

332A01-2005

Parasitic/Pomarine Jaeger
Stercorarius parasiticus/pomarinus

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

Date: November 8, 2005

Time: 9:45 AM

Weather: Partly cloudy, wind WNW

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Kowa TSN 4 with eyepiece set at 40X

Viewing distance: at least a mile offshore.

Viewing conditions: good

Details of sighting and description:

I was surveying bird movement over the lake when a fast flying dark bird appeared flying in a westerly direction some distance from shore. It only took about a minute or two for the bird to pass to the west and out of sight.

I recognized it as a jaeger by its overall dark appearance, its mid-gull size, falcon-like flight, and white flashes at the base of the primaries. Because of the great distance from me, I could not obtain precise details. As it flew I could see that the wings were angled sharply back and quite pointed. There were a few gulls scattered about flying in the same direction and this bird was clearly moving much faster and more directly. I could see that both the upper and undersides were dark brown and could just make out some pale feathering in the vicinity of the uppertail coverts. The white patch at the base of the primaries was quite distinctive, even at this range. It never glided or chased the gulls, but flew directly west only a few feet above the water without ever changing altitude. Long-tailed Jaeger was ruled out because of this birds rather broad wings, stout body, and amount of white at the base of the primaries. It is also much later in the season than you would expect a Long-tailed Jaeger.

I am quite familiar with Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers and have seen many conducting the waterbird counts at Sunset Point as well as seeing many on the Atlantic Ocean. Even with the experience I have with this group, separating Parasitic and Pomarine can be a challenge especially when viewing them from great distances.

Jerry McWilliams
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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Parasitic/Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus/pomarinus*)

Date of Sighting: 8 November 2005 to 8 November 2005

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County : ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 2005

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								
A. Guarente			X					
P. Guris			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
J. Heller			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			6					
DECISION			X					

Comments: PB- *accipiter jaeger* sp.

Signature (Secretary)



Date: 7/24/06