

A

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM
(Please print or type. Attach photographs, drawings, and additional pages if necessary.)

1999 NOTES CFO-RC

RESULTS:

RD 1:5-2

RD 2: 5-2

CBRC Meeting -

NOT ACCEPTED

Species: Pomarine Jaeger
(Common Name)Stercorarius pomarinus
(Scientific Name)Date(s) of observation: 11-6-99Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Dark morph juvenileExact location: South Marina of Pueblo ReservoirCounty: Pueblo Nearest town: Pueblo Elevation: 4750'Length of observation: 1 hour Times(s) of observation: 8:15 AM - 9:10 AM + 9:40-9:45 AMOther 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 observersOptical equipment used: 15-60 SWIFT zoom scope + Questar ScopeDistance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 75 to 100 yardsWas 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 harassing 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 BirdingThis report was made from notes made during _____ or after ✓ observation, or later from memory ✓.Date of written report: 11-13-99Reporting observer: David Silverman Signature: David SilvermanObserver's address: P. O. Box 362 Rye CO 80169Send 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. Gonysdeal 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

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 wings. Bird we saw was very dark winged with prominent white flashes as only contrasting marks. 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. 1999-44
Records Committee: RCH

It 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-

2

Despite one dissention
opinion which is understandable
given the difficulties of Juve
Jaeger identification. There is
no doubt in my opinion of 7
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 Pervival, and
Mark Yaeger.

David Schram

7-12-200