

Submission Date	2012-12-17 19:51:13
Observer's Name	Matthew Sabatine
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Observer's Address	Street Address: 115 B Fox Gap Ave. City: Bangor State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 18013 Country: United States
Species (Common Name)	Pomarine Jaeger
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)	sub-adult, sex unknown
Observation Date and Time	10-30-2012 10:11 AM
County	Northampton
Location (City, Borough, Township)	outside of Bangor
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Lake Minsi
GPS coordinates of sighting	40° 54' 48.00", -75° 10' 23.92"
Habitat	man made lake
Distance to bird	distance varying; flying overhead, closest point of observation perhaps 75 feet
Viewing conditions	heavy winds and overcast skies with intermittent rain
Optical equipment used	Nikon 10x42 Monarch
Description	this individual appeared just moments before the Red Phalaropes; I got on it naked eye as a gull-sized bird with a shape more consistent with a jaeger; bird had a more sleek and angular shape than a gull, also with a different flight style, however slightly broad wings; it was pale/whitish underneath contrasting with a brown color in the upper chest; the tail was not noticeably long or spatula-shaped, so I surmised that due to plumage it was a sub-adult
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird	the bird was flying from the south, and continuing north over the lake; it flew directly over the western

was doing)

portion of the lake; it was moderately high in the sky, but low enough to at least discern some coloration on it; as mentioned, flight style was distinctly different from a gull, perhaps more similar to a (large) tern species.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

since the bird was very obviously a Jaeger, it became ID'ing it to one of the 3 species; while Long-tailed and Parasitic Jaegers are only listed in Sibley as 2 inches smaller, they are, in my opinion, considerably sleeker and more slender in overall shape and appearance; this individual was rather bulky and larg, especially in the chest, in comparison; also important was noting the wing shape, which I considered broader than Parasitic and Long-tailed, and more similar to a gull, but still different than gulls.

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

Pennsylvania saw perhaps its largest explosion of Pomarine Jaegers ever recorded in a several hour period on October 30; 58 were noted in one massive Jaeger flock on the Susquehanna, and reports ranged from nearly every corner of the state; while the sighting in and of itself of a Pomarine Jaeger was remarkable for not only Northampton County, but the state of Pennsylvania, it didn't really surprise me at all given the mass number of reports of this species in the state this day; also, like the Red Phalaropes in comparison to Red-necked, only a small number of Parasitic Jaegers were reported in contrast to the hundred(?) or so Pomarines.

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

yes. I have seen quite a few Pomarine Jaegers, as well as Parasitics, on off-shore pelagic trips. One bird in particular, seen on a pelagic offshore San Diego, CA this past March, reminded me a great deal of this particular individual, a sub-adult bird; I believe my sightings of Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers aided me a great deal with this ID, especially under less than ideal viewing conditions

During

The Sibley Guide to Birds

After

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