

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Verification of Unusual Sight Record

Common Name: Pomarine Jaeger

Scientific Name: *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Date: 11-3-91 → 11-6-91 Time: 7am - 11:30 am

Length of time observed: 3-4 hours over 4 days

Number: 1

Age: Adult

Sex: ?

Location: East shore of Utah Lake west of Geneva steel mill cooling pond and south of Geneva steel mill final settling ponds.

Lat/long:

Elevation:

Distance to bird: as close as ~~20~~ 20 meters

Light conditions: Bright overcast → clear

Optical equipment: B&L 9x35 Binos and Bushnell 60mm 15-45x Spotting scope

Weather: Clear to light rain

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

Size - about equal to ring-billed gull.

Head w/ black cap, w/ black extending into malar area. Bill heavy, about $2\frac{1}{4}$ times as long as thick w/ distinct hook and prominent gonysdeal angle. End $\frac{1}{4}$ of bill black w/ basal $\frac{3}{4}$ lighter w/ yellowish tinge. Neck and throat off-white to yellow-white. Broad mottled brown breast band. Belly and sides white w/ brown mottling on sides. Flanks, lower belly, vent area dark brown. Legs blackish.

Back, underwings, & upper wings dark brown. White along base of primaries on both upper and lower wings - this white being the white-colored shafts of otherwise brown primary feathers. 6-7 shafts are light, grading from white to light brown w/ outermost shaft being lightest. Two distinct rectrices extending several inches from tail, which appear spoon shaped and twisted.

Flight w/ deep and steady wing beats. Flight steady & deliberate except when chasing gulls, when flight becomes acrobatic.

Behavior: Jaeger harassed gulls, causing them to disgorge. Disgorged food usually caught in air. After feeding Jaeger sat flat on sand adjacent to flock of gulls. Bird would not ~~fly~~ fly until person approach within 20 to 25 yds. When it did take flight it would harass 2 or 3 gulls before settling down again.

Habitat: Sandy lake shore.

Describe what specific features you saw or heard that caused you to reach your conclusion:

Spoonshaped & twisted rectrices. ~~White~~ white feather shafts. Black extending in malar area. Prominent gonysdeal angle on bill.

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

Parasitic Jaeger - Bill heavier than parasitic
- Breast band mottled rather than smooth
- Brown mottling on sides
- Rectrices spoonshaped & twisted, rather than pointed
- No gliding between wing beats

~~Long-tailed~~ Long-tailed Jaeger
- No grey in mantle - no contrast between mantle and wings
- prominent breast band
- more than 2 primary feather shafts are white.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Saw Long-tailed Jaeger @ Deer Creek Reservoir in September

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

Advanced Birding, National Geographic
Peterson's Western Birds

Significance of record in this area or the state:

State Record

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

Photographs and separate report sent to Hugh Kenney at American Birds

Observer: T. Edward Madden

Signature: T. Edward Madden

Address: 144 S. 1025 E. Lindon UT 84042

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Merrill Webb, Mark Bromley, several others

Date prepared: 27 March 1992

Return this form to: Utah Ornithological Society
C/O Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

Lat/long _____ Record type _____ Serial No. _____
Habitat _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Pomarine Jaeger
Scientific Name Stercorarius pomarinus
Obs. date 11-3-91 to 11-6-91 Time(s) early morning 7am. to 11:30 am
Duration of obs. Several hours over 4 days
Distance from bird minimum of 20 yds
Light conditions Overcast, stormy.
Optical equip. B&L 9X35 Binos, Bushnell 60mm 15-45 power scope.
Photo equip. Canon EOS 10s camera w/ 100-300 mm Zoom
Notes made at time of sighting _____ Date report prepared 11-7-91
Notes made later from memory

Weather at time of this observation.
Overcast. Light rain on 11-6-91
Prior weather and number of days since change
Stormy 3 days prior

Locality East shore of Utah Lake west of Geneva steel mill Cooling pond & South of Geneva Steel final settling ponds.

Enter number of birds in each category. Total number observed.	GENDER(S)		AGES(S)		PLUMAGE(S)		PHOTO(S)	
	<u>1</u>	Males _____ Females _____ ♀ or Imms _____ Unknowns <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adults <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juv/Imms _____ 2/3 yr birds _____ Unknowns _____	Breeding _____ Eclipse _____ Winter _____ Other _____	Transition _____ Dark phase _____ Light ph. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Available _____ Enclosed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.

Size- about equal to ring-billed gull.
Head w/ black cap, w/ black extending into malar area. Bill heavy, abt. 2 1/4 times as long as thick w/ distinct hook and prominent gonysal angle. End 1/4 of bill black w/ basal 3/4 lighter w/ yellowish tinge. Neck and ~~throat~~ throat off-white to yellow-white. Broad mottled brown breast band. Belly and sides white with brown mottling on sides. Flanks, lower belly, vent area dark brown. Legs blackish. Back, underwings & upper wings dark brown. White along base of primaries on both upper and lower wings. This white being the white-colored shafts of otherwise brown primary feathers 6-7 shafts are light, grading from white to light brown w/ outermost shaft being lightest. Two distinct rectrices extending several inches from tail, which appear spoon shaped and twisted.
Flight a deep ^{and} steady wing beats. Flight steady & deliberate except when chasing gulls, when flight becomes acrobatic.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

none

Variations from expected field marks.

none

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

- Parasitic Jaeger - Bill heavier than parasitic
 - breast band mottled rather than smooth
 - brown mottling on sides
 - rectrices spoonshaped and twisted, rather than pointed
 - no gliding between wing beats
- Long-tailed Jaeger - No grey in mantle - No contrast between mantle and wings
 - Prominent breast band
 - more than 2 primary feather shafts are white.

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds?

Jaeger harassed gulls, causing them to disgorge. Disgorged food usually caught in air. After feeding Jaeger sat flat on sand ~~adj~~ adjacent to flock of gulls. Bird would not fly until person approached within 25 yds. When it did ~~take~~ take flight it would harass 2 or 3 gulls before settling down again.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Sandy lake shore

Describe bird's song or sounds.

none

Print reporter's name, address, phone number.

T. Edward (Ted) Madden
 144 S. 1025 E.
 Linton, UT 84042

Signature T. Edward Madden

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

Have observed Long-tailed Jaeger

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature