

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY)

SPECIES: LONG-TAILED JAEGER
(Common Name)STERcorarius longicaudus
(Scientific Name)DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION: AUGUST 26, 2001NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: UNKNOWN PLUMAGE: SUMMEREXACT LOCATION: STANLEY LAKECOUNTY: JEFFERSON NEAREST TOWN: WESTMINSTER ELEVATION: 5200'LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 45 MINS TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 9-10 am

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO SAW THE BIRD(S) WITH YOU:

RACIETZ KOROKOFF, BICK SCHOTTLER

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):

LARRY DEMO ET AL

LIGHT CONDITIONS (QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION):

SUN BEHIND OBSERVERS

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

20-60X TELESCOPE + 10X BINOCULARS

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): 100 YDS - 1/4 MILEWAS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? YES IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? NOWHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? RACIETZ KOROKOFF

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

SITTING ON AND FLYING OVER STANLEY LAKE.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

DID NOT SEE THIS BIRD CHASE ANY GULLS; IT EITHER

SAT ON THE WATER OR WAS FLYING AROUND THE LAKE.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE THE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S). DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. (FILL OUT THIS PORTION EVEN IF PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SUBMITTED; YOU MAY ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, FIELD SKETCHES OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES):

THE BIRD WAS ABOUT THE SIZE OF NEARBY RING-BILLED GULLS, ALTHOUGH THE 2 ELONGATED TAIL FEATHERS MADE IT APPEAR MUCH LONGER. DARK BROWN CAP, HEAD AND BILL, UNIFORMLY BROWN ABOVE, EXCEPT FOR THE WHITE BASES TO THE OUTER 2 PRIMARIES, UNIFORMLY DARK UNDERWINGS, THROAT, SIDES OF NECK AND BELLY MOSTLY WHITE, BUT SLIGHTLY DIFFUSED OFF-YELLOW COLOR AND INDISTINCT DARKER SMUDGE ON THE BREAST. SQUARISH, ALL DARK TAIL EXCEPT FOR THE 2 CENTRAL TAIL FEATHERS WHICH EXTENDED ABOUT 5" BEYOND

DESCRIBE BIRD'S CALL OR SONG: THE REST OF THE TAIL. THE EYE WAS DARK.

NONE GIVEN

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

THE TAIL DISTINGUISHES THIS BIRD FROM PARASITIC & POMARINE JAEGERS. THE BIRD'S BODY WAS ALSO SMALLER THAN THESE SPECIES, AND THE BASE OF THE PRIMARIES PATTERN IS ALSO DIFFERENT. NO BREAST BAND.

OBVIOUSLY MUCH SMALLER THAN ALL SKUAS.
WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

HAVE SEEN L-T JAEGER ABOUT 10 TIMES, OTHER JAEGERS MORE OFTEN.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

NONE CONSULTED.

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING OR AFTER ✓ OBSERVATION,
OR LATER FROM MEMORY .

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: 8/27/01
REPORTING OBSERVER: PETER R. GENT SIGNATURE: Peter R. Gent
OBSERVER ADDRESS:
55 S. 35th St
BOULDER,
CO 80305.

SEND REPORT TO:

COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
c/o BILL LISOWSKY
2919 SILVERPLUME DR.
FT. COLLINS, CO 80526

Rec'd 1/10/02 (B)

Long-tailed Jaeger (LTJA) light morph

Stercorarius longicaudus

August 27, 2001 (originally reported to RBA on earlier date; observer ?)

(1) adult (near adult?) in alternate plumage sex ?

Location: Standley Lake Westminster Jefferson County

Observation: 0755-0930 full sun, calm; all sides of gull visible good light.
distance 50 yds to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile
with Mona and Dean Hill, Chuck Walters from south/southwest shore, looking north.

Equip. - Swarovski 8x56 bino, Kowa scope

no photo

Habitat/behavior: large, man-made reservoir on edge of residential area, shoreline sparsely vegetated on 3 sides, more trees/prairie to the west. LTJA seen patrolling shoreline, over reservoir, dipping to water's surface occasionally, resting/preening on the water at times. No predatory/harassing behavior observed. Buoyant, light, steady flight strokes.

NO VOCALIZATION

Description: shape/size - sleek gull shape, medium size. Body not especially robust; no other gulls nearby for comparison. Silhouette showed long, pointed wings, with narrow dimensions on fairly broad base, "hand" elegantly tapered.

Head: broad, solid black crown (cap) from base of bill to upper border of nape, encompassing dark eye; neat edges on cap. Black cap contrasted with gray mantle; bill black, short somewhat stout, no obvious gonydeal angle. Cheek whitish/buff/yellowish tinge. Full sun washed out any stronger shades. Chin, throat white, bordered by light yellowish upper breast. Nape unmarked white.

