

Jaeger species
27 Oct 1987
Saylorville Res., Polk Co., IA
*Steve Dinsmore
IBL 58:19, 74

Record Number: 87-21
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Steve Dinsmore

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 58:19
Records Committee: IBl 58:74

VOTE: 6-III, 1-IV

III, Seeing white flash on both sides of wing under poor light and great distance would seem to rule out Long-tailed. Would have been nice to have a description of size comparison to nearby gulls.

III, Features seen seem convincing, although not seen under ideal conditions. The lighter area at base of primaries seems to exclude any gull.

IV, Because of the poor viewing conditions and bad light and long viewing distance I cannot give a higher classification for this record. This very well could be a jaeger but think we should be careful with a record like this.

III, While I'm not sure about detecting barring on undertail coverts at 300+ yards, I do know the shape, color and wing pattern were decernable on a similar jaeger at Saylorville several years ago at at least that distance.

III, Other possibilities satisfactorily eliminated.

REVOTE: 6-III for Jaeger species, 1-no vote

III, This is more convincing to me than those 'called out' by the experts when I have been on pelagic trips. Steve has experience from the East Coast and prsents some convincing field marks, even though the bird was not seen well.

III for Jaeger sp, I will go classs III on a Jaeger sp but not on Parsitic. Poor light and distance leaves too much to the imagination.

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?jaeger sp.

How Many?1 juv. dark phase

Location?Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.-off Jester Park

Habitat?landed with other gulls roosting on reservoir

Date?27 Oct 1987

Time?4:56-5:21 p.m.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:Description written directly from field notes. Bird was resting with Bonaparte's and Ring-billed gulls and an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake. Bird was entirely dark chocolate brown except for a lighter area at the base of the primaries. This light area was visible on both sides of the wing. The wings were fairly long and seemed more pointed than the wing of a Ring-billed Gull. The bill looked dark and seemed longer and slimmer than the bill of a Ring-billed Gull. The tail was dark brown and I was able to discern some darker barring on the undertail coverts. The bird had no visible tail streamers. The bird flew in rather fast, but soon landed and did not fly again. The bird was a bit larger than a Ring-billed Gull in over all size. On the water, the birds wings projected beyond the tail.

Similar species and how eliminated:The body color and wing pattern eliminates all other larids. I was not able to identify the bird to species because of the poor light.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were rather poor because of the poor light. Estimated viewing distance was no less than 300 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen one Parasitic Jaeger in Iowa and all three species of jaegers off Massachusetts.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?immediately

How long before this form was completed?written on 29 Oct 1987