

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Pomarine Jaeger

Scientific Name: Stercorarius pomarinus

Date: Nov. 7, 1991

Time: 9:30 AM

Length of time observed: 34 min.

Number: 1

Age: Adult (light phase) Sex: ?

Location: E. shore of Utah Lake, 1/2 mile South of LINDEN MARINA, due West of GENEVA Steel, Utah Co., Utah

Latilong:

Elevation (if known): 4320 ft

Distance to bird: AS close as 200 yds

Light conditions: good (everything from back light to excellent front light)

Optical equipment: Celestron Scope & 10X50 BINOS

Weather: Sunny/clear

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

Jaeger approx. size of Ring-billed gull. ^{But more barred chested.} Mantle, upper wings, lower wings, rump, and tail very dark brown. Base of primaries white from underneath and several (5 to 7?) primary shafts white from above. Tail had two central streamers approx. 4" beyond rest of tail - spatulate shaped and twisted. Black cap extending from lores to nape and drooping barely under the gape into the malar region. Bill was thinner and slightly longer than a gull of the same size (Ring-billed) with the basal 2/3 lighter than the dark tip. The tip had a noticeable hook. The lower nape, chin, throat, sides of neck and auricular region were buffy white (not quite yellow). A ~~thin~~ broad breast-band separated the buffy region from the white belly. The breast band was barred brown & white. Shorter brown barring continued down the sides and flanks. Undertail coverts appeared dark. legs were also dark. The bird flew with steady falcon-like flight and was agile when harrassing the gulls. At one point the bird did look smaller than the gulls it was harrassing, but these were determined to be California Gulls. The bird lit in the water at one point, but returned to shore where we got the best views of about 200 yds through the scope. On shore the bird would stand for only a few seconds, then settle on its breast



Voice or call notes and method of delivery: NONE heard

Behavior: chased & harrassed gulls then settled in on the beach

Habitat: sandy beach bordered by seepage area and Utah Lake

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

Parasitic jaeger - central tail feathers straight & pointed, black cap doesn't extend below gaps, breast band narrower, white shafts on upper wing not as noticeable. Smaller bird.

Long-tailed jaeger - central tail feathers longer and narrower, black cap less extensive, upper parts much greyer. Only 1 or 2 white shafts apparent on upper wing (primaries). Much smaller bird. Flight feathers contrast w/ upper parts breast band narrower

Immature gulls - tend to be more uniform in coloration, different actions, no central tail streamers

Skuas - much larger and bulkier, more uniform coloration, base of primaries more obviously white.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I've seen light phase long-tailed adults, dark phase parasitic sub-adults, miriads of immature gulls of all species, no Skuas, this is my first Pomarine

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

Description was independent of books, but Kaufman's "Advanced Birding" & "North Geo." were consulted

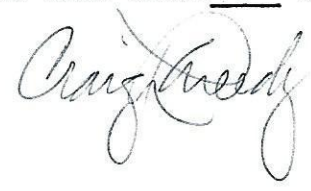
Significance of record in this area or the state:

1st for Utah

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

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

Observer: CRAIG L. KNEEDY

Signature: 

Address: 314 S. 4500 W.

West Point, Utah 84015

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

M.O.B. from Utah Valley

Ella Sorensen, Calleen Cox, Randy Cox, Terry Saddler, Bob Bond

Date prepared: 11/7/91

Return this form to:

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