

111

PARASITIC JAEGER
Stercorarius parasiticus

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

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

Date: November 10, 2011

Time: 9:15 AM

Weather: cloudy, wind WNW to 10 mph, temp. 40 F

Viewing distance: about 250 yards

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

Details: Once again I was at my post at Sunset Point doing the count. It was rather slow at the time with only a few scattered Bonaparte's flying around when I spotted a jaeger zooming falcon-like straight in from the lake about six feet above the water heading towards me and a little to my right. The light was especially good at the time with brighter skies to the south and dark clouds to the north, so that the birds over the lake had good light on them. It would occasionally stop flapping and glide on wings curved down and bent back at the wrist. When the jaeger got to within a 300 yards or so from shore it banked a little more to the right revealing more of its body. At this time I could see that it was brown on the upper side with some white showing at the base of the primaries. When it showed its under side I could see the belly was barred and lighter than the rest of the bird.

The white at the base of the under primaries was easily seen at this point as well as the buffy wing linings with fine barring. The under tail was buffy showing barring as well. When it banked to its left the tail was held in a position so that I could easily see the pointed central tail feathers projecting slightly past the rest of the tail. This is a field mark I always like to see in differentiating the two larger jaeger species. Pomarine Jaeger immatures always show blunt central tail feathers that barely project beyond the rest of the tail making the tail appear wedge shaped. Also Pomarine Jaegers show broader barring on the under tail coverts with contrasting white background. The barring is also more prominent on the wing linings with the background color less buffy than Parasitic Jaeger. Long-tailed Jaeger was ruled out

because this bird had a more robust body, less sleek, had broader wings, and prominent white flashes at the base of the primaries.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Parasitic Jaeger Stercorarius parasiticus

Date of Sighting: 10 November 2011 to 10 November 2011

County : ERIE

Location : PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

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			K					

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 7/11/12