

FIELD NOTES

Accepted 7-0

Species reported: Pomerine Jaeger

Rec'd 12-10-96

Number of individuals: one

Location: Cherry Creek Reservoir

VIDEODate of sighting: 11/19/96Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PMReporting observer: John W. Vanderpoel7583 Estate Circle
Niwot, CO 80503Other observers: DW KingLight and weather conditions: Sunny and warm in the 60's; gentle wind out of the west. The sunlight was rather harsh.Optical Equipment: Zeiss 10 X 40B, Kowa Telescope, JVC Video cameraDistance to bird: ranged from 30 yards to one mile. The bird would swim and preen on the water in between attacking Ring-billed, California and even Herring Gulls. We saw it chase perhaps fifteen gulls throughout the day, attacking and forcing down to the surface at least four, one of which was captured on video.Description:size - same size as a California Gull; slightly larger than the Ring-billed Gulls it attacked.head - golden brownbill - steel blue at the base with a black tip; straight and thick.chest and belly - the chest was broad, dark brown and strongly barred. The belly was dark brown & barred.wing shape - the wings were broad at the base then tapered to a narrow falcon like point. the primaries extended beyond the tail while the bird was sitting in the water (see video)upperwing - the primaries were dark brown or black while the bird was sitting on the water. While the bird was in flight, we noticed the following: the upper wing was dark brown including the secondaries except for the primaries each of which had a shaft of white. At the base of the primaries was a broad white line that cut

FIELD NOTES

across the wing from front to back (see freeze action in video) This white line was more pronounced than on other Pomerine's I've seen and approached the white crescent of a Skua.

underwing - The underwing coverts were heavily barred with brown and white and lighter than the upperwing. The outer two primaries were white at the base and dark brown at the tips, however the remaining primaries were almost completely white (see video)

tail - The tail was dark brown and contrasted against the white & brown barred upper tail coverts.

mantle - dark brown

Voice: N/A

Previous Experience: I've seen perhaps one hundred Pomerine Jaegers including 15 at with species Gambell in the Bering Strait this year.

Identification Aids: (list of books, illustrations, video or other birders consulted in identification)

at time of observation - none

after observation - National Geographic & Seabirds by Harrison

Conclusion: The bird was a barred phase juvenile Pomerine Jaeger, fairly typical in all respects except for the amount of white in the wings which approached that of a Skua. Great Skua can be ruled out however by at least the following two field marks:

- bicolored bill

- The uppertail coverts were heavily barred brown and white

The powerful chest, barring, and amount of white in the primaries rule out a Parasitic Jaeger.

I have include some video shot of the bird (1 minute 15 seconds in length)