

**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form** (This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.) **Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!**

CFO-RC FILE X:

## RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name)Parasitic Jaeger (Scientific Name) Stercorarius parasiticus

Date(s) of occurrence: 10-11-00

Number of birds seen: one Sex:? Plumage: juvenile

Exact location: off the swim beach at Chatfield Res

County: Nearest town:Littleton

Elevation:5300 feet

Length of observation:30 minutes Time(s) of observation:11:00 - 11:30

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you:John Van der Pohl

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): mob

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: sunny, hazey. wind from the south at 5 - 10 MPH.Sun in front of observer off right shoulder.

Optical equipment used: Kowa TSN-4 scope

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

Was bird(s) photographed?no If so, have you submitted photos?

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Chatfield Res.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): The bird was observed sitting and preening on the water until it flew off, scared up some gulls resting on the swim beach and the chased a Cal. gull to marina area.

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird 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(s). Describe other important 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 field notes): The bird was noticeably smaller than a Cal. gull it chased. The head appeared small and 'dove' like, the bill was thin and straight, with an enlarged tip appearing far removed from the base. The tip was darker than the rest of the bill. The entire bird had a reddish brown, black banded appearance. The nape was lighter than the crown. The wings were darker with pale edges to the feathers. The tail was dark with two slightly longer pointed central retrices. The under tail coverts were barred or horizontally banded, alternating between black and brownish buff. The legs were not seen. In flight, The upper wings showed a white patch at the base of the primaries. The underwings showed a single white patch that had a comma shape. The patch appeared to wrap around the primary greater coverts.

Describe bird's call or song:

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:Pomarine and Lon-tailed Jaeger by the size and shape of the bill, number and shape of wing patches, and the pattern to the undertail coverts.

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

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): A book the John had with him in the field of which I cannot recall the name.

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later X from memory

Date of written report: 10-17-00

Reporting observer: Ric Olson

Signature: 

Reporting Observer's Address: 9450 N. Heather Dr. Castle Rock Co., 80104

City: State: Zip:

Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee c/o Bill Lisowsky 2919  
Silverplume Dr. Ft. Collins, Co. 80526

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

CFO-ORC FILE # 2000-46

NEW STATE RECORD \_\_\_\_\_ UNUSUAL RECORD X

rec'd 4/29/01

**Species:** Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

**Date:** 11 October 2000

**Number seen:** one

**Sex:** ?

**Plumage:** Juvenal

**Locality:** Chatfield Res.

**Elevation:** about 5300'

**Nearest town:** Littleton

**County:** Douglas and Jefferson

**Time observed:** 16:00 - 17.45 MDT

**Duration of observation:** off and on for a total of about 25 minutes

**Description:** This bird, found on 10 October 2000 (?) by J.B. Hayes and identified on the 11<sup>th</sup> by Joey Kellner was a smallish, dark juvenile jaeger. Doug Faulkner and I first found it swimming and preening on the lake well off the marina in the "elbow" of the lake. It stayed there for over an hour and then, when we were watching the adult Pomarine on the same lake fly, the bird apparently skedaddled, as we could not find it after the Pom landed. At this point, Steve Stachowiak showed up and the three of us headed over to the handicapped fisherman's access to look for it. We found the bird swimming in the S. Platte arm south of us, so we went around to the west side of that arm. We refound it there and watched it harass a couple of Ring-billed Gulls. We eventually left it swimming in the middle of the S. Platte arm.

We saw the bird mostly at long distance, so could not determine some aspects of its plumage. However, what we did see was diagnostic for Parasitic. The head and neck were dark with strong rufous tones. We could not determine if it had nape streaking. There was a paler area behind each eye, the extent of which I was unable to determine. The bill was thin and of "medium" length with a small dark tip (about 25% of bill was dark) and a bluish base. The back was as dark as the head, but possibly without the rufous tones; I did not see the back well. The tail was dark and the central rectrices extended slightly beyond the rest of the tail; I could not determine the shape of the tips of the central rectrices. The rump appeared nearly concolorous with the back and tail; perhaps it was a bit paler, though I did not see this part well, either. The underparts were two-toned: the neck and chest were very dark and the belly was paler, being a warm medium brown. I could not determine if there was any barring on sides or flanks, but I did not see any. The vent region was paler, but was not obviously barred black and white, as would the other two jaegers. The underwings were dark and virtually unpatterned. There was an extensive white flash at the base of the primaries, but none at the base of the primary coverts. Likewise, the axillars appeared all dark without pale bars. There was a thin, white flash at the base of the primaries on the upperwing; this flash was considerably smaller than that apparent on the underwing, but was still obvious when the bird was in flight. I could not determine whether there were fringes on the upperwing coverts. I also could not determine the presence or absence of primary fringes.

