

Long-tailed Jaeger Record Number: 94-37
4 Sep 1994 Classification: A-P
Tomahawk M./Black Hawk L., Sac Co., IA
*Ernzen, *****
P-0422,P-0423, IBL 65(1)cover; 65:15, 81

DOCUMENTATIONS

Pete Ernzen (4 Sep), 401 Taylor, Ida Grove [2/23/95]
Babs and Loren Padelford (5 Sep), 1405 Little John Rd., Bellevue, NE 68005
Ross Silcock (5 Sep), Box 300, Tabor, 51653
Harold White (5 Sep), Emmetsburg
Lee A. Schoenewe (5 Sep), 518 W. 4th St., Spencer 51301
Peter C. Petersen (5 Sep), 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport 52803
Thomas H. Kent (6 Sep), 211 Richards St., Iowa City 52246
Jim Fuller (6 Sep), 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City 52240
Don Pogensee (7, 10, 11 Sep), Lake La June Estates, Ida Grove 51445
Mark Proescholdt (10 Sep), Box 65, Liscomb 50148
Beth Proescholdt (10 Sep), Box 65, Liscomb 50148

PHOTOGRAPHS

Reid Allen, 5 Sep, P-0422
Don Pogensee, 10 Sep, P-0423 (IBL 65(1)cover)

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 65:15
Records Committee: IBL 65:81
Photograph: IBL 65(1) cover (P-0423)
Ernzen, P. 1996. Long-tailed Jaeger in Sac County. Iowa Bird Life 66:26-27.

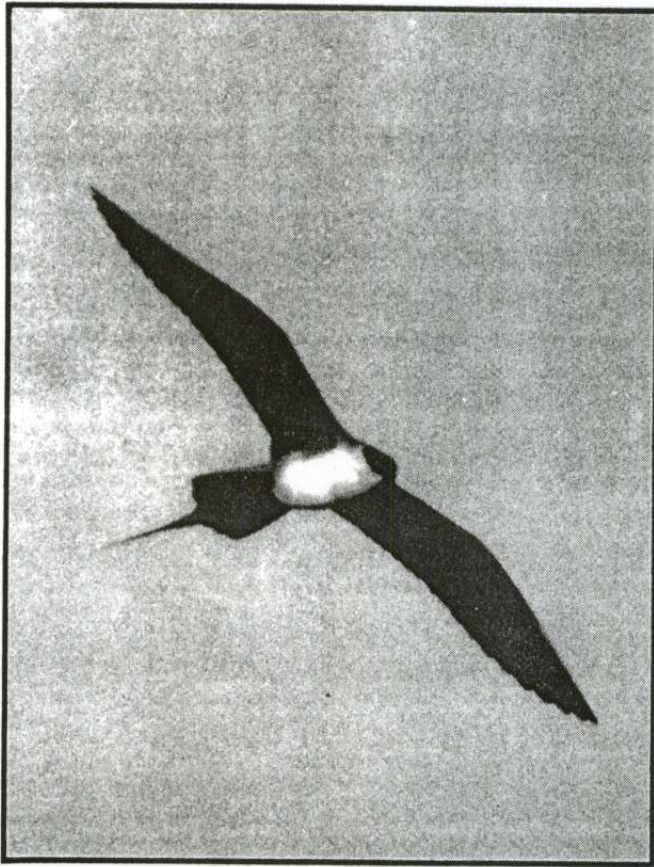
VOTE: 7 A-P

A-P, Even a xerox of these photos is great!
A-P, It doesn't get much better than this! Great photos!
A-P, Excellent photos show length of central rectrices to be great; this alone is enough to eliminate Parasitic Jaeger.

94-37

IOWA BIRD LIFE

Winter 1995 Volume 65 Number 1



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

cited. I requested verification on 10 reports of more easily identified species that were seen at unusual dates. I received useful additional information on each of these sightings, which will be placed on file. The date was incorrect for two of the reports, which suggests that other dates in Field Reports may be incorrect. It would be helpful if contributors specifically review their reports for dates that seem out of line before they send them in. Also, if you spot an incorrect date in the Field Reports, report it to the author so that a correction can be published.

All reports were received on time, which is greatly appreciated. The quality of the reports was excellent, and some provided an unbelievable amount of data on fall birds in Iowa.

