9-14-95

AN ACCOMPANYING SKETCH OR PHOTOGRAPH CAN BE MOST HELPFUL

NOTE: Preparation of this form is to be done from notes taken in the field at the time of or immediately after observation. Copying information from standard field guides is not appropriate or acceptable.