

LATILONG 19

22-91-31

A

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG RAPE BIRD SIGHTING  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species:	POMARINE JAEGER	STERCORARIES DOMINICUS
	(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.

Date (s): 30, 31 Oct. 1991 Time Bird Seen: 1 PM to 5 PM EACH DAY

Locality: Pueblo Reservoir, SOUTH shore, 200yds WEST of DAM  
Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colo. LATILONG 19  
Nearest town, county and state

Optical equipment: QUESTAR telescope (50x) Zeiss 10x40 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: DARK Morph juvenile

Light conditions: full sun to broken clouds to completely overcast

Distance from bird, and how measured: 20 ft. to 400yds. / Mostly 75-100yds ē Ques  
AND Bird ON WATER

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Pirating ring-billed gulls in flight & forcing reacquisition. This behavior alternating ē 2-20 min. episodes of resting on water and occasional preening.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:  
ON & over open water & over adjacent bare shore

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

MARIA JANOS 10 Sedum Ct. Pueblo, Co. 81001

VAN TUAN 812 W. 14TH Pueblo, Co. 81003

Dave Silverman PO Box 362 Rye, Co. 81001

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. WINGSPAN 1-2" GREATER AND WINGSLIGHTLY GREATER THAN THE PERSUED RING BILLED GULLS. HEAVY GRAY BILL & PROMINENT BLACK NAIL & HOOK. SHALLOW GONYDEAL ANGLE. FACE, CROWN, NAPE MEDIUM BROWNISH GRAY WITH RUSTY OVERTONES. NO STREAKING OR WHITE ON FACE. UPERRPARTS, UNDERPARTS, UPPERWING COVERTS & UNDTAIL MEDIUM BROWNISH GRAY. - NO BARRING OF TAIL FEAT. UPERRTAIL COVERTS & PUMP DARK BROWN & EVENLY SPACED, STRAIGHT DARK TAN BARR UNDTAIL COVERTS DARK BROWN WITH BUFFY BARRING. BARS  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide &  $\frac{1}{4}$ " apart. BARS WERE STRAIGHT - NO ZIG-ZAGGING. SHAFTS OF UPPER-OUTER 6-7 PRIMARIES WHITE. BASE OF ALL UNDTWING PRIMARIES EXTENSIVELY WHITE. BASE OF UNDTWING PRIMARY COVERTS ALSO WHITE CREATING A "DOUBLE CRESCE" LOWER CHEST, BELLY, FLANKS & AXILLARIES MEDIUM GRAY BARRIED WITH DARK BROWN. FORENECK SAME AS NAPE - UNBARRIED. VERY THIN BUFFY TIPS ON SEVERAL TERTIAL FEATHERS. CENTRAL TAIL FEATHERS (2) PROJECT  $\frac{1}{2}$ " BEYOND REST OF TAIL. THEY ARE SQUARED OFF WITH SLIGHT ROUNDING AT THE CORNERS. NO SHARP POINTS WHATSOEVER. DARK IRIS.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

NO SOUNDS

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

PARASITIC JAEGER THIS BIRD

- 1.) WING SPAN TOO GREAT
- 3.) WING BEAT TOO SLOW
- 5.) 6-7 WHITE UPPER PRIMARY SHAFTS
- 7.) HEAD-NAPE-TOO DARK
- 2.) CHEST TOO LARGE
- 4.) CENTRAL TAIL FEATHERS BLUE & SHORT
- 6.) DOUBLE CREScents LOWERW
- 8.) BILL - TOO LARGE

Long-Tailed Jaeger 1) 2) 3) 4) 5)  
6) 7) 8)

SOUTH POLAR SKUA

THIS BIRD.

- 1.) NOT LARGE & HUNCH BACKED ENOUGH
- 2.) WHITE WING PANELS IN UPERRWING NOT NEARLY LARGE ENOUGH.
- 3.) WINGS NOT BROAD ENOUGH.
- 4.) TAIL TOO LONG

Prior experience with this and similar species:

SEVERAL PELAGIC TRIPS IN WASH. STATE, CALIF. MAINE. I HAVE SEEN SEVERAL PARASITICS & POM'S, 2 SOUTH POLAR SKUAS & 1 LONG-TAILED JAEGER.

