

22-93-91

A

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

27-19

SPECIES: LONG-TAILED JAEGER (Vernacular Name)

SPECIES: STERCORARIUS longicaudus (Scientific Name)

DATE(S): SEPTEMBER, 12, 1993 (9-12-93)

TIME BIRD WAS SEEN: 3:15 P.M. to 3:25 P.M.

LOCATION AND HABITAT: BENT COUNTY, ADOBE CREEK RES. BLUE LAKE.
STATE Wildlife AREA. ELEVATION @ 4,000'. WATER STORAGE
LAKE ON THE EASTERN PLAINS OF SOUTHERN COLORADO. THE
CANAL WAS RUNNING FULL. LAKE CAPACITY ABOUT AVERAGE.
SHORELINE MUDDY AND OVERGRAZED LAND SURROUNDS LAKE.
SW SPIT ALONG CANAL, below DAM.

Nearest town, county and state: 12 miles NORTH of LAS ANIMAS,
BENT COUNTY, COLORADO

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: 10x40 BAUSCH & LOMB BINOCULARS
w/ 5.2° field. Also a CELESTRON 30mmx1000mm SCOPE.

PHOTOGRAPHED: Yes ☒ No ☐ If yes, Equipment used: PENTAX K1000
500mm fixed lense 100 ASA Fujichrome film.
Photo by CLIFTON SMITH

PHOTOGRAPH ENCLOSED: Yes ☒ No ☐
NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: ? PLUMAGE: ADULT

DISTANCE FROM BIRD and HOW MEASURED: 1st seen @ 25 feet AWAY
AND @ 20 feet ABOVE the WATER. Flew from ^{NORTH}EAST to ^{SOUTH}WEST + LANDED 100 y
LIGHT CONDITIONS: EXCELLENT - Flew from EAST w/ SUN IN the WEST.
WIND CONDITIONS AND WEATHER CONDITIONS: 10mph to 15mph GUST.
Beautiful Day - SUNNY + PARTLY CLOUDY @ 90°

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD: (Name and address)

CLIF SMITH 2823 5th AVE. PUEBLO, CO 81003 719-543-6427
DAVID SILVERMAN P.O. Box 362 RYE, CO 81069 719-489-356
Bob Dickson 55 Villa Drive Pueblo, CO 81001 719-542-584
DR. DAVID SMITH 808 SIRIUS DRIVE, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80906



Sandstrom Smith
2823 5th Ave
Pueblo, CO
81003-1607

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S OVERALL BEHAVIOR: BEAUTIFUL GRACEFUL TERN-LIKE FLIGHT
from the NORTHEAST over the point AT the CANAL MOUTH
TO the SOUTHWEST COVE + SHORE Flew APPROXIMATELY 20 to 30 ft
ABOVE the WATER. LANDED NEAR A GROUP of RING-billed Gulls
then flew AGAIN TO LAND ON the Shore line. WE WERE
ON A ROAD THAT follows the CANAL below the DAM AT the WEST
END of the LAKE. The bird DID NOT DIVE AT the Gulls but
LANDED NEAR them (Did not observe him fly AWAY AS we were
distracted by LESSER BLACK-BACKED Gull. (Silverman submitting report))

DESCRIBE THE SPECIFIC HABITAT(S) IN WHICH THE BIRD WAS OBSERVED:

HARDLY ANY WIND over the WATERS of the Adobe Creek Res. 90° temp.
EASTERN PLAINS storage lake on the DRY FLAT prairie that
HAS BEEN over-grazed by CATTLE. Shoreline receding + PARTS
MUDDY. Outflow CANAL running full. Flew to AREA where RING-billed
Gulls were but DID NOT HARRASS them.

DESCRIBE IN GREAT DETAIL THE BIRD WHICH YOU SAW. EMPHASIZE PARTICULARLY THE FIELD MARKS USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD, BUT INCLUDE A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE BIRD.

INCLUDE: size, overall shape, Plumage, and color pattern. DETAIL: of bill (shape and size), wings, tail and undertail coverts (if seen). (REFERENCE TO ITS RESEMBLANCE TO FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS IS NOT ENOUGH). DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ACTUALLY SAW IN THE FIELD DURING YOUR OBSERVATION.

Size of small gull, but HAD long pointed wings AND VERY long
tail; two STREAMERS - elongated central tail feathers EXTENDED
6 to 8" beyond the rest of the tail. I noticed blue-gray legs
AS we'd been checking gulls' leg color most of the day.

The small black cap came STRAIGHT back from the MALAR POOL
with no "blurring" or lighter shading. The black cap WAS NEATLY
defined by white face AND throat. The cap WAS TAPERED to a point
just to the top of the nape and, did not extend very far into nape.

Cliff Smith saw the slight lighter flash of two primary shafts
of white. Bob Dickson saw these 2 white shafts in his Quasar Sc

The MANTLE WAS A medium to DARKISH gray AND the SECONDARIES
had a dark line on the TRAILING EDGE.

The UNDERSIDE WAS A CLEAN WHITE WITH NO BANDING PRESENT.

IF HEARD, DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S CALLS OR SOUNDS, INCLUDING THE METHOD OF DELIVERY i.e. from a perch, in flight, deep within shrub, etc.:

NOT HEARD - ONLY SEEN + TOTALLY ENJOYED by ALL!

LIST SIMILAR SPECIES AND STATE HOW THEY WERE ELIMINATED:

1. PARASITIC JAEGER - IS LARGER, but similar except the wings are broader at the base. The white primary shafts are from 3 to 6" and look whiter than LONG-TAILED JAEGER. There is a definite broken or "smudgy" breast band. Lacks long central tail feathers that extend 6 to 8" beyond the tail. Head pattern is not as neatly defined as LONG-TAILED. Overall color is much browner as opposed to the gray of LONG-TAILED. LONG-TAILED JAEGER is overall much paler than PARASITICS.
2. POMARINE JAEGER is the largest + bulkiest of the JAEGERs. The bill is much stouter. Upper parts brown - NOT GRAY. Underparts whitish but with dark breast band. Adults have long, twisted, spoon-tipped central tail feathers.

* PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES: *

HAVE OBSERVED BOTH PARASITIC AND POMARINE JAEGERs AT PUEBLO RESERVOIR. HAVE NOT SEEN LONG-TAILED JAEGER UNTIL THIS OBSERVATION. BUT SEEING THE EXTREMELY LONG CENTRAL TAIL FEATHERS, GRAY MANTLE + WINGS WITH DARK TRAILING EDGE AND SMALL BLACK CAP ON HEAD.

THIS REPORT WAS WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING ☒ AFTER ☒ OBSERVATION; FROM MEMORY and field notes BOOKS - Audubon Society's North America, Peterson Field Guide, Kenn Kaufman: "ADVANCED BIRDING", Peterson's Eastern Birds - NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA, Golden Field Gu.

SUBMITTED BY: NAME (print): PEARLE SANDSTROM Smith

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SIGNATURE:

Pearle Sandstrom Smith - 9/13/91

RETURN FORM TO:

9/14/93 - This Report Reviewed by David Silverman

CFO RECORDS COMMITTEE
c/o CURATOR-ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

* DATES OBSERVED:

PARASITIC JAEGER - October 15th 1991 - Pueblo Res.
with - Bob Dickson + CLIF Smith + others

POMARINE JAEGER - NOVEMBER 2, 1991 - NOV. 5, '91, NOV. 14, '91 (BRANDON PERCIVAL + CLIF SMITH + others)
+ NOV. 15, '91 3.



22-93-41

Photo by Clifton Smith
long-tailed Jaeger