

Submission Date	2012-12-19 09:54:36
Observer's Name	Dan Brauning
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Observer's Address	Street Address: 1920 Inverness Rd City: Montoursville State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 17754 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Steve Pinkerton, Norwood Fredericks, Dave Ferry
Species (Common Name)	Pomerine Yeager
Species (Scientific Name)	Stercorarius pomarinus
Number of individuals	1
Have you submitted this to eBird?	Yes
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	light-morph, first-summer or sub-adult
Observation Date and Time	10-30-2012 09:35 AM
County	Lycoming
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Gamble township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Rose Valley Lake
Habitat	lake
Distance to bird	varied, but generally 1000 ft or farther
Viewing conditions	rain, but not bad
Optical equipment used	bins, and scope (including 60x)
Description	The following description was written up that evening, tweaked a little the following day: this is the same bird(s) reported by Steve Pinkerton to eBird. A Jeager sp (reported as Pomarine), was spotted by Steve Pinkerton sitting on the water of Rose Valley Lake about mid-lake. Dave Ferry and myself got reasonable looks of the bird on the water thru spotting scopes. This is my first jeager sp, so take the following with a grain of salt. The bird was dark overall, with a petite head (compared with a gull). The wings appeared long. The front of the head appeared to be darker than

the rest of the head, but otherwise there was no discernable markings. On several instances, the bird rose from the water, circled the lake, flying very high (into cloud cover), out of sight. The long pointed wings, stiff wing-beats, and sharp appearance were apparent. The under-side was nearly clean light-colored, almost white, which appeared to extend to the vent. I did not discern a sharp line distinguishing the overall darker head, but the whitish belly did not extend into the throat. There was minimal light coloring at the base of the primaries - very little if any at all. The bird presented an overall very dark appearance on the water, and under the wings in flight. A few minutes following such flights, a jaeger (same one?) appeared again, fly in loose circles, come down toward the water and sometimes alight on the far side of the lake. On several instances these flights were associated with the passage of a bald eagle - related? Steve Pinkerton got extensive photos of the bird (I believe just on the water). I have a few horrible shots of the bird on the water.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Some behavior is described above: the bird was sitting on the water (but generally alert, looking around), and flying. One note not mentioned above: I really didn't notice much white at the base of the primaries, or see any extension in the central retrices

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Obvious question was Parasitic Jaeger. Honestly, I don't have a lot of experience with yeagers, so "jiz" is difficult, and gulls were not present for size comparison. But it was comparable to a Ring-billed Gull in size, pretty heavy-bodied bird.

Discussion - anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

There's not question it was a jaeger, but the varied of plumages in these different color morphs raised makes it difficult! The description above is pretty much independent of Steve Pinkerton or Dave Ferry's reports (if you got any), and Steve Pinkerton's photos should help.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Pretty sure - but as noted in Discussion, there's a lot of overlap in plumage between jaeger species.

During

Mostly National Geographic, 6th

After

internet photos

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Click to edit

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