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POMARINE JAEGER

*Stercorarius pomarinus*

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Location: Sunset Point, Presque Isle S.P., Erie, Pa.

Date: November 7, 2011

Time: 8:22 AM

Weather: cloudy, wind SW to 10 mph, temp. 53 F

Viewing distance: about 400 to 500 yards offshore

Optics: Kowa TSN 4 at 30X

Details: While conducting the waterbird count, with Ben Coulter and Cory Destein assisting me, there wasn't a lot of waterfowl activity, so I kept panning back and forth across the horizon looking through distant Bonaparte's Gulls moving east. When I looked away from the scope for a second I spotted a dark bird coming towards us. I could tell by the way the bird was flying that it was a jaeger. When it got to within a quarter mile or so it banked to the east where I could see that it was a dark morph bird. It landed on the water for a moment before it took off and continued flying east.

The bird was large with a heavy body and broad-based wings. The wing beats were slow, but powerful. It would glide a few times, but most of the time its wings were in motion. It lacked the falcon-like sleekness and rapid wing beats of a Parasitic Jaeger. There were no central tail feather projections and the central tail feathers appeared blunt. The entire bird was brownish-black. The only contrasting markings was a little black and white barring on the under tail coverts and a large distinctive white patch at the base of the primaries.

We never saw a gull near the jaeger and it never pursued any gulls. This is the first all dark jaeger I have seen. All other birds including Parasitic Jaegers that I have seen have been light or intermediate in color.

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Date of Sighting: 7 November 2011 to 7 November 2011

County : ERIE

Location : PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams, Ben Coulter, Cory Destein

Date of Submission: 2011

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

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	
D. DeReamus			X					
A. Guarente			X					
T. Johnson			X					
B. Coulter			X					
R. Koury			X					
D. Weber			X					
G. Malosh			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 7/11/12