

3324 - 01 - 1999

**Parasitic Jaeger/Jaeger species
Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, PA
November 7, 1999**

by Mike Fialkovich

Dave Rieger, Joyce Hoffmann and I were scanning Lake Erie from Sunset Point at Presque Isle State Park, to record the numbers of migrating waterfowl to give to Jerry McWilliams, who normally counts at this location. Jerry was unable to be in the field that day, so we watched the birds flying past and counted for him.

I noticed a medium sized, dark, gull like bird flying about 30 yards offshore from east to west. I recognized it as a jaeger from the dark brown color, white wing patches, heavy body appearance, and direct flight.

Description:

- Medium sized, dark "seabird," about the size of a Ring-billed Gull, or slightly larger.
- Dark brown overall. The head, back, wings, tail, were dark brown. The nape showed a lighter, buffy wash.
- White patches were visible on the underwing at the base of the primaries, and on the upperside of the wing at the base of the primaries. The patches are from the white shafts of the primaries, but at this distance, individual shafts could not be distinguished.
- The belly was lighter, dull white, but with heavy brown barring across the entire belly. There were not any clear white areas on the belly.
- Bill, dark brown, The legs could not be seen.
- The tail lacked the longer central retrices, which is typical of a juvenile or subadult. I could not see any hints of projection on the center of the tail which birds in this age group show.
- As the bird turned, I could see the wings were thinner than any of the gulls in the area, and they were bent at the wrist, and pointed, which looked like a typical "seabird" wing.

The overall dark brown color, barrel chested build, white wing patches and overall wing and body shape indicated this was a jaeger.

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**Jaeger Description
Presque Isle, Erie County**

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A Pomarine Jaeger would be a heavier built bird, and the majority lack the buffy wash on the nape. Long-tailed Jaeger would have the most obvious longer central retrices of all three species, even the juveniles, and of the three species, Long-tailed show the least amount of white on the primary shafts (only having 2 or 3 white shafted primaries) on the upper surface of the wing. Long-tailed is the lightest built of the three species as well.

Parasitic Jaegers were seen a few days prior to the day I observed this bird, and the time was right for the species to be migrating through the area.

I hesitated submitting this description because I didn't think I could convince the committee of the record. I'm sure the bird I saw was a Parasitic Jaeger, however I am submitting this description as Parasitic Jaeger/Jaeger species because I don't think I can describe the bird in the detail needed by the committee to conclude it was a Parasitic Jaeger.

**Mike Fialkovich
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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

Species: Jaeger species (Stercorarius)

Date of Sighting: 7 November 1999 to 7 November 1999

Location: ERIE

County: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

Observer(s): Mike Fialkovich

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Mike Fialkovich

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

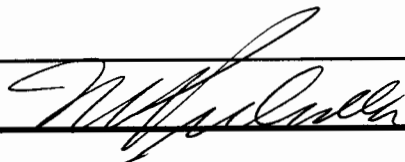
Specimen: No

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. Couchman			X					
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes			X					
M. Sharp			X					
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 2/26/01