In flight, the wingbeats were strong and flicking, very similar to that of a Peregrine. When it was chasing Ring-bills, I could see that the wingspan was shorter than that of the gulls and body size also appeared smaller. The bird appeared much less pot-bellied than did the Pomarine that was also present, with the center of gravity seeming to be a bit farther forward.

Similar species eliminated: Juvenile and Basic I gulls are all eliminated by plumage pattern, wing shape, and flight style. Long-tailed is ruled out by underwing pattern, flight style, overall coloration, and vent pattern; bill shape is also suggestive. Pomarine was eliminated by the lack of black and white barring on the secondaries, axillars, and vent, the small size and wingspan, and by bill shape and pattern.

**Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):** No vocalizations heard.

**What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species?** I have seen 100s of Pomarines, >75 Parasitics, and >45 Long-tails. Importantly, I had recently seen two dark Pomarines (10/8/00) and a dark Long-tailed (9/5/00), all juveniles.

**Light conditions:** sun to my left and/or in front of me

**Optical equipment used:** Leica 20-60x

**Distance, and how estimated:** most of the time, the bird was 600-1100m away

**Other observers who saw the bird with you:** Doug Faulkner, Steve Stachowiak

**Other observers who saw the bird independently:** J.B. Hayes, Bob Brown, LeeAnn Brown, BB Hahn, Bob Dickson, Joey Kellner

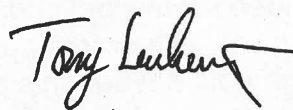
**If photographed, type of equipment and film:** did not photograph

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

**a) at time of observation:** none **b) after observation:** none

**Reporting observer:** Tony Leukering

**Signature:**



**Address:** Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601

**Date report was written:** Written on 11 October 2000 from notes written about two hours after sighting

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**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**

(this is a two page report-click at the bottom for page 2)

CBRC FILE #: 2000-46  
RESULTS: \_\_\_\_\_

rec'd 6/2/02

Print this page and then fill out. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species (please include common and scientific names): Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)  
Parasitic Jaeger (*S. parasiticus*)

Date(s) of Observation: 10/10, 12/2000

Number of birds seen: 2 <sup>1 Pomarine</sup> Parasitic Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

1 juv

Plumage:

Exact location: Chatfield Reservoir

County: Douglas / Jefferson Nearest town:

Elevation:

Length of observation:

Time(s) of observation:

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Joe Roller, Joey Kellner

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s):

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observer(s) position):

Optical equipment used:

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted):

Was (were) bird(s) photographed?

If so, are you submitting photos?

Who took the photograph(s)?

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred:

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits:

Dick Schettler

[click here for page 2 of this form](#)



on the back than the other, otherwise, description was as described for 10/8. One thing I noticed was the apparent difference in stance of the standing birds. On standing Common and Forster's Terns, the legs appeared vertical (or nearly so when viewed from head-on or tail-on). On the other hand, the short legs of the Arctic Terns appeared to angle in giving a "bow-legged" appearance.



### 10/10 CHATFIELD STATE PARK

1315-1540; clear, warm (70°), wind NW 0-5 mph

Birds seen included:

1. Pomarine Jaeger (1 ad., prob. ♂)
- \* 2. PARASITIC JAEGER (1 juv.)
3. Sabine's Gull (1 juv.)
4. Common Tern (1)
5. Forster's Tern (several)

Back to Chatfield for the 3<sup>rd</sup> day in a row after hearing reports of two jaegers being seen there off-and-on over the past 2 days (but not IDed to species). I was not disappointed - spent over 1 1/2 hours jaeger watching on another beautiful fall afternoon. Spent most of the time birding from the handicap fishing pier. Scanned the

lake and found an adult light-morph jaeger almost immediately. Most of the time I was there it just sat on the water. It gave the appearance of a bulky bird with a thick neck. Bill was pinkish with a black tip, and appeared relatively heavy. Dark cap formed a hood coming down below the eye in front of the eye to the base of the bill. Nape and sides of head had an ivory cast. There was no breast band that I could discern (fits of Pomarine), nor were there any obvious central retrices in the tail. I decided it was probably an adult Pomarine Jaeger.

