

Nick Pulcinella

From: <JerryMcW@aol.com>
To: <nickpulcinella@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2005 2:13 PM
Subject: Jaeger description for PORC review

332A-03-2005

Parasitic/Pomarine Jaeger
Stercorarius parasiticus/pomarinus

Location: Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, Pa.
Date: December 1, 2005
Time: 10:00 AM
Weather: Cloudy, wind light from the south
Observer: Jerry McWilliams
Optics: Kowa TSN 4 with eyepiece set at 40X
Viewing distance: about ¼ mile.
Viewing conditions: good

Details of sighting and description:

When I finished with the waterbird count I drove over to beach 11 and scanned Gull Point. Within a couple of minutes I saw all of the gulls take off the water, then a dark fast flying falcon-like bird swooped into view. It immediately started chasing gulls. I had it in view for only a few seconds before it disappeared below the tree line heading west. It was about Ring-billed Gull in size and relative shape. It was all dark, except for a pale belly and an extensive amount of white showing at the base of the primaries on the underside and a much smaller amount showing at the base of the primaries on the upperside. It flew with powerful wingbeats, which propelled it along much faster than the gulls could fly. At one point it hovered for a second over the water, again showing the distinctive white underwing patches. The wings were always angled back when it flapped its wings, much like a falcon. For an instant it glided with wings bowed down and back arched. Because of the birds distance from me I could not determine tail shape. Though I could see that it lacked any extended central rectrices.

I thought it was most likely a Parasitic, but it seemed a bit too robust and it also seemed to show more white at the base of the primaries than most Parasitic Jaegers I have seen.

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.

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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Jaeger species (Stercorarius sp)

Date of Sighting: 1 December 2005 to 1 December 2005

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County : ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 2005

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes

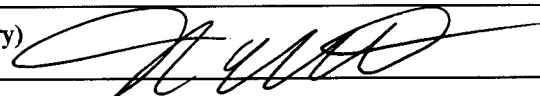
Photo: No

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: 6/0

Signature (Secretary) 

Date: 7/24/06