Upperparts: Entire mantle (back, scapulars, secondary coverts) through tail feathers (rectrices) same shade of medium to dark gray contrasting with black primaries, p. coverts secondaries and outer rectrices. (2) central rectrices = same color; very long streamers pointed and slender. At least P10 and P 9 displayed white shafts on wings.Underparts: Pale breast with yellowish flush; no dark breast band. Belly through under-tail coverts medium gray, only slightly lighter than uppers. This shaded area appeared to extend into the low breast, moreso than I remember on another close view at Barr Lake 9/95, also an adult LTJA. Wing linings, axillaries mostly gray with black accents, not an obvious pattern. Base of primaries only slightly paler than rest of underwing (seen briefly during a wing stretch, while preening, as well as in flight), not the eye-catching white base of the other jaegers. Secondaries and tips of primaries darker than lining. Legs - dusky.

Similar species: next page

Similar species:

Parasitic Jaeger (adult light morph, alternate plumage):

- darker uppers, displays dramatic "flash" of white at base of primaries on underwing. Upper wing shows 3-5 white primary shafts, less contrast between remiges and mantle.
- shows less contrast between cap and mantle than in LTJA.
- shorter central rectrices.
- thinner bill; has dark breast band or partial band.

Pomarine Jaeger (see PAJA above):

- has bulkier body, noticeably darker uppers with less contrast between mantle and remiges (primaries and secondaries).
- shows white "flash" on underwing primaries plus white base on underprimary greater coverts, which forms a pale crescent accentuated by very dark wing linings. This crescent absent in LTJA. Upperwing shows 4-6 white shafted primaries.
- has dark breast band; heavier, bicolored bill; and little contrast between color of crown and mantle.
- has broad, twisted, rounded central rectrices.

Prior experience: have seen all 3 jaegers in Colorado, including adult alternate LTJA, and on several trips to Alaska and California in the past 6 years.

Referred to National Geo., Sibley, and Harrison: Seabirds to review similar species, as well as compare my observations with LTJA text.

Report written from notes made during observation.

Karleen Schofield Karleen Schofield Date Sept. 3/01
33 Yates St.
Denver, CO. 80219
303-936-8661

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #:

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name) **Long-tailed Jaeger** (Scientific Name) **Stercorarius longicaudus**Date(s) of occurrence: **08/26/01**Number of birds seen: **One** Sex: Plumage: **Adult**Exact location: **Standley Lake**County: **Jefferson** Nearest town: **Westminster** Elevation: **Approx. 5300 ft.**Length of observation: **15 minutes** Time(s) of observation:Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **MOB**Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): **MOB**Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position): **Clear, calm.**Optical equipment used: **Leica 8 X 42 binocs and Swarovski Scope with 20-60 zoom**Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): **Overhead**Was (were) bird(s) photographed? **Yes** If so, are you submitting photos? **Yes**Who took the photograph(s)? **Andrew Spencer**Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: **Open lake**Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: **Sitting on the water, preening and flying over the lake.**