Then I spotted a second jaeger chasing a gull. It appeared all dark at first glance and was smaller than the gull it was chasing (probably a Ring-billed Gull). I got nice looks at it both in the air and on the water. Overall color was warm brown. The head <sup>and nape</sup> appeared to be paler than the mantle and were streaked with darker brown. The bill was bluish-gray with the outer 1/3 blackish. Undertail coverts were barred black and reddish brown. In flight, the underwing pattern showed only a single white crescent at the base of the primaries. Upperwings showed prominent white slash (more than would be expected for Long-tailed Jaeger). At one time both jaegers were on

the water near each other. The juvenile bird looked slightly smaller and "trimmer" with a thinner neck and smaller head. Unlike the Pomarine, this jaeger was very active. I watched it chase gulls several times, and once watched it force a gull to disgorge its food which the jaeger grabbed it mid-air. Flight was very fast like, and it was <sup>an</sup> extremely agile flyer. I decided I had finally seen my ~~stad~~ Parasitic Jaeger. As it turns out, Joe Kellner arrived at the same conclusion independently earlier in the afternoon. Saw several birds on the marina Sandspit so I went over to hear what they had to say about the jaegers. Talked with Bob Dickson, Bob & Leta Brown, and J. B. Hayes. They all had ID'd the jaegers the same as I had. Neither of the Arctic Terns was on the spit while I was there. Neither jaeger had longer central retrices in the tail that I could discern. The belly of the juv. Parasitic was barred brown and off-white.

10/12, CHATELIER S.P. (Jaeger Show - Ad)  
1010-1120; clear, warm (55°-58°), calm

Birds seen included:  
1. Pomarine Jaeger (1 ad. light morph, prob

OVER



2. Parasitic Jaeger (2)
  - a. adult light morph (1)
  - b. juvenile (1)
3. Sabine's Gull (2 juv.)

Got a call from Joe Keller about 0930 saying he had 3 jaegers at Chatfield, so headed down again. Joe was still there when I arrived and had the adult Parasitic Jaeger in his scope. For the next hour, we watched all 3 jaegers. The adult Parasitic had the full long pointed central tail feathers, and this time I was able to see short points extending beyond the rest of the tail on the juv. Parasitic. The Pomerine still, again, showed no evidence of long central tail feathers. At one point, we watched as all 3 jaegers gauged up on a single gull and forced it to disgorge its tidbit. Another time the 2 adult Jaegers drove a gull into the water.

Joe Keller arrived about 1/2 hour after I did and was also able to see the show.

Also, watched the adult Parasitic Jaeger go after 2 juv. Sabine's Gulls. One of the Sabine's Gulls was in interesting plumage. Instead of the usual juvenile pattern on the head and neck, the head was mostly white and there was a dark smudge behind the eye. According to

Tony Leukering, it has started its pre-basic molt which they don't normally do until arriving on the Southern hemisphere wintering grounds. Rest of the bird was in typical juvenile plumage.

10/4-10 Summary: This was an exciting week of birding for me. I added an amazing three species to my Colorado State list (and one to my ABA Life List)!

- 10/4: Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
- 10/8: Arctic Tern
- 10/10: Parasitic Jaeger

10/16, CHERRY CREEK RESERVOIR

1015-1215; clear, mild (50's), calm.

Birds seen included:

- 1 Ring-billed Gull } >50
- 2 California Gull }
- 3 Herring Gull (1 ad.)
- 4 Lesser Black-backed Gull (1 ad.)
- 5 Great Black-backed Gull (1 ad.)

Went to look for 2 gulls reported on 10/14 by "Dr. Dick" Stevens - Laughing and Black-headed. No sign of either this morning (and neither was seen on the 15th). The 2 black-backed gulls were at the marina (both have apparently been there for some time).

2000-46

Parasitic Jaeger  
Chatfield Reservoir, Douglas Co., CO  
13 October 2000  
Captures from video by Larry Semo

