

Jaeger species
19 Nov 1988
Saylorville Res., Polk Co., IA
*Fix
IBL 59:13, 77

Record Number: 88-23
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Andrew S. Fix

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 59:13
Records Committee: IBL 59:77

VOTE: 7-A-D

A-D. Size and jizz support a Pomarine Jaeger. However, since the white on the upper and lower primaries seemed less than that of previously identified Pomarines it should be classified as Jaeger sp.

A-D. Good description of subadult jaeger. The gull-like appearance, white crescent on each wing, and behavior all eliminate other gulls. Not enough detail to identify bird to species, but acceptable as jaeger sp.

A-D. Accept as Jaeger sp. given dark coloration, white in base of primaries. Too bad a better look was impossible.

A-D. Enough info to allow Jaeger sp.

SEND TO: Andrew S. Fix, 153-C University Village, Ames, IA 50010
[3/29/89]

Documentation for Jaeger sp.

Andrew S. Fix

153-C University Village

Ames, IA 50010

515-296-7554

Date: Nov 19, 1988

Time: 2:45 PM

Location: Saylorville Lake

Conditions: Overcast, windy

Please accept the following account of this bird as documentation. If there are any further details necessary, please do not hesitate to contact me. Andy Fix

Situation: I pulled into Cherry Glen about 2:40 PM and began scoping the lake with a 20x Bushnell scope. Beginning at the east end of the dam, I scoped across the face of the dam and as I came toward Lakeview, on the far side, I encountered a single, large dark bird in the water. No other birds were around it at all. This bird was gull-like in silhouette, however it had a more elongate form, flatter head, and longer wings. It was between Ring-billed and Herring Gull in size and no color variation was detectable, as it was a uniform dark color. After studying this bird for 5 min., I continued to scan up the west side of the lake and in about 3 minutes, a very dark bird with distinct, long pointed wings flew into my field of view. This bird was only several feet off the water and flew in a straight line up the middle of the lake. As I watched it, I noted a white under belly, fairly well-demarcated from the adjacent dark coloration, and subtle, yet distinct white patches at

The base of the primaries. Most obvious was the deep, rowing-like wing beat suggestive of a falcon. The wings were more angular, with more of a sharp bend at the wrist, than gulls. The bird continued up the lake and out of my field of view.

I identified this bird as a jaeger, although I was not sure of the species. I felt the overall dark coloration, white belly, white patches at the base of the primaries, and long, pointed wings with deep rowing flight were all good field marks with which to make that identification. I ruled out other gulls, especially a young Herring Gull (1st yr) because of the location of the white (belly + wings) as well as the deep rowing flight. In addition, I had the opportunity to observe three Pomarine Jaegers earlier this fall ~~and~~ at the same location and the markings were similar, except this bird was darker with a white belly.

I suspect this jaeger was a subadult, in a phase with overall dark features but retaining the white belly. The white wing patches were not prominent, as I recall from the other jaegers, but this could have been a function of the conditions of observation. I was only able to watch the bird fly for about 20-25 sec.

After the bird flew from site, I checked back immediately to the lone, dark bird I had just seen to the south and could not locate it. My suspicions were confirmed and that it was the same as the bird I had seen flying.

The lighting was fairly uniform while the bird was flying since it was in the center of the lake and not backlit as it was when it was sitting alone.