

Revised date 2000

1999 - 48

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# COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

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

1999 NOTES

RD 1:5-2

RD 2:5-2

CBRC Meeting -

RESULTS:

NOT ACCEPT

Species: Pomarine Jaeger  
(Common Name)

Stercorarius pomarinus  
(Scientific Name)

Date(s) of observation: 11-6-99

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Dark morph juvenile

Exact location: South Marina of Pueblo Reservoir

County: Pueblo Nearest town: Pueblo Elevation: 4750'

Length of observation: 1 hour Times(s) of observation: 8:15 AM - 9:10 AM + 9:40-9:45A.

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Brandon Percival, Dave Johnson Joe Roller + many observers

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird's; position): Excellent - clear sky - bird often northwest of observers

Optical equipment used: 15-60 swift zoom scope + Questar Scope

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 75 to 100 yards

Was bird photographed?: Yes If so, have you submitted photographs? \_\_\_\_\_

Who took the photographs? Some observers tried to get photos but none were able to show any distinct field marks

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:  
Large reservoir with sparse riparian habitat

Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification):  
Bird swam about boat marina amidst many gulls. Later we saw it chasing and harrassing gulls

Describe the bird(s) in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird(s) 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. 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):

See reverse

Describe bird's call or song:  
None heard

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:  
See reverse

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

I have seen many Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers on both coasts of USA + a few in Colorado. I have seen many Long-Tailed Jaegers in Alaska

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation):  
National Geographic 3rd edition; P. Harrison, Seabirds; K. Kaufman, Field Guide to Advanced Birding

This report was made from notes made during \_\_\_\_\_ or after ☒ observation, or later from memory ☒.

Date of written report: 11-13-99

Reporting observer: David Silverman Signature: David Silverman

Observer's address: P.O. Box 362 Rye CO 81069

Send report to: Bill Lisowsky, 2919 Silverplume Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526



## Description:

This bird was overall very dark sooty brown, much darker than nearby immature 1st year Herring Gulls. Head was somewhat grayer brown with dark blackish brown shading surrounding beak and extending into auriculars. Nape and neck were gray brown and thick giving a bull-necked appearance. Head, face, and neck were unstreaked.

Back was blackish brown with a few obscure horizontal light lines perhaps indicating feather wear or molt, because of obscurity.

Tail was dark blackish brown, rounded and short. It was gull shaped and showed no obvious extension of central tail feathers.

The solid dark underparts made it difficult to see extent of barring, excepting very distinctly alternating light and dark bars on undertail coverts. In flight bird showed a very thick barrel chest.

Wings were long, pointed, and extended well beyond tail when bird was swimming. They had a distinct crook at carpal joint in flight. Its wing beats were slow and powerful. Distinct white flash noticed on both wing surfaces especially underside when bird was in flight. No white in primaries was observed when bird was swimming.

Bill was somewhat gull shaped similar to Herring Gull. It was much longer than thick, and did show a distinct hook at tip. Gonysal angle was close to tip of beak. Bill color was bluish gray with dark tip.

Eye was dark and I did not see legs well enough to describe.

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## Similar species.

Parasitic Jaeger: Juveniles tend to show a much more rusty brown appearance than sooty brown Pomarines. Juvenile Parasitics tend to have more streaking on head and crown than juvenile Pomarines. Juvenile Parasitics have wavy bars on undertail coverts and not distinct bars of juvenile Pomarines. On perched or swimming birds, juvenile Parasitics show pale tips on primaries which our Jaeger did not have. At no time did we see the pointed central tail feathers of a juvenile parasitic. Tail feathers we saw were rounded and blunt.

Long-Tailed Jaeger: Juveniles are generally lighter grayish brown than dark morph Pomarines & have a distinct dark trailing edge on wing. Bird we saw was very dark winged with prominent white flashes as only contrasting mark. Long-Tails have short thick bills and not the long bill of bird we saw. Juvenile Long-Tails show noticeable extension of central tail feathers which our bird did not have.

Joe Roller was only observer who felt bird we saw was a probable Long-Tailed Jaeger, primarily because it was smaller than Ring-billed

Note on Juvenile Pomarine  
Jaeger report of 11-6-99. 1999-2000

To. Records Committee: Rcd 7/2/00

I was informed that the Records  
Committee is reluctant to accept this  
report and was advised to supply  
further documentation.

Tips of bird's central Tail  
feathers were too short and  
blunt for either Parasitic or  
Long-Tailed Jaeger. These feathers  
barely extended beyond rest of Tail.

The bill was too long and  
prominent for a Long-Tailed Jaeger  
which has a Short Thick bill.

The overall dark sooty brown  
color of this bird did not exhibit  
The grayish color of Long-Tailed  
nor reddish-brown color of Parasitic  
Jaeger.

Distinct barring of undertail  
coverts contrast with wavy  
obscure barring of Parasitic Jaeger

-over-



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Despite one dissenting opinion (which is understandable) given the difficulties of juv. jaeger identification there is no doubt in my opinion of the bird's identity. I have seen many jaegers of all species.

Other experienced observers who identified the bird as Pomarine are:

Dave Johnson, Lindsay Lilly, Brandon Percival, and Mark Yaeger.

David Silver

7-12-2000