

332A-03-1999

**Jaeger species** (2)  
*Stercorarius pomarinus or parasiticus*

**Location:** Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, Pa.

**Date:** December 30, 1999

**Time:** 10:20 and 11:50 AM

**Weather:** cloudy, wind 10 mph from the southwest .

**Observer:** Jerry McWilliams

**Optics:** Zeiss 10 X 40 and Kowa TSN 4 at about 30X.

**Viewing distance:** perhaps 1 to 2 miles off shore.

**Viewing conditions:** good

Details of sighting and description: I was conducting my waterbird count at Sunset Point. There were a few Ring-billed Gulls and Herring Gulls flying over the lake. At 10:20 AM, I spotted a jaeger flying in a westerly direction. The blackish plumage and flight of the bird were the first clues to its identity. It would fly on stiff strongly arched wings with slow steady wing beats. The wings were pointed and always angled back and curved downward giving the bird a rather arched profile especially when viewing the bird head on. The upperside and underside were entirely blackish with a prominent portion of white at the base of the primaries which was only discernible at this distance when the water was in the background. It was by itself the entire time of observation so there could be no direct comparison with gulls to determine its size. However, the bird appeared to be larger and heavier, the wings too broad based, and wing beats too slow to be a Parasitic Jaeger. Because of these characteristics I believe this was a different bird than the one I had seen earlier this morning. It eventually landed on the water and because of the distance I could not see it any more. After about 30 minutes Walt Shaffer, Mike Fialkovich, and I relocated the bird as it started to fly around again, but just when it was getting closer we lost track of it as it flew low between the waves. I did not see any central tail streamers, so I believe the jaeger was an immature.



**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Ballot - Round One**

Species: Jaeger species ( Stercorarius )

Date of Sighting: 30 December 1999 to 30 December 1999

Location: ERIE

County: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

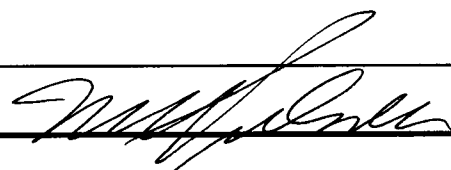
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Recording: No			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			6		1			
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 2/26/01