

9-1993

DOCUMENTATION --
RARE BIRD SIGHTING

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION
AMERICAN BIRDS

Species: Long-Tailed Jaeger
(Vernacular name)

Stercorarius longicaudus
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): June 9, 1993 Time Bird Seen: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Locality: East dike of Egret Pool, Fish Springs NWR, UT
Callao, Juab Co., Utah
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: None

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____
Yes, approximately 15 photographs taken at close range

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: Light phase

Light conditions: Light, clear

Distance from bird, and how measured: 2 feet

Describe the bird's overall behavior:
The jaeger was sitting in the middle of the road. Upon being approached, the bird flew 20-30 yards, then returned to the road.
Although flight seemed normal, the jaeger's left wing was drooping.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
The jaeger was on the refuge road and in salt grass.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):
Jay K. Banta, Refuge Manager
Matthew W. deRosier, Assistant Refuge Manager

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; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

It was dark on the wings, back, tail, and cap of head. It was white on the back of the neck and completely down its front. It had a long tail (8-10"). Sitting upright, it was approximately 12-14" in height. It had a dark, fairly thick bill with a prominent hook on the end. Wings were pointed, like a tern's. Its body size was approximately the shape and size of a California gull.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

No calls or sounds were heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Parasitic jaeger--The sighted bird had no neck ring and its tail was considerably longer than the parasitic jaeger's.

Pomarine jaeger--The sighted bird had no neck ring and its tail was considerably longer than the pomarine jaeger's.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

No prior experience

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ___ observation; from memory x.

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