

Species: POMARINE JAEGER  
(Vernacular Name)Stercorarius pomarinus  
(Scientific Name-use binomial)Date(s): October 5, 1975 Time Bird Seen: 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM  
Locality: Cherry Creek Recreation Area  
Nearest Town: Denver County: Arapahoe

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME ADDRESS TELEPHONE  
Jack Reddall  
John and Joyce Cooper  
Bill Lybarger a number of others also saw itOptical Equipment: 7 X 50 binoculars, 15-60 X B & L telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: various, from backlit to full sun shining on bird from behind observerDistance from bird (how measured): From shore, a minimum 1500 ft., from boat, min. 20 feetNumber of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Immature, dark phase

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Spent much of its time sitting on the lake toward the middle, regularly flying around, either very low over the water or sometime high over the lake, frequently engaged in rapid, but usually fairly short chases of gulls. When sitting on the water, it bathed several times and once completely submerged and then emerged with a fish. Flight was rapid, but wingbeats rather slow and heavy. Appeared to have considerable difficulty in taking off from the surface of the water. Not at all shy of people or boats.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

A large, dark, heavy jaeger. Head large, neck quite thick. Head, neck, breast, belly and back dark tan-brown, with some darker mottling on breast and belly. When wings were folded, wing coverts appeared dark tan-brown with buffy feather edging, the flight feathers darker (almost black) with thin pale edgings. Underside of wing coverts dark brown and mottled, underside of flight feathers somewhat paler brown, barred with darker brown color. In flight, white primary quills produced a conspicuous white flash at the base of the primaries (visible both above and below). Undertail coverts white, heavily marked with short, thick, blackish bars which extended onto the flanks and part way onto the belly. Tail fairly short, broad, rounded, lacking extended middle rectrices.

Posterior half of tail blackish and mottled, anterior (basal half) white with some dark barring. Feet fairly short, webbed, grayish. Eye black. Bill moderately long, quite heavy (near size of Herring Gull bill), silvery-gray with black tip. Wings quite long, sharply pointed. Much larger and longer than a Franklin's Gull, noticeably longer in body size than a Ring-billed Gull. Body size about same as a California Gull (compared directly in flight), but body much heavier. Head and neck quite thick.

→ Bill Lybarger and I several times approached the bird in a small motorboat to about 50 feet before we turned off the motor, then drifted or rowed closer to the bird, succeeding in getting within 35 feet and once within 20 feet of the bird as it sat on the water. At this distance it showed absolutely no fear whatsoever. Once after it took off, it came even closer and briefly circled above us. The bird flew large like a large falcon, with deliberate, heavy wingbeats and often glided in between beats.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

No calls heard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Large recreation reservoir, heavily used by fishermen and boaters.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Very dark appearance, piratic behavior, more falcon-like flight and white flash in primaries eliminates all species except other jaegers.  
Long-tailed and Parasitic Jaegers are both eliminated by the fact that both are smaller, less bulky birds (near size of a Ring-billed Gull). Both have thinner, less heavy bills (near size of Ring-billed Gull's bill rather than near size of Herring bill). Both have swifter, less ponderous and heavy flight. This bird just too large and heavy to be any jaeger but Pomarine. Skua is even heavier, with a large bill, golden color on head and nape (adult), body shape, wing shape and manner of flight more like a falcon.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Have only seen one jaeger previously (a Parasitic, at CCRA December 17, 1973).

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

What little the field guides say about manner of flight, body size and proportions and bill size confirmed the identification.

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

PRINT NAME: Robert Andrews SIGNATURE: DATE: Oct 7, 1975

Street Address: 1390 South Ivy Way Town and State: Denver, Colorado ZIP: 80224

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: POMARINE JAEGER

*Stercorarius pomarinus*

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): October 5, 1975

Time Bird Seen: 8:30 A.M.

to 11:00 A.M. MDT

Locality: Cherry Creek Reservoir

Nearest Town: Englewood

County: Arapahoe

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Robert Andrews - 1390 South Ivy Way, Denver, Colorado 80222		
John Cooper - 1041 Field Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215		

Optical Equipment: 10X50 Bushnell Binoculars; 15X-60X Zoom Telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Clear, bright; air still

Distance from bird (how measured): Various from 300 - 500 yards

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Immature

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

For the most part the bird was observed resting on the water. Occasionally it would engage in short-lived chases with small flocks of gulls that came nearby. When in flight its progress was fairly rapid, but the wingbeats were quite slow and heavy as compared to the easy, swift beats of the Parasitic Jaeger.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

A large, rather ponderous dark brown Jaeger. Due to distance definitive marks could not be discerned regarding feathering, etc. However, the head was large, with a thick, heavy beak. The neck was thick. The beak appeared light at the base with a dark tip. The wings were long and pointed and when in flight the primaries produced a pronounced flash of whitish typical of skuas and jaegers. The tail was short and rounded without evidence of extended middle tail feathers.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

None heard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Fresh water reservoir on high plains.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

An obvious jaeger. Identification based on large, bulky body size, large bill and heavy, labored wing beats. Parasitic Jaegers I have seen are more streamlined and exhibit smoother and more rapid wing beats and are much more agile when engaged in chasing gulls and terns. I have never seen a Long-tailed Jaeger, but from what is depicted in the popular field guides, the immature is considerably smaller and quite difference in appearance.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Have seen the Pomarine Jaeger on three occasions in Colorado and the Parasitic Jaeger twice.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Birds of North America, Robbins, Bruun, Zim and Singer  
Field Guide to Western Birds, Peterson

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

PRINT NAME: Jack Reddall SIGNATURE: Jack Reddall DATE: 10-8-1975  
Street Address: 4450 South Alton Street Town and State: Englewood, Colorado ZIP: 80110

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: POMARINE JAEGER

Stercorarius pomarinus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): Oct 5, 1975

Time Bird Seen: 0930 to 1230

Locality: Cherry Creek Recreation Area

Nearest Town: Englewood

County: Arapahoe

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Jack Redda II

Bob Andrews

Optical Equipment: Bushnell 10x50 Binoculars; B&amp;W 20mm 60 Scope.

If photographed, type of equipment used: M-3 10000TH, 400mm Soliner lens

Light Conditions: Good

Distance from bird (how measured): 44 mi to 30 ft (est)

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: Gull Plumage: Immature

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Bird sat on lake most of time until bothered by boats.  
Flew around lake several times. Chase Gulls twice.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

The bird was somewhat larger than a Cal. Gull (was seen chasing gull) but wing spread did not seem as large as gulls. Gull-like in form. Generally ~~black~~ Brown in color with lighter coloring on Head and Breast. Sides mottled. Primary wings White, light patch on rump. Buff edges on wing feathers. No elongated tail feathers. Dark eyes. Bill - large, heavy, Gray with Black tip. Yellowish cast to head.

Pictures (B&amp;W) Enclosed.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

No song or calls

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

OPEN LAKE - CHERRY CREEK RSVR.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Bird was too large to be a Parasitic. Flight was more deliberate and ponderous than a Parasitic or Long Tailed. Bill was noticeably large and heavy, thus indicating that species was Pomarine.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I have observed Parasitic Jaegers on one Pelagic Trip from Lt. Cu. One Parasitic Jaeger was seen. All however were adults, ~~Also a few immatures.~~

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?  
Peterson's Western Guide and Robbins Guide were consulted during observations to ~~determine~~ with field marks of immatures and aid in species determination.

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

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110