

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: LONG-TAILED JAEGER STERCORARIUS LONGICAUDUS  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): OCTOBER 16 1993Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: JUVENILELocality: UNION RESERVOIR Elevation: 5000 +'Nearest town: LONGMONT County: WELDTime(s) observed: BETWEEN 8AM & NOONDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 2 HOURS

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

BILL & JOHN PRATHER, DICK SCHOTTLER, JOE ROLLER, PAUL WARD

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

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

BRIGHT SUNSHINEOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10x BINOCLES, 20-90x TELESCOPEDistance, and how measured: 20 YARDS AT CLOSEST (ESTIMATED)

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 BANK, FLYING OVER RESERVOIR, CHASING GULLS AND  
FEEDING ON DISGORGED FOOD.

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 illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

BY FAR THE BEST ILLUSTRATION OF WHAT THIS BIRD LOOKED LIKE IS ILLUSTRATION 201e of a JUVENILE (INTERMEDIATE MORPH) ON PAGE 133 OF HARRISON'S SEABIRDS BOOK. THE MAIN DIFFERENCE WAS THAT THE BREAST BAND WAS NOT QUITE SO PROMINENT AND DID NOT REACH UNDER THE CHIN. THE BIRD WAS NOTICEABLY SMALLER THAN RING-BILLED GULLS WHEN IT CHASED THEM. ITS FLIGHT WAS VERY FAST AND BUOYANT.

Description (continued): THE TAIL FEATHERS WERE WELL SEEN WHEN PREENING ON SHORE. THEY WERE NOT POINTED OR BLUNT, BUT LIKE THE ILLUSTRATION ON PAGE 97 OF KAUFFMAN. THE LEGS WERE A QUITE BRIGHT BLUEISH-GRAY WITH SOME PINK ON THE WEBBS. THE BILL WAS ABOUT EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN NAIL AND REST OF BILL AS ILLUSTRATED ON PAGE 99 OF KAUFFMAN. THE UPPER AND UNDER TAIL COVERTS WERE VERY STRONGLY BARRED WITH EQUAL WIDTH BANDS OF DARK BROWN AND OFF. WHITE. THE REST OF THE PLUMAGE WAS MAINLY A ~~GRAY~~ GRAYISH BROWN. THERE WAS A LARGE WHITE FLASH AT THE BASE OF THE PRIMARIES ON THE UNDERWING - THIS DID NOT SHOW ABOVE. FROM ABOVE WHITE SPOTS OF 2 OR 3 OUTER PRIMARIES WERE PROMINENT.

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

NO CALL

BREAST BAND WAS WEAK, BELLY WAS WHITE, FLANKS WERE MODERATELY BARRED. THE HEAD, NECK & NAPE WERE QUITE WHITE WITH A LIGHT BROWN CAP NOTICEABLE AT CLOSE RANGE.

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

ON BANK AND OVER UNION RESERVOIR

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

PARASITIC JAEGER. 1) SHAPE OF TAIL FEATHERS 2) LEG COLOR 3) HEAD COLOR 4) BILL (SEE ABOVE)  
5) PATTERN ON UNDER TAIL COVERTS 6) UPPER WING PATTERN

POMARINE JAEGER. 1) SIZE 2) SHAPE OF TAIL FEATHERS 3) LEG COLOR 4) BILL 5) HEAD COLOR  
6) UPPER WING PATTERN.

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

HAVE SEEN 4 LONG-TAILED JAEGERES INCLUDING 1 JUVENILE OFF SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA IN NOV. 1992.

HAVE SEEN A REASONABLY LARGE NUMBER OF OTHER 2 SPECIES, MOSTLY OFF CALIFORNIA & IN COLORADO.

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

a) at time of observation: NAT GEOGRAPHIC, KAUFFMAN ADVANCED BIRDING  
2 HARRISON SEABIRDS

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation X from memory  
Date and time report was written: OCTOBER 16 1993 6 pm

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

Address: 55 SOUTH 35TH 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

23 Oct '93.  
JH Collins

Inez, John &amp; Bill

Here is the article I promised & some photocopies of the prints I obtained on 20 October '93. I would be glad to make prints of any that you'd like.

In short, I feel your designation of long-tailed jaeger matches the key items I can glean from the literature. It is a tough id and I commend you for your skill.

What I like about the bird being called long-tailed jaeger

- "Cold" brown
- Contrast between lighter back & main part of wing with darker primaries.
- Lack of bold white markings to primaries (just slight pale edges)
- Limited # of white shafts on upper, outer primaries (see photo D)
- Very pale head
- Bill (amount of black, lower gonysal angle) — Apparently the bill on this bird is more slender than most long-tails but see juv. long-tail on pg 162 of enclosed article.
- Black & white - striped undertail coverts @ lines being relatively straight

Thanks again for finding this bird!

Dave Leatherman



