

## VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: LONG-TAILED JAEGER      Scientific Name: STERCORARIUS LONGICAUDUS  
 Date: AUGUST 30, 1990      Time: 1:15 PM      Length of time observed:  $\frac{1}{2}$  HOUR  
 Number: ONE      Age: ADULT      Sex: ?  
 Location: BEAR RIVER REFUGE  
 Latilong: 2      Elevation (if known):  
 Distance to bird: CLOSEST 50 YARDS, MOSTLY FARTHER AWAY      Light conditions: EXCELLENT  
 Optical equipment: ZEISS 10x40 BINOCULARS, QUESTAR 40 AND 60 POWER, PHOTOGRAPHS WITH SIGMA 600mm MIRROR LENS, CANON T70 CAMERA  
 Weather: CLEAR  
 Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

THE BIRD, WHEN FIRST OBSERVED, WAS STANDING JUST BEHIND A LARGE GROUP OF GULLS, MOSTLY CALIFORNIA. IT WAS FACING US. I COULD SEE THE DARK CAP, WHITE NECK AND BREAST. THERE WAS NO YELLOW ON THE NECK. THE BIRD WAS SMALLER AND SLIMMER THAN THE GULLS. IT STOOD VERY ERECT WITH THE LONG, SLIM NECK EXTENDED. THE LEGS SEEMED RELATIVELY LONG, THE HEAD AND BILL RELATIVELY SMALL.

IT THEN FLEW TO A MUCH CLOSER LOCATION ON LAND WHERE THERE WERE NO OTHER BIRDS. THE GULLS SEEMED TO IGNORE THE BIRD WHEN IT WAS PERCHED NEAR THEM ON THE GROUND AND PAID LITTLE ATTENTION WHEN IT FLEW LOW OVER THEM. THE FLIGHT SEEMED "LIGHT", GRACEFUL, MORE TERN-LIKE THAN A GULL, HOWEVER THE WING BEATS WERE VERY DEEP WHEN FIRST BECOMING AIRBORNE, WITH THE WINGS CURVING WELL BELOW THE BODY. NO WHITE WAS OBSERVED AT THE BASE OF THE PRIMARIES ON EITHER SURFACE OF THE WING. THE WINGS, BACK AND TAIL WERE GRAYISH BROWN. WHEN RESTING ON THE GROUND, THE WEIGHT SEEMED FORWARD WITH THE WINGS AND TAIL ANGLED UPWARD AT 45°.

IT THEN FLEW A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE AWAY AND LIT ON THE REFUGE POND. ON THE WATER IT WAS VERY BUOYANT, MUCH LIKE A BONAPARTE'S GULL, WITH THE WINGS AND TAIL ANGLED WELL OFF THE WATER.

IN SIDE VIEWS, THE LONG CENTRAL TAIL FEATHERS PROJECTED WELL BEYOND THE WINGS. IN FLIGHT THE TAIL WAS NEARLY AS LONG AS THE BODY.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: MADE NO SOUND

Behavior: RESTING ON GROUND, STANDING ON GROUND, FLYING, AND RESTING ON WATER. DID NOT FEED OR ATTEMPT TO FEED. IT MADE NO ANTAGONISTIC MOVES TOWARD ANY OTHER BIRD.

Habitat: RECENTLY EXPOSED MUD/SAND FLATS NEAR EDGE OF GREAT SALT LAKE; FLOODING ON BEAR RIVER REFUGE.

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

PARASITIC JAEGER HAS BEEN REPORTED MORE OFTEN. THE LONG TAIL FEATHERS OF THIS INDIVIDUAL PRECLUDE ITS BEING A PARASITIC.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

HAVE OBSERVED ALL THREE JAEGER SPECIES. SAW LONG-TAILED AT NOME, ALASKA AND CHURCHILL, MANITOBA

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

SEABIRDS by HARRISON, LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN GUILLS AND TERNS by BENT FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA by NAT. GEOG. SOC. THESE WERE NOT USED TO PREPARE DESCRIPTION. I DID REFER TO MY PHOTOGRAPHS.

Significance of record in this area or the state: ACCORDING TO BEHLE, SORESENSEN and WHITE 1985 - UTAH BIRDS: A REVISED CHECKLIST, "CASUAL, KNOWN FROM ONE SIGHT RECORD AND TWO SPECIMENS."

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

SEVERAL PICTURES WERE TAKEN, COPIES OF THE TWO BEST ARE ATTACHED.

Description from notes taken at time of sighting PHOTOGRAPHS and notes made later X from memory X

Observer: LAWRENCE A. RYEL

Signature: Lawrence A. Ryel

Address: 882 NORTH 300 EAST  
LOGAN, UT 84321

Other observers who independently identified this bird: THERE WERE FIVE OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT BUT I DO NOT KNOW THEIR NAMES, EXCEPT FOR SUZANNE D. FELLOWS, WHO SPOTTED THE BIRD. SHE IS A GRADUATE STUDENT AT UTAH STATE WORKING ON SHOREBIRDS AROUND THE GREAT SALT LAKE.

Date prepared: NOV-19, 1990

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen  
3868 Marsha Drive  
West Valley City, Utah 84120

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