CONTRIBUTORS (* = DOCUMENTATION ONLY)

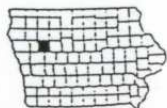
Dick Bierman (DBi), Cherokee; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Jane R. Clark (JRC), Clive; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ames; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Des Moines; Peter Ernzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; *Charles R. Fuller (CRF), Burlington; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Douglas C. Harr (DCH), Larchwood; *Terry J. Hulsebus (TJH), Denison; James Huntington (JH), Iowa City; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City, NE; *Maridel Jackson (MJ), Ankeny; Thomas N. Johnson (TNJ), Mystic; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Darwin Koenig (DK), Ankeny; Sharron R. Laub (SRL), Rippey; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscumb; Mark Proescholdt (MP), Liscumb; *John Rutenbeck (JR), Burlington; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Dale Stone (DS), Lake City; Dennis Thompson (DT), Johnston; Ed Thelen (ETH), Spirit Lake; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Phil J. Walsh (PJW), Des Moines; and Hank Zaletel, (HZ) Nevada.

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

LONG-TAILED JAEGER IN SAC COUNTY

PETER ERNZEN

On the afternoon of 4 September 1994, my 3 1/2 year old son, Joshua and I were bird watching at Tomahawk Marsh 2.9 miles north of Lake View in Sac County. Tomahawk Marsh is divided in half by county road M68. After viewing both sides of the marsh, I decided to concentrate our efforts on the west side. We drove to a gravel road that borders the north boundary of the marsh. While I was viewing several ducks and a Common Moorhen, my attention was distracted by a car horn on M68. Looking in the direction of the noise, I saw several Great Blue Herons flying west. Much to my utter amazement the distinctive form of a Long-tailed Jaeger followed the procession of Great Blue Herons. The two features that were immediately recognizable were the two long pointed tail feathers and the distinctive diamond-shaped tail. In flight the bird appeared to be medium gull sized, but flew tern like.



I followed the bird in flight until it landed on one of the many muskrat dens in the marsh. I immediately observed the bird for about 15 minutes through my spotting scope. The following features were observed as the bird rested: gray body, white chest, black bill, and black crown that came to a point on the back of the head.

Knowing the rarity of this species in Iowa, I decided to attempt to get a closer view of the bird. I was able to approach to within 15-20 feet. In addition to the above details, I was able to discern an inch-wide patch of yellow wash below the eye that extended in front of and behind the eye. When the bird flew, I returned to my car and raced home to report my finding.

On 5 September, Tim Schantz relocated the bird at the southeast corner of Black Hawk Lake five miles southeast of Tomahawk Marsh. The bird stayed in the area for the next 10 days, thrilling birders from Iowa and surrounding states. Interestingly, on the same day an immature Sabine's Gull was also located in the same area. For the next several days, I fielded calls from around the state as to where and if the bird was still around.

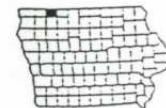
This is only the second sighting of this arctic species in Iowa. The previous record was of one collected near Lone Tree in Johnston County in 1907 (Anderson, *Auk* 25:215, 1908). This is the most common of the jaeger species in the arctic, but, because of its highly pelagic winter preferences, it is the least encountered of the three jaeger species in the interior, with only 34 other sightings in the lower 48 states (T. H. Kent, personal communication).

