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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!

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CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name): POMARINE JAEGER		(Scientific Name) Stercorarius pomarinus
Date(s) of occurrence: 1 October 2000		
Number of birds seen: One	Sex: Unknown	Plumage: Adult
Exact Location: Jackson Reservoir		
County: Morgan County	Nearest town: Fort Morgan	Elevation: 4440 msl
Length of observation: Approximately 20 minutes, off and on		Time(s) of observation: Late morning
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Tony Leukering, Doug Faulkner, et. al.		
Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s):		
Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Clear skies. Bird observed to the north with sun to the east.		
Optical equipment used: 8x40 Binoculars, 32x Bushnell Spotting Scope		
Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): Varied between approximately 200 feet to a quarter-mile		
Was bird(s) photographed? Yes (video)		If so, have you submitted photos? Yes (stills and video)
Who took the photographs? Myself		
Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Open water lake		
Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): Observed flying, swimming, and chasing gulls		

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 jaeger had been reported the day prior to COBIRDS. On this day, Tony Leukering and I arrived at the north shore of Jackson Reservoir in search of the bird. After spending roughly 15 minutes looking for the bird with no results, we were able to make radio contact with others that were positioned on the south shore of the reservoir that were seeing the bird. Approximately 10 minutes later, Tony and I arrived at the south shore and very soon thereafter were shown the Pomarine Jaeger. During the observation period, the bird would rest on the water for extended periods but was also observed flying and chasing Franklin's Gulls. The following were traits noted during that observation:

Size and Shape – *A relatively large, gull-like bird, seemingly the size of a California Gull but difficult to judge. Noticeably larger than Franklin's Gulls present. The long, extended central rectrices on the bird added to large size impression. The bird was deep chested and the wings were very wide. As shown on Figure 1, the wings appear to adjoin the upper tail when spread.*

Flight Style – *Fast and quick when chasing gulls but otherwise unperturbed and sturdy unlike the quicker, falcon-like flight of a Parasitic.*

Head – *Large for a jaeger with pronounced forehead. Forehead, crown, rear-head, loreal region, and upper chin a dark brown/blackish. The remainder of the head appeared slightly buffy to me and were faintly offset by a white throat, upper breast, and side-neck.*

Bill – *Difficult to judge but was seemingly large for a jaeger and bicolored (light bluish basally with dark tip).*

Upperparts – *mantle, uppertail coverts, tail and wings decidedly blackish-brown except for the white primary shafts. From above, the outer eight or so primary shafts shown white along their basal margins.*

Underparts – *The breast and belly were clear white except for a distinct, thick, black upper breast band. This band was thicker along the sides of the bird than on the ventral surface. There was some degrees of black along the breast/wing lining that extended ventrally along the upper breast.*

Tail – *Noticeably long central tail elongations. These spoon-shaped, central rectrices extended roughly 2/3rds the length past the remainder of the tail (see Figure 2.). Though mostly long and spoon-shaped*

Underwings – *Dark overall except for the primaries and primary coverts. The majority of primaries from beneath were whitish along the basal margins. Also observable (and especially on Figure 2) was a second, white patch of white along the distal primary coverts, which is a good separation from Parasitic.*

Describe bird's call or song: *None heard*

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

No gull has a combination of dark brown upperparts and whitish underparts with black breast band and long central tail feathers. Skuas are eliminated by their larger size, white upperparts with black breast band, and long central tail feathers. Parasitic Jaeger was separated by that species smaller size, slimmer profile, lack of white primary covert band, and long, spoon-shaped tail. Long-tailed Jaeger was eliminated by that species much smaller size, lack of breast band, much reduced amount of white on the primary shafts and never expressing a tail pattern similar to an adult Pomarine with full-grown central rectrices.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? *Had observed other Pominines in California and Louisiana prior to this experience*

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): *None*

This report is from notes made during _____ or after **XX** observation or later _____ from memory _____

Date of written report: *11/05/00*

Reporting observer: *Larry Semo*

Signature:



Reporting Observer's Address: *9054 Dover Street*

City: *Westminster*

State: *Colorado*

Zip: *80021*

POMARINE JAEGER – Jackson Reservoir, Morgan County, 1 October 2000



Larry Semo

POMARINE JAEGER – Jackson Reservoir, Morgan County, 1 October, 2000
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Photo 4