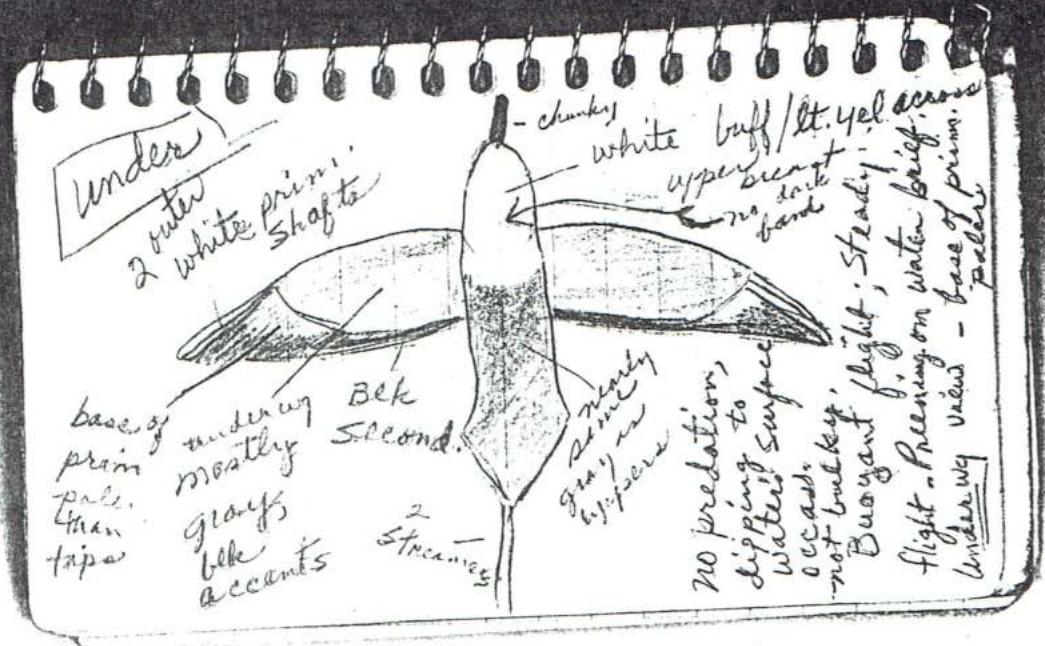
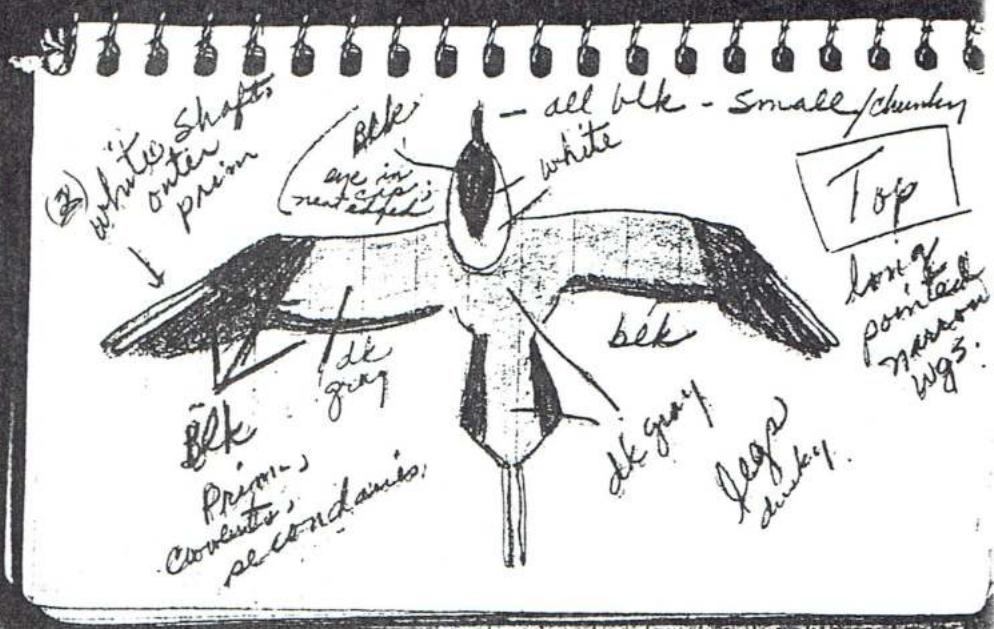
DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Features to include are the color(s) and/or patterns of the head, eyes, bill, back, folded wings, open wings, tail, chin, throat, breast, sides, flanks, belly, vent, and legs. Also, please include, where possible, shape of the whole bird, of the wings – folded or open, of the bill, and of the tail. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. We welcome attachments of additional sheets of description, drawings, field sketches, or copies of field notes. **Please see photo.**

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted:

SIMILAR SPECIES – This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: **Could not be any other species.**What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **I have seen several of all the jaegers.**

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

NoneThis report was made from (check one) notes made during observation notes made after observation later from memory.Date and time of written report: **03/09/02**Reporting observer: **Rachel Hopper** Signature: *Rachel Hopper*Reporting observer's address: **1721 Cottonwood Pt. Dr.**City: **Ft. Collins** State: **CO** Zip: **80524****Send report to:****Colorado Bird Records Committee****Tony Leukering****PO Box 660****Brighton, CO 80601**



Long-tailed Jaeger
August 27/2001

K. Schofield

2001-143



Long-tailed Jaeger, 2nd (or 3rd?) Alternate, Standley Lake, Jefferson Co., CO, 25-27 August 2001
Found by Larry Semo
Upper photograph by Andrew Spencer; all others by Christopher L. Wood



Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name): Long-tailed Jaeger		(Scientific Name) Stercorarius longicaudus	
Date(s) of occurrence: August 25 & 26, 2001			
Number of birds seen: One	Sex: Unknown	Plumage: Believed 3rd Alternate	
Exact Location: Standley Lake			
County: Jefferson	Nearest town: Arvada/Westminster		Elevation: XX msl
Length of observation: Varied depending upon day of observation. Maximum length of observation on any given occasion was perhaps one hour.		Time(s) of observation: The first observation was perhaps around 10 AM. I also observed the bird later the same day toward evening as well as the following morning.	

