



IOS IORC &lt;iorcommittee@gmail.com&gt;

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## Rare Bird Documentation

1 message

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Ethan Gyllenhaal <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Nov 1, 2012 at 6:51 PM

To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

1) Reason for documenting this sighting - unusual species, unusual number, unusual date, unusual plumage, unusual breeding record, Christmas Bird Count record, Spring Bird Count record (include all that apply): unusual species

2) Species: Parasitic Jaeger

3) Number of birds: 1

4) Age/Sex/Plumage: 1st winter, typical plumage

5) Date(s): 9/30/12

6) Location (include county): Gilson Park, Wilmette, Cook County

7) Observers: Aaron and Ethan Gyllenhaal

8) Your name: Ethan Gyllenhaal

9) Your mailing address: [REDACTED]

10) Your e-mail address: [REDACTED]

11) Others agreeing with the identification: Aaron, anyone it was described to

12) Observers NOT agreeing with the identification: None

13) Description of bird (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and pattern on head, back, chin, throat, breast, flanks, wings, undertail, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts: bill, legs, and feet). Include only details actually seen in the field:

Overall coloration was a dark, warm brown (suggesting PAJA over POJA), upperwing almost uniformly brown excluding a noticeable white wing flash (eliminating Long-tailed Jaeger), underwing was overall fairly dark with a very noticeable white wing flash. Other plumage features were difficult to note due to distance, but simply this is enough to tell it is a Parasitic/Pomerine Jaeger. Shape was gull-like, but more aerodynamic. Size was about the same as a Ring-billed Gull that it attacked while flying over the lake, which pretty much confirms Parasitic Jaeger (along with shape appearing too slight for a Pomarine)

14) Description of behavior: Flight was strong and fast, most important behavioral feature was classic harassing/attacking a Ring-billed Gull that was approximately the same size as it.

15) Description of vocalizations: n/a

16) Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s): Flying over open lake

17) Optical equipment used for observation (type, power): Vortex Spotting Scope, from 20-60x power, originally noted as looking like a jaeger with binoculars (8x)

18) Distance/how measured?: ~300m, estimate

- 19) Time(s) of observation: ~12:45 PM
- 20) Total time of observation: ~1 minutes
- 21) Weather conditions: Sunny, NE winds
- 22) Previous experience with this species and similar species: I see Parasitic Jaegers annually at Miller Beach in Indiana, also seen once from Carlyle Lake, IL and twice on pelagics off of California. The pelagics also had LTJA and POJA, Carlyle also had LTJA, IN also had POJA.
- 23) Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids: Hybrids unrecorded in jaegers. Long-tailed eliminated by strong flight style (unlike the nighthawk-like style of LTJA), warm brown coloration (vs greyish brown), presence of a strong upperwing flash, and size in comparison to a Ring-billed Gull (LTJA would be noticeably smaller). Pomarine Jaeger ruled out by overall coloration (which is, of course, inconclusive), shape not being bulky enough (again, wouldn't rule it out on this alone), and size in comparison to the Ring-billed Gull it harassed, Pomarine would be notably larger. Time of year is also supportive of PAJA.
- 24) Were photos obtained? No
- 25) If so, by whom?
- 26) Books and illustrations consulted and advice received. How did these influence this description? We confirmed identification before viewing any guides, first eliminating LTJA by the upperwing pattern and flight style, then POJA by shape and size. Guides consulted after to confirm notion of notable size difference.
- 27) How long after the observation were field notes recorded? Field notes recorded for IBET report minutes after sighting, eBird checklist ~1 hr after, documentation made using these notes
- 28) How long after the observation was this form completed? Unfortunately ~32 days, I kept forgetting to complete it
- 29) Additional remarks: