

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

CFO-ORC FILE # 2001-168

NEW STATE RECORD        UNUSUAL RECORD X

Rec'd 2/9/03

**Species:** Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

**Date:** 10 July 2001

**Number seen:** one

**Sex:** ?

**Plumage:** Basic II or

Alternate III

**Locality:** Upper Queens Res.

**Elevation:** ~3930'

**Nearest town:** Eads

**County:** Kiowa

**Time observed:** early afternoon

**Duration of observation:** off and on for ~10 minutes

**Description:** Nancy Gobris and I chased after the Pomarine Jaeger that an out-of-state birder had found in late June and Doug Faulkner had relocated on 3 July. Upon arriving at Upper Queens Res., I was somewhat surprised to find the jaeger still present. The bird was swimming in the middle of the reservoir where I studied it for a few minutes. It got up and flew around for a short while at one point, but then put back down on the surface for the remainder of my observation. The bird was a light morph that appeared to be just short of Definitive Alternate. The head pattern and bill coloration were adult-like, but the underparts had excessive barring and the bird had no elongated central rectrices.

This bird was a large, bulky jaeger, though there were no other birds nearby for direct comparison. The crown was blackish with that color extending through the eyes to and below the bill, as in adult Pomarine Jaegers. The bill appeared all dark and I could not detect the eyes in the dark cap. The rest of the face, sides of neck, and throat were very pale with, at times, a pale yellow wash apparent. The nape was blotchy brown and pale. The upperparts were dark brown, as were the wings. The underparts were pale with extensive dark barring on the sides and flanks and with a blotchy dark chest band. The undertail coverts and vent were brownish. The underwings were mostly dark, except for an extensive whitish patch at the base of the primaries and another, smaller patch at the base of the primary coverts. At the long distance at which I saw the bird, these patches mostly seemed to form one patch, though at its closest approach in flight, I could see a slight division. I could not detect any younger-type feathers, but I'm not at all sure that I could have detected any, had they been present. The tail was dark without the elongated central rectrices typical of older ages of jaegers in Alternate. I do not know if the feathers were completely missing, broken off, or the bird had Basic-plumage central rectrices.

**Similar species eliminated:** The other two jaegers are easily eliminated by underwing pattern, head pattern, and underparts 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.

**Light conditions:** sun behind and slightly to my left



**Optical equipment used:** Leica 32x and Swarovski 8.5x42

**Distance, and how estimated:** most of the time, the bird was ~450m away, but came as close as about 300m

**Other observers who saw the bird with you:** Nancy Gobris

**Other observers who saw the bird independently:** Doug Faulkner and Jason Beason

**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:** Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO 80603

**Date report was written:** Written on 20 July 2001 and 9 February 2003 from field notes that I wrote at the time of the sighting