401 Taylor, Ida Grove, IA 51445

PROBABLE BREEDING OF BLACK-HEADED GULLS IN NORTHWESTERN IOWA

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

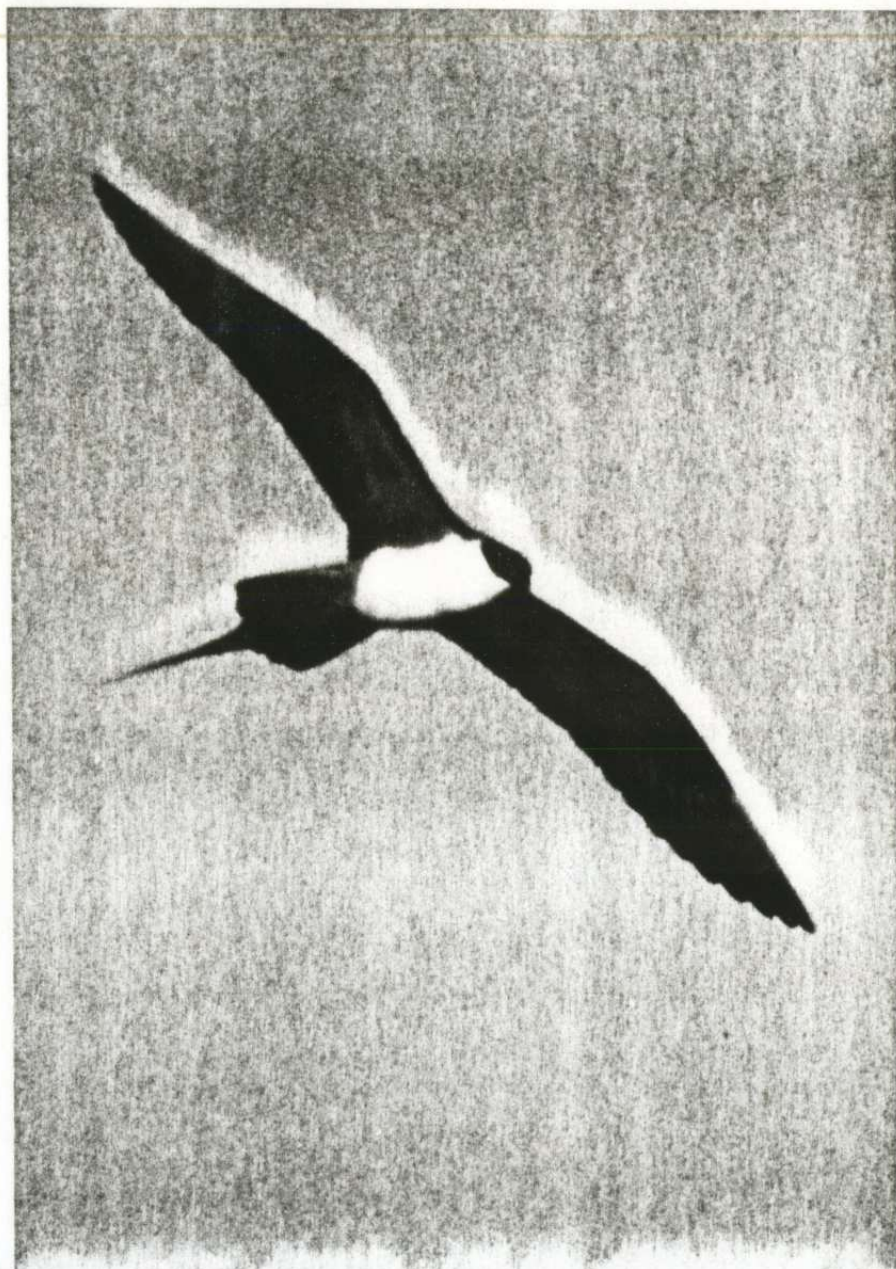
At approximately 11:25 a.m. on 2 August 1994, I stopped at the northwestern end of Spirit Lake in Dickinson County. A number of gulls and terns were resting on a rock jetty south of the road, just south of the Iowa-Minnesota state line. Among the gulls was an adult Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), recognizable by its size, blood red bill and legs, dark hood, and very pale gray mantle. I watched the bird as it perched on the jetty for 17 minutes, when it flew and disappeared to the southwest over Spirit Lake. The bird was slightly smaller than nearby Ring-billed Gulls and was generally a longer, more slender gull. The long legs were bright red. The bill was dark red, slender, straight, and pointed at the tip. The bird still had a well-defined dark brown hood, although there were numerous white flecks, especially around the base of the bill and on the forehead. The neck, breast, belly, undertail, and uppertail were white. The mantle was very pale gray, the same color as the upperwings. The wing pattern was as follows: inner primaries and secondaries and their coverts were pale gray, outer primaries and coverts were white, black tips to at least the outer six primaries, undersides of inner primaries black, underside of outer primary white. The wings extended well beyond the tail tip when the bird was perched.



A short time later, at approximately 12:10 p.m., I stopped to scan a small flock of gulls resting on an island at the Kettleon Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) on the west side of Spirit Lake. After a few minutes, I found a very strange looking gull



Long-Tailed Jaeger SAC. Co. LAKE View, IA
Non Poggensee ©1994 SEPT 10+11-1994



Long-Tailed Jaeger SAC Co. LAKE View IA
Non Poggensee ©1994 SEPT. 10+11-1994

94-37
P-0423

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

1994

94-37

What species? *Long Tailed Jaeger* How many? *1 Adult*
Location? *Toma Hawk Marsh - Sac Co about 1/2 miles N of*
Lake View on M68. West side of Highway.
Type of Habitat? *marsh.*

When? date(s) *Sept 4* time: *3:20* to *3:40*

Who? your name and address: *PETE ERNZEN 401 TAYLOR*

Others with you: *None*

Others before or after you: *MANY VIEWED THIS BIRD AT BLACK HAWK LAKE UNTIL SEPT. 11, 1994*

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

See attached notes

Similar species: how eliminated: *Other Jaegers - Long tail & no brown on chest.*