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

NAME (print): Robert DICKSON

Mailing address: 55 Villa Dr. Pueblo, Co. 81001

Signature: AP Dickson

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205

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APPENDIX II

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

Species: Pomarine Jaeger ; Stercorarius pomarinus  
(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): Oct 31; Nov 1; Nov 2; Nov 17; Nov 23 Time Bird Seen: various to all times & light conditions  
Nov 9; Nov 10, 1991 approx. 5 1/2 hours total  
observation time

Locality : Pueblo Reservoir

Pueblo, Colo.

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: KOWA 20-60x 75N-4 Scope; B+L 15x42 binoculars.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: 1 2

(1 bird seen on Oct 31 & only 1 on the afternoon of Nov 10, otherwise 2 were present, often into Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: - Plumage: Dark phase juvenile. (by side)

Light conditions: Various, but at times excellent

Distance from bird, and how measured: From 1/2 mile to as close as 25 feet (when the bird(s) chased gulls towards us, veering off at very close range).

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Often floating for long periods on the water. Sitting high on the water, like a gull, then flying off with rapid, powerful wingbeats in pursuit of gulls. Would overtake flying gulls, with ease, then harass & veer into path of the gull, causing the gull to zig-zag, which the jaeger would beat.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Open lake; sometimes venturing high in pursuit of a gull, pursuing the bird up to 1/4 mile over land. Flight was often direct, rapid and low, then sweeping as the bird would wheel high, acrobatically pursuing a gull.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address): Many: Tom Truman, Bob Dickson, Peter Gent, Vic Zerbe and others. Definitive

identification was probably Nov 1, when Dickson and I observed rounded tail feathers. A jaeger I observed at Pueblo Res. on Oct 26 was a very dark juvenile, not inconsistent with this species; but I didn't see enough of the bird at that time to tell if it was a Parasitic or a Pomarine.

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.

Large generally chocolate brown bird, with dark falcon-like wings, powerful flight, sharply hooked bill. Wingspan ~ 2" greater than that of Ring-billed gull in direct comparison. Both species were very similar. Dark back & wings that lacked white margins to flight feathers. Undertail white, with even regular rows of dark bars. Upper tail coverts pale & barred but not as light as undertail. Underwing: barred & checked in axillaries; large white patch at base of primaries & a second smaller white "comma" just forward of this white patch. Underwing with white streaks on outer 6 or 7 primaries. Head & face dark brown, nearly golden in some lights, without pale nape. Face smoothly unmarked. Area around bill (on face) very dark. Malar area blackish. Flanks obscurely barred. Strongly bicolored bill (blush base, black tip). Tail essentially dark, vaguely checked at close range. Central tail feathers projected only about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and were roundly blunt. No central tail extension apparent except at close range.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: No sound.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Overall rich brown (not gray) color, large size, powerful flight, large hooked bill, round central tail feathers, very dark color all eliminate Long-tailed jaeger. The large bi-colored bill, powerful flight, deep wingbeats, broad wing bases, large body all suggest Pomarine. Even undertail barring (not jagged & uneven). Dark (not light) nape; Dark face & malar (not light); Even facial pattern (not streaked); White streaks on 6-7 primaries (not 3-5); Double white spot on underwing (not single & restricted) all indicate Prior experience with this and similar species: Pomarine rather than Parasitic. The clearly blunt, rounded central tail feathers are the clincher.

→ I've seen all 3 spp. of jaegers, including dark phase juv's. on many occasions, but this is at infrequent intervals & I'm far from expert. This report was written from notes made during  after  observation; from memory \_\_\_\_\_.

Name (print) : MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 10 Sedum Ct., Pueblo CO 81001

Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD 

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

Species: POMARINE JAEGER (Vernacular Name) | STERCORARIUS Pomarinus (Scientific Name)Date(s): NOVEMBER 9th, 1971Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: YUVENILELocality: PUEBLO RESERVOIR Elevation: 4000'?Nearest town: PUEBLO County: PUEBLOTime(s) observed: 10:40 am → 2:40 pmDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 2 HOURS AT LESS THAN 100 YARDS

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

MARK JANOS

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Bob DICKSON

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

SUNNY

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): BINOCLES 10X AND TELESCOPE 20X → 45XDistance, and how measured: MOSTLY ABOUT 80-100 YARDS - ONCE MUCH CLOSER 10-12 YARDS

If photographed, type of equipment and film: \_\_\_\_\_

Who else photographed the bird? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

