

332A-01-2001

## Jaeger species

*Stercorarius pomarinus or parasiticus*

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

**Date:** October 8, 2001

**Time:** 8:05 to 8:07 AM

**Weather:** mostly clear, wind light.

**Observer:** Jerry McWilliams

**Optics:** Kowa TSN 4 at about 30X.


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

**Viewing conditions:** very good

Details of sighting and description: I was conducting my waterbird count at Sunset Point. There were about 200 or more Ring-billed Gulls and Herring Gulls flying over the lake. While scanning the scattered gulls I spotted a jaeger flying in from the north. 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 rather distinct when the sun shone on the undersides of the primaries. During the couple of minutes the jaeger was in view it gave chase to one of the gulls, but broke away from the gull after chasing it a short distance. Because the jaeger and the gulls were so far away from shore, it was difficult to judge the size of the jaeger and what species of gull the jaeger was chasing. It eventually landed on the water and because of the distance I was unable to see the bird.

I suspect the jaeger was most likely a Parasitic Jaeger based entirely upon the time of year when this species usually migrates across the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. I could not even determine the age of the bird. However, because the jaeger showed extensive white at the base of the primaries, appeared heavy with relatively short broad wings, and was roughly the same size as the Ring-billed/Herring Gulls, I feel confident that it was not a Long-tailed Jaeger.

Even though I am fairly familiar with identifying Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers, especially at a distance, I can't identify all of them all of the time.



## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Jaeger species (Stercorarius species)

Date of Sighting: 8 October 2001 to 8 October 2001

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: EIRE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 2001

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

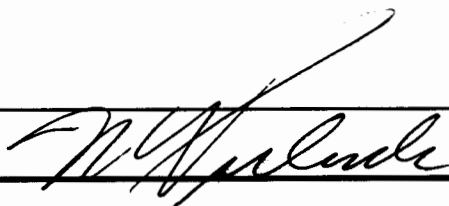
Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Heathcote			X					
P. Hess			x					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman				X				
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			6	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments:

6/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 2/8/03