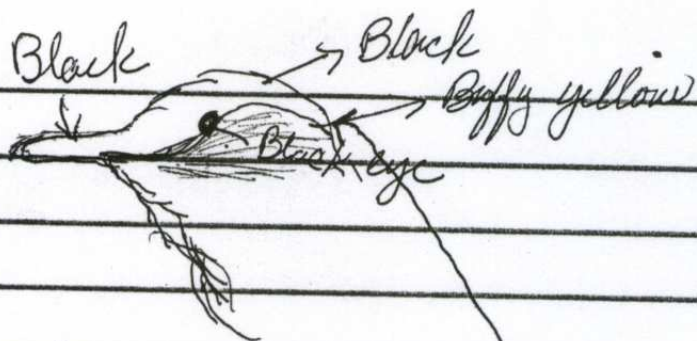
Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? If yes, explain: *NO*

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. *see notes.*

Previous experience with species and similar ones: *None.*

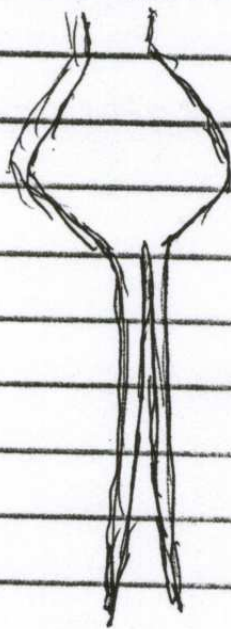
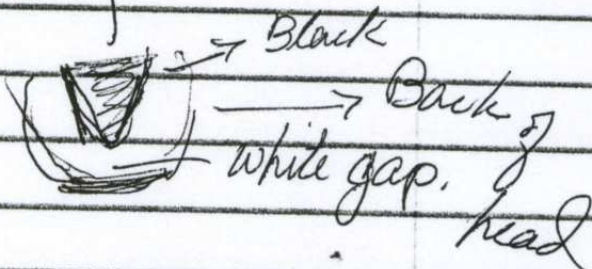
References and persons consulted before writing description: *National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America*
How long before notes completed? *Immediately during and after.*

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Observed sitting on beaver / muskrat lodge.

Gray wings



Estimated about 1 foot long.

6:30 Sept 4th 1994

West side of Tomahawk marsh
I was on N side bird on S^w
side.

94-371

April 320

Sukowette

Observed a long tail like bird with
a long downy tail. I immediately recognized
it as a long tailed jaeger. The bird ~~landed~~
landed in a muskrat house ^{where} I watched
the bird for about 15 min. from what I
would estimate to be 1/3 mile away.

through my Bushnell 9 to 30 power 40 mm
Zoom Spotting scope. Light was not optimal
overcast and gray. I was able to discern ^{carrier when} in flight

using a Bushnell Falcon 7x35 357 ft at
1000 yds. noted optics a long pointed flowing
tail. ~~was able~~ while sitting the bird was sitting

I observed the following: ^{dark} gray back ^{always} white throat
black bill, black cap - coming to a V at the
back - white between black cap and gray back.

I observed the bird for about 15 min. I then
moved to the South ~~side~~ side bordering County

M68

M ~~68~~ where my son Joshua and I walked
to the general location the bird. I was able to

more yellow
than buff

approach to within 20-30 ft (est.) of the ledge
that had the bird sitting on it. In addition
to above details I observed a dark eye and
a buffy yellow area below the eye - see
drawing. - estimated about 1" wide.

March 8, 1944
M68.P.

4/4

94-37

topside flight feathers

Adult
long tailed
jaeger
not
juvenile.

When the bird flew it had dark ~~underside~~ of the wings - tail was dark as well. I did not observe belly/legs. No previous experience with jaegers. Song similar - "Slim" body build, tern like flight and long pointed flowing tail. Resembles all jaeger species - large size, yellow below eye. Almond shaped tarsus - no brown neck band - neck, throat, chest white in color. As bird sat 2 long feathers stuck straight out ~~and~~. It took several minutes to get to the general area of the bird - 5 min. I was able to watch the bird until about 3:50 pm. The bird flew south over the marsh. I lost sight of the bird and assumed it flew back on top of another beaver lodge - long slender wings

long pointed wings in flight

94-37

Babs & Loren Padelford
1405 Little John Rd.
Bellevue, NE 68005

Documentation for Long-tailed Jaeger

Date: September 5, 1994

Time: 9:30 -9:45

Location: Black Hawk Lake, Lake View, Sac County

Description of bird: Adult plumage. The bird was seen only in flight. It had very long, slender wings, and two long feathers extending from the center of the tail. The bird was dark above, with black wings, black tail, and white underneath including the chin, neck, breast and belly. Top of the head was black or dark brown. The size was difficult to determine since it was not observed with gulls, although there were Ring-billed Gulls on the lake. It seemed to be about the size of a Ring-billed Gull. It was observed diving on a Black Tern and was much larger.

