

March 4, 2007

Jerry McWilliams
3508 Allegheny Rd.
Erie, PA 16508

Thank you for submitting your report of a Parasitic Jaeger at Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, PA on October 10, 2004.

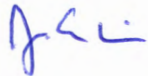
After two rounds of voting the sighting was voted upon as a Class III; Jaeger Sp. In each round of voting, Parasitic Jaeger was voted upon (5/2) as a Class III record.

The committee felt the sighting was most likely a Parasitic Jaeger, but had some difficulty accepting the record based primarily on "jizz".

Dissenting voters mentioned the significant distance involved in the sighting, contributing to the inability of observing any notable field marks. There was concern over the brief size comparisons made with the Ring-billed Gull. The potential of sexual dimorphism of Jaegers and Gulls was also noted.

Thank you for taking the time to submit this report.

Sincerely,



J. Eric Witmer

Chairman: Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Record # 333-01-2004

333-01-2004

Parasitic Jaeger

Stercorarius parasiticus

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

Date: October 10, 2004

Time: 10:20 PM

Weather: mostly cloudy, wind northerly to 10 mph.

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Kowa TSN 4 at about 30X.

Viewing distance: perhaps 3/4 mile off shore.

Viewing conditions: good

Details of sighting and description: I was conducting the waterbird count and was about to leave when I decided to make a few more quick scans of the lake. Looking in a northeasterly direction I spotted a distant jaeger flying in the typical roller coaster style between the waves. It would rise above the waves on bowed wings and then it would dip down out of sight only to reappear systematically before giving chase to a Ring-billed Gull. The Ring-billed Gull was probably a couple of hundred feet above the water as the jaeger quickly increased its speed flying directly towards the gull resembling a Peregrine Falcon. When the jaeger reached the gull the gull quickly banked away, but the jaeger stayed within a couple of feet of it. It pursued the gull for a few seconds before breaking off and continuing in a westerly direction low over the water.

The jaeger was too far away to see any plumage details, but it appeared blackish overall with rather narrow wings angled back that were sharply pointed at the tips. When it was with the Ring-billed Gull it looked slightly smaller than the gull. At one point when the jaeger was pursuing the gull it turned and spread its tail, so I could clearly see that its central rectrices extended beyond its other rectrices. The distance was too far away for me to clearly see the shape of the central rectrices, so my identification of the jaeger as a Parasitic is based upon on its slightly smaller size relative to the gull and its Peregrine Falcon-like shape and behavior. The migration time falls comfortably within this period for Parasitic Jaeger as well. Pomarine Jaeger was ruled out because of the smaller size of this bird and lack of heavy-based wings and robust body. Pomarines tend to be less agile flying over the water and when pursuing gulls. Long-tailed Jaegers are more tern-like with thinner body and relatively narrow wings. Their flight is more buoyant and not as direct and powerful as Parasitic Jaeger.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Date of Sighting: 10 October 2004 to 10 October 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

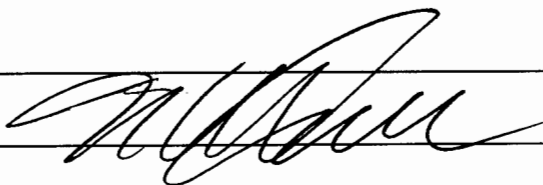
Specimen: No

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 <i>McGuire</i>				X				
P. Guris				X				
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Johnson <i>J. Heller</i>			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			5	2				
DECISION								

Comments: 5/2 GO TO 2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

12/28/04

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round Two

Species: Parasitic Jaeger Stercorarius parasiticus

Date of Sighting: 10 October 2004 to 10 October 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

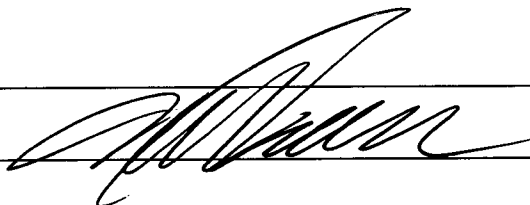
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut			X					
A. Guarente				X				
T. Johnson				X				
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
J. Heller			X					
G. Malosh			X					
TOTALS			5	2				
DECISION				X				

Comments: 5/2

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

1/26/7