

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

A

Species: Parasitic Jaeger ; Stercorarius parasiticus
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 6 Sept 1985 Time Bird Seen: approx: 3 pm to 3:30 pm

Locality : Jumbo Reservoir

Crook, Logan county, Colo.

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binoc; Bushnell 20x scope.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: juv. Plumage: dark morph

Light conditions: High, bright sun; several angles

Distance from bird, and how measured: 1500 yds when 1st seen; as close as 100 yds. later Estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Soared high in air; also dropped close to water's surface. High, direct flight. Then flying over to gulls; closely following gulls' every movement in flight, nearly touching the gull as it turned to escape harassment. Also landed on water's surface.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Open plains reservoir.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address): Dan Budger, Aurora Colorado

Signature

APPENDIX II Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field. About 18" long, 36" wing span (approx. size of Ring-billed Gull). In shape, were falcon-like, long & slender, not wide at base. Tail slightly wedge-shaped with central tail feathers about 1/2" longer than rest of tail. Bird was overall fairly slender and falcon-like. Base of primaries was white, giving a white spot to each wing in an otherwise dark bird. Body was dark brown with a slight rufous wash. The color appeared even and was not strongly barred anywhere. Whole body was the color as well as wings - only spot of color was ~~as~~ white on distal wing. Flight was direct and light, with frequent bouts of soaring and wheeling. Would soar very high and then dive down to surface. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: None

List similar species and how you eliminated them: Is jaeger by dark color & light wing spots. Skua would be very much heavier & bigger. Juv. Pom. Jaeger heavier, broader wings, steadier flapping, less soaring. Juv. Long-tailed Jaeger less piratical, flight not as direct, nor falcon-like; Plumage more barred.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have only seen Pom. Jaeger in Calif. & Florida. No experience with other jaegers.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after observation; from memory _____.

Name (print) : MARK JANOS

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Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

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