

332-01-2001

## POMARINE JAEGER

*Stercorarius parasiticus pomarinus*

**Location:** Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, Pa

**Date:** November 18, 2001

**Time:** 8:10 to 8:35 AM

**Weather:** Clear, windlight from the west. Visibility good.

**Observer:** Jerry McWilliams

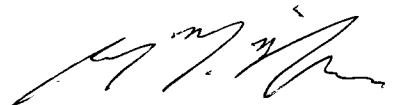
**Optics:** Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular and Kowa TSN 4 Spotting Scope at 30X

**Viewing distance:** around 250 yards

**Details of sighting & description:** Since I was going to be leading a field trip in less than an hour I thought I would scout out the beach 11 area to see what was around. After arriving at beach 11 at 8:10 AM I made a quick pass with my binocular before setting up my scope. On one of the sand islands about half way between beach 11 and Gull Point I spotted a single dark bird crouched on the sand. After setting up the scope I aimed it at the dark bird and adjusted the eyepiece to 30X. I immediately realized I was looking at a jaeger. At first I thought I might have some difficulty identifying the jaeger to species, but then it began to preen and showed its tail well. It would reach over to its femoral tract and preen and when it would do this it would turn its tail sideways and spread it giving me superb views of its upper tail. At this time I could see the wedge shaped tail and the broad blunt central rectrices that projected slightly past the adjoining rectrices. The jaeger looked like a first winter Herring Gull and appeared to be about that size or perhaps slightly smaller, but it was difficult to say because it was not with anything for size comparison. The body appeared heavy and was entirely brownish-gray with no apparent barring on the breast and no streaking on the head or neck. It never spread its wings, so I could not look for the white patches in the primaries and under primary coverts. I could clearly see black and white barring on the under and upper tail coverts with some barring extending back along the lower flanks. I was not close enough to see any pale edged feathers on the wing coverts and scapulars or primary tips if present. Bare parts of the bird were grayish which included the legs feet and at least the inner half of the large bill. The outer portion of the bill was black and strongly hooked.

Parasitic Jaeger was ruled out because the central rectrices were not narrow and pointed and the head and neck were plain and unstreaked. The over-all color of the bird was a colder gray-brown rather than a rich brown color typical of Parasitic Jaeger. Long-tailed Jaeger was ruled out because they are much smaller and more stream-lined with a stubby bill that lacks a strong hook at the tip.

I have seen several Pomarine Jaegers at Presque Isle and on pelagic trips on the Atlantic Ocean. I have also taken identifiable photographs of this species on Presque Isle and the Atlantic Ocean.



**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Tabulation Form - Round One**

Species: Pomarine Jaeger (Stercorarius pomarinus )

Date of Sighting: 18 November 2001 to 18 November 2001

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: EIRE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 2001

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes

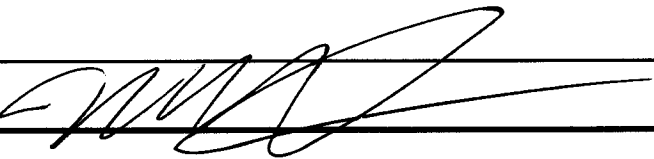
Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Heathcote			<del>X</del>					
P. Hess			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS			5	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments: 5/1

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 11/5/03