

**Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)**  
**Kahle Lake, Clarion and Venango Counties, PA**  
**September 19, 2003**

As with the descriptions of the Sabine's Gull and Leach's Storm Petrel submitted, Jim Valimont, Paul Hess and I began to search for birds during the passage of Hurricane Isabel at Moraine State Park in Butler County on this day. We did not see anything at Moraine. We heard a few Red-necked Phalaropes were present at Kahle Lake and decided to drive there to see them.

When we arrived Mike Leahy, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Gary Edwards and others were in the parking area. Mike told us we were just in time; a Pomarine Jaeger was flying around the lake.

We got out of the car to see the bird flying over the lake and watched it for at least 30 minutes. It never landed the entire time we watched it.

**Description:**

- Medium sized, dark brown and white "seabird," about the size of a Ring-billed Gull, or slightly larger. It was difficult to judge exact size as the bird was alone. The unique tail stood out.
- Bill: from the distance I observed the bird, it appeared black and moderately thick.
- The head was whitish with a dark cap extending from the nape along the side of the head to the bill. Exact details on the cap could not be seen from the distance I observed the bird.
- The breast, sides and belly were dull white, with a broad, mottled dark brown breastband. The edges of the breast band were not well defined. The bird's throat and neck were dull white. This was a light phase bird.
- The undertail coverts were dark blackish/brown, very well defined from the belly.
- The back, tail and wings were dark brown. The wings showed a white patch on the underside at the base of the primaries. Due to light (overcast conditions) and the bird's movement, detail on the white was difficult to see. The wings were slimmer than any mid-size gull, and more pointed.
- The tail had two broad, blunt tipped, rounded (not pointed) central retrices which were very obvious as the bird flew over the lake. As the bird turned at certain angles, the tail appeared very long because of these feathers.

The structure of the tail, the light breast and belly, mottled breast band and dark cap indicated this was an adult bird.

Separation From Other Jaegers

- The mottled breast band and long blunt central retrices separated this individual from Parasitic Jaeger. Parasitic Jaegers have long central retrices, however they taper to a point. Parasitic Jaegers have a neater, well defined breast band. Although the extent of the dark cap differs between the two species, I could not see this detail.
- Long-tailed Jaeger in adult plumage (light phase) lacks a breast band and the white patches at the base of the primaries on the underwing. The central retrices are very long, thin and pointed.

I observed the bird through 10 power binoculars and a Leica Televid Spotting scope at 20 – 60 power. The bird was flying a few hundred feet above the lake.

I have seen adult Pomarine Jaegers off the coast of California.

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**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation – Round Two**

Species: Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

Date of Sighting: 19 September 2003 to 19 September 2003

Location: KAHLE LAKE

County : CLARION/VENANGO

Observer(s): Mike Fialkovich, Jim Valimont, Paul Hess m.obs.

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Mike Fialkovich

Written Description: Yes

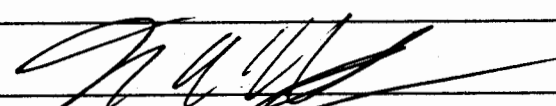
Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut			X					
A. Guarente			X					
P. Guris			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witner			X					
<del>R. Leberman</del> Heller			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			X					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 7/0 on 2nd round

Signature (Secretary) 

Date: 6/25/02

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Pomarine Jaeger (Stercorarius pomarinus)

Date of Sighting: 19 September 2003 to 19 September 2003

Location: KAHLE LAKE

County : CLARION/VENANGO

Observer(s): Mike Fialkovich, Jim Valimont, Paul Hess and multiple observers

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Mike Fialkovich

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: ~~Video~~ NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead				X				
D. Heathcote			X					
P. Guris			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman				X				
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			5	2				
DECISION								

Comments: 5/2 GO TO 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary)

Date: