

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review (to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: *Long-tailed Jaeger, Stercorarius longicaudus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
*One juvenile, light morph*
3. Locality: Parish: *Plaquemines (Gulf of Mexico)* \_\_\_\_\_  
Specific Locality: *17-21 mi SE of South Pass of Mississippi River* \_\_\_\_\_
4. Date(s) when observed: *10 September 2016*
5. Time(s) of day when observed: *1013 CDT*
6. Reporting observer and address: *Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA*
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): *Van Remsen, Oscar Johnson, David Muth, Mac Myers, et al. – ID from photos after returning from trip*
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): *Jon Dunn, Alvaro Jaramillo, Scott Terrill, et al. – from photos, fide Van Remsen*
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): *Bright, mid-AM sunlight under partly cloudy sky*
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): *Swarovski 8x30 binos (good cond), Nikon f5.6 / 70-200 mm lens (good cond)*
11. Distance to bird(s): *Perhaps as close as 100-150 m at one point, but probably 200+ m for most of the observation (I don't feel very comfortable making an estimate)*
12. Duration of observation: *1-2 min, at minimum, based on time stamps from photos*
13. Habitat: *pelagic, "blue" water*

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): [Much of the observation involved the bird chasing/harrassing a Cory's Shearwater, which allowed good size comparison.](#)

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species): [Juvenile light morph jaeger sp. is all I could say in the field, and I spent my effort attempting to get photos \(with limited success\), rather than taking notes on structure or flight pattern \(my interpretation of those characters would have been of limited use anyway, given my lack of experience with jaegers\).](#)

The following description is from photos, including those by Oscar Johnson, which are better than my own. The jaeger was clearly smaller than Cory's Shearwater, which it was chasing/harrassing, and, in particular, the bird's body appeared much less heavy (i.e., lighter in mass) or bulky than the Cory's. It was a pale brownish/grayish color overall with distinct pale feather edgings on the upperparts, blunt-tipped central rectrices, and 2-3 white primary shafts on the upperwing.

16. Voice: [Not vocal](#)

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): [2-3 white primary shafts should be diagnostic and eliminate both Parasitic and Pomerine jaegers, which should show 3-5 and 4-6 white primary shafts, respectively. The blunt shape of the central rectrices is typical for juvenile Long-tailed, and should further eliminate Parasitic as a candidate. The bird's small size \(smaller than Cory's Shearwater\) should further eliminate Pomerine.](#)

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): [Photos, by Robert C. Dobbs](#)

19. Previous experience with this species: [No previous experience](#)

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation: [Nat Geo Guide, Sibley Guide, expert opinion solicited by Van Remsen \(see above\)](#)

21. This description is written from: \_\_\_\_\_ notes made during the observation (\_\_\_\_ notes attached?); \_\_\_\_\_ notes made after the observation (date: \_\_\_\_\_); \_\_\_\_\_ memory; X notes made from photos.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: I have no reason to doubt this ID, except for my lack of experience with the species and jaegers in general, and the overall difficulty of jaeger ID. The bird's small size (smaller than Cory's Shearwater), 2-3 white primary shafts in the upper wing, blunt shape of central rectrices, and, importantly, expert opinion, all combine to make a very convincing case for LTJA.

23. Date: 26 November 2016 Time: 0810 CST

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? Yes

If yes, may we include your name with the report? Yes





