

332A-01-2004

## Jaeger species

*Stercorarius pomarinus or parasiticus*

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

**Date:** September 9, 2004

**Time:** 12:25 PM and 12:50 PM

**Weather:** mostly cloudy, wind northerly to 20 mph.

**Observer:** Jerry McWilliams

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

**Viewing distance:** perhaps ½ mile off shore.

**Viewing conditions:** good

Details of sighting and description: Ben Coulter and I, assisted by Dave Wilton and Chuck Gehringer, were surveying shorebirds for the International Shorebird Survey when a Jaeger appeared flying rapidly in a westerly direction. The overall blackish plumage and flight of the gull-type bird were the first clues to its identity. It flew 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 look. The upperside and underside were entirely blackish, except the undertail coverts which were barred with white and the base of the primaries which showed a white patch. During the couple of minutes the jaeger was in view it gave chase to a gull, but broke away from the gull after chasing it a short distance. Because the jaeger was so far away from shore, it was difficult to judge its size.

I strongly suspect the jaeger was a Parasitic Jaeger based upon the time of year when this species usually migrates across the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean and its falcon-like shape and behavior. It was not a Long-tailed Jaeger because it showed extensive white at the base of the primaries, appeared heavy with broad wings, comparatively speaking, and its flight was strong and steady not buoyant. Even though I am fairly confident with identifying Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers at a distance most of the time, but because of some conditions they can't all be identified all of the time.

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Jaeger species Stercorarius pomarinus vs parasiticus

Date of Sighting: 9 September 2004 to 9 September 2004

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County : ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 2004

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

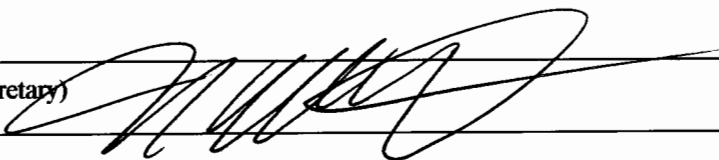
Recording: No

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

Comments:

*6/0*

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

*11/12/05*