SITTING ON RESERVOIR, CHASING GULLS. ALWAYS CHASED RING-BILLED GULLS. WINGSPAN  
 SEEMED AS LARGE AS RING BILLED GULL (GEOGRAPHIC LIMBOR SAYS 48" FOR BOTH, BUT 42" FOR  
 PARASITIC JAEGER). JAEGERS WERE BUCKIER THAN GULLS AND COULD OVERTAKE THEM EASILY FLYING.  
 Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern.  
 Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used  
 to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and il-  
 lustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

ONE TIME THE DACKER OF THE TWO JAEGERS CHASED A GULL OVER LAND DIRECTLY  
 TOWARDS THE CAR. AT A DISTANCE OF 10-12 YARDS IT SUDDENLY STALLED GIVING AN  
 EXCELLENT VIEW OF THE TAIL. THE CENTRAL TWO TAIL FEATHERS WERE ROUNDED

Description (continued):

AND WERE SLIGHTLY LONGER (1 1/4 - 1 1/2") THAN THE REST OF THE TAIL. ACCORDING TO KAUFMAN THIS IS DIAGNOSTIC, AND I DID NOT SEE THIS DIAGNOSTIC MARK ON THE LIGHTER BIRD. I SAW NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT THESE WERE JUVENILES, THE PLUMAGE LOOKED FRESH. I DON'T THINK THEY WERE SUBADULTS. THIS IS IMPORTANT TO ASCERTAIN, SEE KAUFMAN PAGE 95. [CONTINUED ON EXTRA SHEET].

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

None

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

PUEBLO RESERVOIR

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

PARASITIC JAEGER. ROUND, NOT POINTED, CENTRAL TAIL FEATHERS ON ONE BIRD.  
SEVERAL OTHER SUGGESTIVE FIELD MARKS ARE DISCUSSED ON THE EXTRA SHEET.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

SEEN ALL JAEGERS AND SKUA ON BOAT TRIPS OFF WEST COAST.  
HOWEVER, NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH JUVENILE JAEGERS.

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

a) at time of observation: ADVANCED BINNING BY KEN KAUFMAN  
b) after observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation        from memory X  
Date and time report was written: NOVEMBER 13<sup>th</sup> 1991

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55 SOUTH 35<sup>th</sup> ST, BOULDER, CO 80303

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR 2 POMARINE JAEGERS AT PUEBLO RESERVOIR, NOVEMBER 9TH, 1991.

These additional notes make exclusive use of Kaufman, pages 88-101.

WING SPREAD - these birds wingspread was as large as that of Ring-billed Gull.

SHAPE AND FLIGHT STYLE - these birds did not look quite as barrel-chested

as I would have expected. I found the wingbeat very hard to judge.

WHITE PRIMARY SHAFTS. - the darker individual had an extensive set of

white primary shafts that showed on the upper wing. I would guess that more than six shafts were white. The lighter individual had a smaller set of white shafts - I would guess about six.

CONTRAST TAIL FEATHERS - Pomarine pattern seen\* on darker individual - see form.

BILL SHAPE AND COLOR - I could not use the bill shape marks given in Kaufman.

Both bills were two tone - bluish pink at base and black tip. The bills did not strike me as quite as large as I expected on Pomarine Jaegers.

GENERAL PLUMAGE COLOR - the darker individual was uniformly dark brown most places on the sitting bird except for the undertail coverts (see later). The lighter

bird was a bit lighter than I had expected for Pomarine Jaeger.

HEAD PATTERN - both birds had uniformly colored heads (the napes were not lighter) and the heads were not streaked. As far as I could see, both birds had dark malar areas.

WING PATTERN DETAILS - these birds did not have buff tips or chevrons on the outer primary tips. There was some color on the wing covert feather tips.

COVERTS - both birds had conspicuous barring on the undertail coverts. It looked to be in uniform straight lines and not to be irregular, but I haven't studied this on other juvenile jaegers.

In conclusion, I would say that if the field marks in Kaufman are reliable, then the dark individual was a POMARINE JAEGER. The other bird looked to be the same species but had some details that concerned me and I did not see the tail.

This is a very tough identification and most juvenile jaegers in Colorado are not seen or studied so well. I think in most cases jaeger species is the appropriate category for immatures unless they are seen and studied very well.