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **None during the initial sighting. I did observe the bird with other birders later that day and on subsequent days. Those I remember seeing it included Chris Wood and Doug Faulkner.**

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): **Many**

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position): **Always good. Bird was viewed to north or west of myself with sun to east or overhead.**

Optical equipment used: **7x42 Zeiss Bins, 20x60 Leica Televid Spotting Scope**

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): **Varied. Closest distance was perhaps 100 feet.**

Was bird(s) photographed? Yes, SLR with 500mm Lens	If so, have you submitted photos? Yes
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Who took the photographs? **Myself**

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: **Open water reservoir**

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): **The bird was mainly viewed foraging over the lake by flying back and forth along the south shore of the reservoir. It sometimes would rest by alighting on the water and swim/loaf.**

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

The doldrums of summer and the lack of extensive bird migration had caused my birding activity to languish. The morning of 25 August certainly was indicative of that as I had opted to take my dogs for a walk along the shore of Standley Lake. Since I live near Standley Lake, I bird it quite frequently. A general lack of birds and the incessant waterski boats and jet ski activity on the lake during that time of year resulted in me not even taking my binoculars with me. Starting at the southeast corner of the lake, the dogs and I hiked the southern shore of the reservoir to the southwestern corner and then turned back eastward towards the vehicle. We stopped for a rest on a park bench overlooking the lake. As I stared out across the water, I noticed a bird that quickly drew my attention. It was a gull-shaped bird with a long tail and tern-like flight. I hustled the dogs closer to the lake for a better view. The bird flew leisurely by and I instantly recognized the bird as a Long-tailed Jaeger.

I watched the bird for perhaps 10 minutes without binoculars. The bird concentrated its' activity along the south shore as it purposefully flew from the southeastern shore of the lake to the southwestern shore and then reversed its course. It would occasionally fly (almost flutter) down to the water, rest on the water for a few moments, and then take off again, resuming its' course. On at least one occasion, it did wander towards the center of the lake, only to return back to the southern shore.

Knowing full well what I was seeing, the dogs and I hurried back to the vehicle to go home and get optics, camera equipment, and pass the word out to other birders. I was able to return back to the southern shore of the reservoir in roughly 30 minutes. Fortunately, the jaeger was still present and I was able to get a few diagnostic photographs.

With the benefit of optics, I was able to see key traits. Barring the long central rectrices, the body size seemed slightly smaller than a Ring-billed Gull and possibly similar in size between that of a Franklin's or Laughing Gull. The bill was short and mostly dark with no gonydeal angle. There was a dark head cap that extended from the lores posteriorly through the eye (dipping slightly below the eye) to the rear head, completely covering the crown. The face, neck, and throat were a light cream color that blended to a whiter belly, except that a smudgy, diffuse dark band partially enwrapped the breast. There was also some noticeable dark smudginess along the flanks. The undertail pattern was difficult to discern because of the incessant flight of the bird and the shadiness associated with that region. All views I had suggested that the undertail coverts were a muddy brown. The upperparts were also a muddy grayish-brown with little contrast throughout, except on the wings. In flight, the upper surface of the pointed wings were wholly two-toned, with the inner wing the same gray-brown as the mantle and the outer wing contrastingly blackish. From above, the approximately two outer primaries had conspicuous whitish shafts. From below, the wings a dark gray-brown, though the primaries seemed a bit lighter. The uppertail coverts and inner rectrices were also the same gray-brown coloration as the mantle and contrasted with darker outer rectrices. Obvious were the pointed central rectrices, which were considerably elongated to a length almost one-half the total length of the body.

Because of the mottled plumage on the upper breast and tail length seemingly not quite as long as on a full adult, I suspect the jaeger may have been a 3rd-year bird.

The flight style of this Long-tailed Jaeger was quite disparate from that of other jaegers. Other Sterco's have a more powerful flight, falcon-like to some respect. This bird's flight style was floppy and buoyant, similar to that of a small tern.

Describe bird's call or song: **None heard**

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: **The combination of small size, flight style, plumage characteristics (especially the limited extent of white outer shafts to the primaries), and very long central rectrices eliminated all other Stercorarius.**

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **I have observed other birds in Alaska and one other bird in Colorado, a juvenile present at Jackson Reservoir, Morgan, in September 2000.**

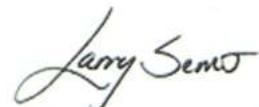
List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): **None**

This report is from notes made during or after **XX** observation or later from memory

Date of written report: **12/07/01**

Reporting observer: **Larry Semo**

Signature:



Reporting Observer's Address: **9054 Dover Street**

City: **Westminster**

State: **Colorado**

Zip: **80021**

Send report to:
Colorado Birds Record Committee
c/o Tony Leukering
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