Behavior: It soared up into thermals like a raptor without flapping its wings. When it had gained altitude, the flight resembled that of a Magnificent Frigatebird with wings bent at the wrist. It gained altitude over land south of the lake, and then flew north over and around the lake.

Distance from bird: 100 yards to approximately 1/4 mile

Equipment used: 10x42x Bausch & Lomb Elite binoculars,
6x25 Bushnell Custom Compact binoculars

Light conditions: Cloudy

Other observer: Roland Barth, Omaha

This documentation is being written on 9/5/94 partially from notes taken at time of sighting.

94-37

Iowa Rare Bird Documentation

Ross Silcock,
PO Box 300
Tabor, IA 51653



SPECIES: Long-tailed Jaeger (adult)

OBSERVERS: Ross Silcock, Babs and Loren Padelford, Peter Ernzen, Jim Sinclair, Rollen Barth, and others.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: September 5, 1994

TIME OF OBSERVATION: About 10 am for about 15 minutes

DATE OF REPORT: September 5, 1994

LOCATION: Extreme east end of Blackhawk Lake, Sac County.

DISTANCE FROM BIRD: Closest was about 250 yards, while in flight.

LIGHT: Excellent; we were looking southward in overcast morning light. The sun was beginning to appear. The bird was circling at about 45 degrees from us varying from about 250 yards to about a half mile.

OPTICS: I used 10 X 40 Optolyth binoculars

NARRATIVE: I arrived at dawn at Tomahawk Marsh, where Peter Ernzen had seen an adult Long-tailed Jaeger the previous afternoon. After looking there unsuccessfully for about an hour, I, along with others, went to Blackhawk Lake, hoping to find the bird there. We were unsuccessful, but did find a Sabine's Gull. We returned to Tomahawk Marsh, again gave up there, and returned to the east end of Blackhawk Lake, where we were met by Peter Ernzen, who told us that the Schantz group had just seen the Long-tailed Jaeger. We soon located it in flight, soaring in circles as a raptor would soar on thermals. It continued this flight pattern for about 15 minutes, covering the east end of Blackhawk Lake and about a half mile or more eastward over farmland, then returned to the vicinity of the lake, where we lost track of it (the call of the family on Labor Day!).

IDENTIFICATION: This bird was approximately Ring-billed Gull size in very general terms (no gulls were near it in flight) although its body was much slimmer and its tail was long. At one point it chased an immature Black Tern, appearing to be almost twice its size, although the tern was not dwarfed. Upperparts were dark greyish black, including a clean-cut black crown, with primaries and trailing edge of the upperwing somewhat darker than the rest of the upperparts. No white could be discerned in the primaries. Underwings appeared uniformly dark brown. The pointed central rectrices were about twice as long as the rest of the rectrices. Underparts were creamy white to offwhite, including the cheeks. In flight from below it resembled in shape a long-tailed Mississippi Kite, although at other angles the wings were seen to be carried in arched fashion, not unlike those of a frigatebird, a look enhanced by the long central rectrices. From what I saw of this bird, the only feature that I consider highly suggestive of Long-tailed Jaeger was the absence of visible white in the primaries, although the darker trailing edge of the upperwings is considered significant by Harrison ("Seabirds"), as is the lack of a breastband. I believe that an adult Parasitic Jaeger in similar plumage would always show at least some white in its primaries. I do not think that the central rectrices' length alone could be considered conclusive on this bird for Long-tailed, but they are certainly suggestive. The general jizz was slender, relaxed, and masterful in the air, characteristics of Long-tailed Jaegers I saw off the coast of Washington. It was being dive-bombed by numerous swallows.

What species? Long-tailed Jaeger How many? 1

Location? Tomahawk Marsh / Blackhawk Lakes 12:45 -

Type of habitat? Marsh / Lake Sac county 12:50 p.m.

When? date(s): Sept 5, 1994 time: 10:45 to 12:00 NOON 1:15 - 1:30 A.M.

