

332A-02-2004

Jaeger species

Stercorarius pomarinus or parasiticus

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

Date: November 1, 2004

Time: 8:30 AM

Weather: cloudy, wind northwest to less than 10 mph.

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Kowa TSN 4 at about 30X.

Viewing distance: about 300 yards offshore.

Viewing conditions: good

Details of sighting and description: Ben Coulter and I were conducting the waterbird count when I noticed and all dark gull-like bird cruise past Sunset Point. I never spotted it coming, so I did not see a good side profile, but did see the shape and flight behavior well. It flew on stiff strongly arched wings with slow steady wing beats. The wings were pointed and angled back and curved downward giving the bird a rather arched look. The upperside and underside looked all blackish. The flight was very falcon-like, a strong, fast, and steady flight. Since I didn't get on the bird until it was past me, I was not able to see the white patches at the bases of the primaries.

I strongly suspect the jaeger was a Parasitic Jaeger based upon its falcon-like shape and behavior. Pomarine Jaegers are more robust with broader based wings and slower flight and are less buoyant. This bird was too heavy and the wings were too broad for a Long-tailed Jaeger.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Jaeger species Stercorarius pomarinus vs parasiticus

Date of Sighting: 1 November 2004 to 1 November 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

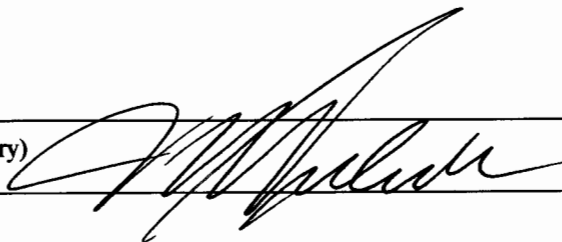
Recording: No

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