

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Parasitic Jaeger Scientific Name: *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Date: 8 Sep 1985 Time: ~ 1100 Length of time observed: 15-20 seconds

Number: 1 Age: juvenile Sex: ?

Location: Yuba Reservoir, Juab Co. - north end

Latilong: 10 Elevation (if known):

Distance to bird: 50 feet + Light conditions: good

Optical equipment: none

Weather: Partly cloudy, wind SE 20 mph

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Subject bird was similar in size to a Ring-billed Gull, based on direct size comparison with a California Gull, & was similar in shape, but differed in being more slender-bodied & having narrower, more pointed wings.

Plumage was mostly dark brown on the upper parts, & brown below with heavy barring on the breast & belly. The basal half of the primaries had some white, giving that portion of the wings a paler appearance. The tail was rounded on the tip & the two central feathers were about 1 inch longer & pointed.

The flight was fairly rapid & buoyant, somewhat similar to a Franklin Gull.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: not heard

Behavior: Bird was chasing a California Gull along the shoreline. They flew over us, then turned & flew across the lake.

Habitat: large open reservoir

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

Juvenile Pomarine Jaeger is larger & stockier, more the shape of California Gull. Flight is slower & less buoyant.

Juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger is much smaller & more slender & lighter colored on underparts. Flight is much more buoyant than Parasitic, very tern-like.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I have observed Parasitic Jaegers many times along the west coast, & have observed Pomarine & Long-tailed Jaegers a few times on west coast pelagic trips.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

none

Significance of record in this area or the state:

first record for lat/long 10.

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting notes made later from memory

Observer: Steven P. Hedges Signature: Steven P. Hedges

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Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Verla Jean Hedges

Date prepared: 10 Sep 1985

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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