

#2

PARASITIC JAEGER

*Stercorarius parasiticus*

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

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

Date: November 18, 2011

Time: 7:20 AM

Weather: variably cloudy, wind WSW to 15 mph, temp. 31 F

Viewing distance: about 250 yards

Optics: Kowa TSN 4 at 30X

Details: I was at my post at Sunset Point doing the count. I was very busy trying to count thousands of Lesser Scaup passing the point when I caught a dark bird flying in from the lake towards me. It was flying low over the water flapping with strong wing beats with the occasional glide with wings cupped below its back. I immediately recognized it as a jaeger. It continued to get closer and eventually angled to my left heading west. I began to see details at this point. It was very similar to the one I had seen about a week ago, so the description below is nearly identical, except this bird was perhaps a bit darker than the one I had seen last week. 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, though the base color was pale brownish and not white. The white at the base of the under primaries was easily seen as well as the buffy wing linings with fine barring. The under tail was buffy showing barring as well. When it banked to its right 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, was less sleek, had broader wings, and prominent white flashes at the base of the primaries. After the jaeger passed breakwater #57 I lost track of it when it dropped down between the five foot waves.

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Date of Sighting: 18 November 2011 to 18 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			X					

Comments:

7/0

Signature (Secretary)

Nick Pulcinella

Date:

7/11/12