Who? your name and address: Harold White ~~12:45~~ - p.m.

others with you: Lee & Nancy Schoenewe ~~1:15~~

others before or after you: Pam Reed / Eugene Forrester ~~1:15~~

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Mature Long-tailed Jaeger - separated from Parasitic Jaeger by ① lack of white in wing edges

② lack of belly band -

③ ~~presence of~~ black trailing edge of wings

NOTE: belly not as illustrated plate 55, 201 a J Harrison - was pale example described by Harrison 376 for body of adult breeding

was mobbed by swallows - soared on thermals (falcon like) ~~few~~

Similar species and how eliminated:

see above for separation from Parasitic Jaeger

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO -

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

used 20 & 40 power scope - lighting good - closest at 100 yards - had at

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

w/ Parasitic Jaeger in Siberia

References and persons consulted before writing description:

reviewed Harrison before observation and

How long before field notes made? 1 hr - this form completed? including flight

Box 382 Estherville 51334

94-37

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species How many? LONG-TAILED JAEGER - 1 ADULT
 Location? TOMAHAWK MARSH AND BLACK HAWK LAKE, SAC COUNTY
 Type of habitat? MARSH AND LAKE
 When? date(s): 9/5/94 Time: 10:45 AM - 1:45 PM 6 SIGHTINGS IN THIS TIME FRAME
 Who? your name and address
 LEE A. SCHOENEWE 518 W. 4th ST. SPENCER, IA. 51301

Others with you NANCY SCHOENEWE, HAROLD WHITE

Others before and after you EUGENE ARMSTRONG; PAM TREID ALLEN; PETE PETERSON, ET AL

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also describe voice and behavior. BIRD SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN RING-BILLED GULLS. VERY LONG TAIL FEATHERS WHICH WERE DARK. BACK AND UPPER WINGS WERE GRAY-BROWN WITH DARKER TRAILING EDGE. DARK CAP WITH WHITE SEPARATING DARK BACK. WHITE EXTENDED FROM CHIN TO BREAST TO LOWER BELLY WITH NO BANDING. NO WHITE VISIBLE ON UNDERWING. BIRD HAD A BUOYANT, TERN-LIKE FLIGHT AND ALSO CAUGHT THERMALS ON 3 OCCASIONS, SOARING ON POINTED, CROOKED WINGS. ALSO OBSERVED HARASSING GULLS AND SCAVANGING FOOD DROPPED BY GULLS.

Similar species and how eliminated:

PARASITIC + POMARINE JAEGER: LONG TAIL FEATHERS, GRAY-BROWN UPPER WING w/ DARK TRAILING EDGE, WHITE BELLY w/ NO BAND

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: DAYLIGHT, PARTLY SUNNY TO SUNNY; 100 - 300 YDS
 8x40 BINOCULARS, 20x-60x SCOPE

Previous experience with this species and similar ones: NONE

References and persons consulted before writing description:

HARRISON - SEABIRDS; PETERSON - EASTERN BIRDS; AS - MASTER GUIDE TO BIRDING

How long before field notes made? IMMEDIATELY
 this form completed? 4 HRS.

Mail original form to field editor for this season.

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

94-37

What species? Long-tailed Jaeger How many? 1-ad.

Location? Black Hawk Lake, Sac. Co., IA

Type of Habitat? open lake

When? date(s): Sep. 5, 1994 time: 12:45 AM to 12:55 AM CST

Who? your name and address: Peter C. Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd. Doverport, Id.

Others with you: Brian Conroy, Blewus, Kelly McKay, Mr + Mrs Reid Allen, Mr + Mrs Lee Schenck, Harold ^{5 yrs} White

Others before or after you: Mr + Mrs. Gene Armstrong, Pete Erzen

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Light phased bird in breeding plumage. Cap black, mantle grey with a bit of brownish, primaries dark grey. Tail with two central feathers greatly elongated, grey to dark grey at tip. Light below, with yellow collar. Bird chased Ring-billed + Sabine's Gull. Very long-winged bird.

Similar species; how eliminated: Parasitic + Pomerine Jaegers don't have the long central tail feathers.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? no
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment. Distance 1/2 - 5/8 mi, sun to right of bird, 45-90° angle

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen many times in Canadian Arctic, Alaska, Washington.

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? 20 min this form completed? 8 hrs.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).

94-37

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Long-tailed Jaeger; *Number:* 1 adult

Location: Black Hawk Lake, Ida Co., IA

Date: 6 September 1994; *Time:* 6:45 to 7:45 a.m.

Name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246.

Others before/with/after: Found by Peter Ernzen on 4 Sep, seen by many; Jim Fuller and Dick Tetrault with me.

Habitat and circumstances: Natural lake about a mile long and a half mile wide.

