

CFO-RC FILE#:

RESULTS: NOT ACCEPT 3-4**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM**

Recreate 2000

Species: Pomarine Jaeger; *stercorarius pomarinus***Date of observation:** November 15, 1999**Number of birds seen:** One **Sex:** Unknown **Plumage:** Juvenile**Exact location:** Observed at Cherry Creek State Park on open water on the reservoir proper.**County:** Arapahoe **Nearest town:** Aurora **Elevation:** 5350 ft.**Length of observation:** Two occasions, five minutes each **Times of observation:** 1200-1205 and 1215-1220**Other observer who saw the bird with you:** none.**Other observers who independently saw the bird(s):** Joe Roller, Doug Faulkner, Tony Leukering, Rich Stevens**Light Conditions:** Sunny, cloudless sky, sun virtually overhead, light bright and neutral.**Optical equipment used:** Swift 8.5x44 Audubon binocular and Bushnell 60mm Spacemaster scope with 22x wide angle eyepiece**Distance from bird:** 100-200 yards.**Photograph:** No**Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird occurred:** Open water, almost glassy calm.

Describe the bird's behavior: The subject bird was first observed at about 100 yards from the fisherman access road north of the boat ramp and south of the swim beach. It was initially floating and preening. After a short time it took off and flew after a Ring-billed Gull, eventually forcing it to the water, again about 100 yards out. The Ring-billed flew off and the subject bird alternately opened and closed its wings and dipped its head into the water. It then flew well away and after resting on the water chased another Ring-billed and lit again on the water, closer to the Mountain Loop. I drove over to that loop and observed the subject bird on the water from about 200 yards for an additional five minutes. It then flew after another gull and eventually moved so far away as to be difficult to observe and I returned to work.

Describe the bird in detail: I initially identified the subject bird as a juvenile jaeger species. It was overall dark brown of neutral warmth or coolness. Alone in the water it seemed large and robust. Its head and breast seemed a shade lighter than the rest, which was very dark. The head seemed relatively uniform in tone. I did not note a lighter nape, or lighter malar area. I noted no barring or streaking on the head. The bill was large, pale light bluish-gray from the base to about two-thirds its length, the tip was dark, perhaps black, and somewhat bulbous. There was good contrast between the pale base and the dark tip but not enough for me to characterize it as "dipped in ink." The breast seemed lightly and indistinctly barred. The wing tips were scalloped with a light fringe, tannish as I remember, but contrasting well with the dark brown ground of the wings. The primaries seemed entirely dark, devoid of fringing. The undertail coverts were evenly and distinctly barred. I clearly, if accidentally, observed the central tail feathers to be exactly like those portrayed for Pomarine Jaeger by Kaufman (*Advanced Birding*, Figure 37). Its wingspread was about the same as a Ring-billed Gull it pursued. It did show characteristic Jaeger white flashing in the underwing. Its flight seemed strong and purposeful with wing beats that seemed pistonlike.

Describe bird's call or song: Not noted

Describe similar species and how you eliminated them: I eliminated Long-tailed Jaeger on the basis of overall build, size, wingspread, and flight characteristics. Additionally, bill size and central tail feather configuration seemed to not favor Long-tailed. I eliminated Parasitic Jaeger on the basis of undertail covert barring which we expect to be irregular and wavy and central tail feather shape (see above). Additionally the absence of a paler nape and light malar area influenced my identification. To a lesser extent bill size, wingspread, and absence of fringing on the primaries affected my identification.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: I have little experience with this and the similarly appearing species. My records show nine records for Long-tailed, including one sub-adult at Union Reservoir, October 1993, six records for Parasitic Jaeger, eight records for Pomarine including one juvenile at Cherry Creek Reservoir, November 1996.

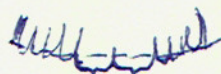
List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): Kaufman's *Advanced Birding* was my reference in attempting to identify this bird. I had first seen the bird on November 12 for a short time in direct low flight. I was only able to assign it to the Jaeger family. After starting to bone up in Kaufman that night I observed the subject on and off on the 13th in the early to mid morning for a total of about an hour and a half and did get some reasonably good looks, but nothing definitive. I participated in the DFO trip to Cherry Creek Reservoir on the 14th but we did not see the bird. Roller saw it that evening and reported his leanings towards Pomarine at that time. His observations showed me some things in Kaufman that I needed to concentrate on if I saw the subject again. I did see the subject bird better on the 15th and the above report reflects only what I felt sure I observed that day. In short, without Kaufman, and Roller too, this would have remained an unidentified jaeger species.

