

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-08-29 22:52:20
Observer's Name	Bobby Brown
E-mail	bobbybrown1011@gmail.com
Observer's Address	Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Steve Pinkerton, David Brown, Deb Brown (in finding party with myself); Norwood Frederick successfully chased
Species (Common Name)	Parasitic Jaeger
Species (Scientific Name)	Stercorarius parasiticus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Appears to be a likely dark-morph adult
Observation Date and Time	05-01-2016 7:00 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S29324381
County	Lycoming
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Gamble Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Rose Valley Lake
GPS coordinates of sighting	41.383620, -76.987262
Habitat	Lake
Distance to bird	No closer than 100 yards, mostly farther than that
Viewing conditions	Poor. Early morning with heavy rain and fog. Storm system moving through.
Optical equipment used	Swarovski EL Swarovision 8.5x42 Binocular

Description

Copied from my eBird report:

First county record found by Steve Pinkerton, David Brown, Bobby Brown, and Deb Brown. First seen around 7:05am and was seen until at least 7:42am. Decent south winds overnight with a storm system moving through in the early morning hours, but it was not particularly strong.

Jaeger silhouette was immediately apparent, with the gull-like shape and long central tail feathers. Size appeared fairly large in the field, and the bird briefly joined a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls and a Ring-billed Gull, where it appeared comparable in size to the RBGU. The bird also had a brief confrontation with a Common Tern, but they quickly went their separate ways.

The bird was always in flight, but skimmed low over the water on a few occasions. The bird was often soaring over the lake. When flapping, wingbeats were fairly even.

Similar species:

Long-tailed Jaeger: Ruled out due to a combination of size, flapping style, and body structure. The wings on a LTJA are longer and more slender than this bird shows.

Pomarine Jaeger: Ruled out due to pointed central tail feathers rather than broad/rounded.

Overall, the bird shows a textbook Parasitic Jaeger shape.

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

Was only seen in flight. Other behavior details found in description section above.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Proportionally small, triangular head shape and the correctly shaped and sized tail for Parasitic

Long-tailed Jaeger: Ruled out due to a combination of size, flapping style, and body structure. The wings on a LTJA are longer and more slender than this bird shows. Head and tail also incorrect for this species.

Pomarine Jaeger: Ruled out due to pointed central tail feathers rather than broad/rounded. Would be heftier as well.

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

Late report for review due to my personal photos not being 100% diagnostic. I was hoping David Brown would submit his more definitive photos, but he has now given me the go-ahead to submit his photos with my report, which are attached. The above description (copied from my eBird report) was written immediately after the sighting. Additional photos, if needed, are attached to the eBird checklist.

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

Yes. We consulted with several birders who are well versed in this species group, and all were satisfied that the photos were diagnostic to PAJA

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video
or drawings



[paja1.jpg](#)



[paja2.jpg](#)



[paja3.jpg](#)

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