Description of bird: I spotted the bird on the water more than half way across the lake. It was picking insects off the surface. The dark black cap, white face, neck, and underparts, and dark mantle were quite obvious. It was about 50% larger than a nearby Pied-billed Grebe. It was a slender jaeger with relatively thin bill. The long wispy tail that extended about two inches beyond the primaries was seen better later when we were closer with light behind us. The tail was all dark. We observed the bird in flight several time over the lake and later over a silting pond. The upper wing surface and back appeared uniform dark brown-black with some white showing on the leading edge of the primaries. Jim saw a darker trailing edge to the secondaries with slightly lighter secondary wing coverts. The underwing was somewhat lighter. The wings were rather long and pointed. There was no white at the base of the primaries from above or below. There was no belly band. When we were at the silting pond to the southeast, the jaeger flew over and flushed the many gulls and shorebirds that were there.

Voice: Not heard.

Similar species: The shape, pattern of dark and light, and flight were all indicative of a jaeger. To me the bird appeared small and slender compared to what I would expect for Parasitic or Pomarine jaegers. The lack of white in the primaries and lack of a belly band fit Long-tailed, not the others. The long streaming tail, of course, seems to obvious to mention.

Any one have reservations?: No.

Light: Mostly behind us; *Distance:* 150 to 500 yards (estimate); *Optics:* 20x scope, 10x binocular.

Previous experience: I have seen many of all three species, most recently at Nome in June 1994.

References before/after viewing: I looked at the National Geographic Guide once after the initial spotting of the bird.

Time of notes: during observation; *Final typing:* 2 days.

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD

94-37

SPECIES: Long-tailed Jaeger (Adult)

LOCATION: Black Hawk Lake (Sac County)

DATE & TIME: 6 September (6:40-7:45 AM)

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240

OTHERS: Discovered on 4 September by Pete Ernzen. With me were Tom Kent and Dick Tetrault. Many observers saw bird from 5-14 September.

BACKGROUND: Pete Ernzen reported the bird to the Iowa Birdline on 4 September. The location was Tomahawk Marsh. On 5 September, Tim Schantz relocated the bird at Black Hawk Lake about 2-3 miles south of original location. We arrived early 6 September, and Kent found the bird sitting on the lake surface in the southeast portion of the lake. We watched it on the water and flying off and on for about an hour.

DESCRIPTION: The bird was never very close to any other gull, but did appear to be larger (longer) than the Ring-billeds that were in the area. It was also rather dark, sleeker than the gulls, with long and pointed wings. Specifically, the bird had a dark cap and side of face that included the eye. The bill appeared dark, and rather small. The underparts were white on the breast and upper belly, and lacked any streaking or bands. The lower belly and undertail appeared darker. At one point, when the bird was flying, I could see yellow behind the dark cap. The upperparts were a grayish-brown color. The underwing was gray. In flight, the wings were long and pointed, and there was a dark trailing edge on the upperwing, and on several occasion thought I could see a light leading edge on the underwing. The tail was also brown and rounded on the end, and there were two tail streamers that extended beyond the tail several inches. However, they did not appear to be nearly as long as did those on breeding birds that I had seen in Alaska. The flight was graceful, and the bird also glided for long distances several times. While we first watched it, the bird was picking what appeared to be bugs off the lake surface.

SIMILAR SPECIES: No other adult jaeger has an unbanded chest, nor lacks prominent white areas in underwing.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: I saw as many as fifty adult birds of this species in Alaska in June, 1993. I have seen immature Pomarine and Parasitic in Iowa. I also saw adults in Alaska.

OPTICS & VIEWING CONDITIONS: Clear day in early morning. When bird was on water, looking northwest with KOWA TSN-4 telescope at estimated 500 yards. Also watched it flying. usually looking toward south, once as close as 250 yards in telescope, but most often at 300-500 yards.

REFERENCES & FIELD GUIDES: Notes prepared after returning from trip, and this form was typed on 9 September. National Geographic field guide was viewed after seeing bird during return trip.

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

94-37

What species? LONG-TAILED JAEGER How many? 1 ADULT

Location? LAKE VIEW, IOWA SAC COUNTY

Type of Habitat? LAKE

When? date(s): SEPT 7, SEPT. 10, & 11, 1994 time: all day to 5 P.M.

Who? your name and address: DON POGGENSEE LAKE LA JUNE ESTATES, IDA GROVE, IA 51445

Others with you: WIFE PAM, DAN SMITH, IDA GROVE, IA. BOB LIVERMORE, BILL HUSER MANY OTHERS

Others before or after you: _____

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

SEE PHOTOS. BECAUSE OF ALL THE OTHERS WHO SAW BIRD AND MADE RECORDS I WILL BE BRIEF AND ASK TO SEE INCLOSED BLACK AND WHITE AND COLOR PRINTS.