This report was made later from memory: November 17, 1999

Date of written report: November 17, 1999

Reporting observer: Bob Brown, 730 E. Redwood Ct., Highlands Ranch, CO 80126, 303-791-6204

Signature:



TAIL DRAWN
FROM MEMORY

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

CFO-ORC FILE # _____

NEW STATE RECORD _____

UNUSUAL RECORD X

(Addtl info for recd)

1999-49

Recd 9/2/00 upl

Species: Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

Date: 18,20,21 November & 4 December 1999

Number seen: one

Sex: Male?

Plumage: Juvenal

Locality: Cherry Creek Res.

Elevation: about 5350'

Nearest town: Aurora

County: Arapahoe

Time observed: 17:00-17:30 (18th), 09:00-09:20 (20th), 08:00-08:45 (21st), 15:00-15:05 (4th) MST

Duration of observation: off and on for a total of about 20 minutes

Description: This bird, found on 12 November 1999 by Bob Brown, was another dark, juvenile jaeger, very similar in plumage to the bird found by Norm Erthal on Standley Lake in the previous month. It was also a smaller individual (like the Standley bird), being about the size of a big Ring-billed Gull and smaller than a California. I visited the bird four times and watched it on the water and chasing Ring-billed and California gulls around. The bird was usually not particularly close (but closer than the Standley bird!), as it spent much of its time between the marina and the swim beach, but closer to the former. It would occasionally, while chasing a gull, approach my viewing location at the swim beach to within about 250m.

The head was dark brown, being the same color as the upperparts which were all the same medium-dark brown without any obvious rufous tones; the nape was unstreaked. The tail was somewhat darker and the tail coverts (upper and under) were fairly pale (not quite white) with broad, blackish bars creating very even barring. The underwings were strongly patterned, with the secondaries being barred tan and black and the axillars being broadly barred black-and-white. The whiteness of the pale bars on the axillars created the appearance of a very pale patch in the wingpits that contrasted strongly with the brown of the body. This patch also contrasted somewhat with the somewhat darker secondaries. The bases of the underside primary coverts were obviously white, thus creating a second white patch inside the obvious white basal primary flash that was also apparent. The two white patches were separated by a dark band created by the tips of the primary coverts. I saw this feature on every visit. On the 20th, at one point when the bird was on the water at reasonably close range, I could see the primary tips well enough to be sure that there were no obvious pale fringes, as on many Parasitics. Also on the 20th, I was able to determine that the bill was strongly bicolored (dark distally, bluish proximally).

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 (particularly the primary coverts), flight style (strong, fluid wingbeats vs. more tern-like wingbeats), and the bird's aggressive chases of Ring-billed and California gulls. Parasitic was eliminated by the patterns of the underside of the wing and tail coverts, lack of a paler collar, and unstreaked nape. Additionally, flight style of this bird was heavier and stronger than the flickering, Peregrine-like wingbeats of Parasitics.

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 spent three weeks in Alaska (Aug/Sept 1999) where I saw all three species, including numerous Poms and Long-tails. I have seen uncountable bazillions of dark, immature gulls (e.g. Heermann's, California, and Herring).

Light conditions: sun either behind me or to my left

Optical equipment used: Leica 32x and Zeiss 7x42

Distance, and how estimated: most of the time, the bird was 700-1200m away, but occasionally came as close as about 250m (measured on a map)

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Doug Faulkner (18th, 21st, 4th) and Sue Bonfield (20th)

Other observers who saw the bird independently: Bob Brown, Joe Roller, John Vanderpoel, Peter Gent, and many, many others

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

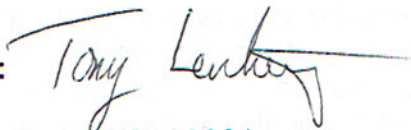
List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

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 20 August 2000 from notes written on three of the four days that I saw the bird and always between one and three hours after the sightings