

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*

The smallest of the jaegers is also the scarcest in San Diego County, where it occurs as a rare fall migrant. It typically remains far out to sea, and there are only two reports from shore. The only jaeger identified inland in San Diego County, however, was a Long-tailed grounded by Tropical Storm Doreen in 1977.

Migration: Off San Diego, the Long-tailed Jaeger is usually seen singly, if at all. The largest concentration reported near San Diego was nine that were 20 miles east of Cortez Bank (and thus about 90 miles west of San Diego) 13 October 1971 (Jehl 1973). Onshore, H. W. Marsden collected an immature at Pacific Beach 19 September 1904 (Bishop 1905, FMNH 135805).

All three jaegers undertake extensive overland migrations but seldom stop en route. The only inland record for San Diego County remains the adult found exhausted at Pala (D11) after Tropical Storm Doreen 18 August 1977 (SDNHM 40390). An unidentified jaeger, however, was at Lake Hodges (K10) 9 September 1982 (D. Hayward, AB 37:224, 1983).



Photo by Richard E. Webster

The seasonal spread of fall records remains the 18 August–18 October reported by Unitt (1984). In spring, one was at the south end of San Diego Bay 11 May 1962 (G. McCaskie, AFN 16:447, 1962), one was off San Clemente Island 1 May 1987 (R. R. Veit, AB 41:488, 1987), and one was at Cortez Bank 22 April 2000 (T. McGrath, NAB 54:327, 2000).