HAVE COLOR SLIDES ON FILE THAT SHOW THE BIRD IN GOOD DETAIL. BLACK HEAD, WHITE UNDERNEATH, LONG TAIL, SOME YELLOW NEAR HEAD.

Similar species; how eliminated:

LONG TAIL MARKINGS AND COLOR MARKINGS.

SEE PHOTOS

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

EXCELLENT LIGHT, FLEW OVERHEAD MANY TIMES OVER LAKE VIEW, IOWA

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

700 MM CAMERA LENS

NONE

References and persons consulted before writing description:

PETER ERNZEN

How long before field notes made? PHOTOS this form completed? SEPT 13, 1994

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).

What species? Long-tailed Jaeger How many? 1 adultLocation? Black Hawk Lake S.P. - (Sac County)Type of habitat? Medium-sized lake surrounded by homes and then cornfieldsWhen? date(s): Sept. 10, 1994 time: 11:40 a.m. to 1:50 p.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: Beth Proescholdtothers before or after you: Jim Fuller, Tom Kent, Ann Johnson, many others

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

We first saw this gorgeous bird sitting on the water. It had a black cap, a whitish neck collar on the back of the neck, a whitish throat and neck, grayish upper wings, and black wing tips that showed while floating on the water and occasionally in flight. One time when it was close to us, I could see its black legs and feet, its small black bill, its dark eye enclosed in the black cap, and a flash of white on the inner primaries of the upper wings along the leading edge of the wing.

This bird did lots of soaring on this breezy day and landed 4-5 times or more on the water. It was a big bird in flight and noticeable even from a long distance away. A Cormorant flew by and was bigger in size but not by too much, it seemed. It had long, pointed wings that were very narrow. Its long tail streamers were very evident in flight. The underwings were all dark and had no white areas that were showing. It had a wedged-tail look at end of the tail and before the tail streamers started. It had graceful curves or arches in its wings as it soared around. At times in the distance it looked somewhat like a frigatebird. Once it dove at a Ring-billed Gull and made the gull drop a fish and the jaeger went after it. Got minnows on the water. Boats did not bother it when it was perched on the water. (Saw briefly at 4:00 p.m. with Doug Rose).

Similar species and how eliminated:

Can't think of a bird that would resemble a long-tailed Jaeger.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If: yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Mostly sunny, sun at our backs, hazy. Distances estimated - 150-200 yards away at first to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile or more away. Closest - 60 yards away flying and floating. 8X30 Binocs 22X Scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Saw many at Nome, Alaska.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Nat'l. Geog. Birds of N. America, Robbins' Birds of N. America, R.T. Peterson's guide

How long before field notes made? while viewing this form completed? Sept. 24, 1994

What species? Long-tailed Jaeger How many? 1Location? Black Hawk Lake in S. Sac CountyType of habitat? open lake, partially edged with homes, & a state parkWhen? date(s): Sept. 10, 1994 time: 11:10 to 11:56Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Mark Proescholdtothers before or after you: many observers

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

The jaeger first seen on water $3/8$ - $1/2$ mile away. We could see how large it was, see its gray mantle with black wingtips, white underparts, its solid black cap + white collar that went behind its head. Then it flew - long, narrow scythe-like wings in a wide curve. As it soared + soared - all white undersides, ^(breast + belly) gray mantle + underwings, upperwings with large black wedges ^{flight feathers} from just past the wrists to tips, + long black tail streamers from a wedge-shaped tail. I saw no yellow on throat or breast. Legs + feet were black (I couldn't detect the black bill). It soared effortlessly, the light buoyant flight that Long-tailed Jaegers have. It would disappear north for a while, + then be back. Once it dived at a Ring-billed Gull in a jaeger thieving tactic. Once in a while as the jaeger faced us while soaring a thin bar of white on the leading edge of wings was seen. Wonderful bird!!

Similar species and how eliminated: Pomarine + Parasitic Jaegers - the long-tailed is smaller bodied, much more buoyant in flight, and it has long tail streamers

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: _____

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

slightly hazy sky, sun partially behind us, S. winds quite brisk. Across the lake on water at $3/8$ - $1/2$ mile, and flying closer, further, Bushnell scope 22 wide angle + Nikon 8x30 binocs.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I have seen all 3 jaegers - quite a few out of Nome, Alaska last year.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

We studied guides before we ever saw the bird, of course.

How long before field notes made? at once this form completed? Sept. 24th