

Jaeger species

6 Dec 1963

Lock and Dam 14, Scott Co., IA

P. Petersen, Mr. & Mrs. Don Price

Petersen 1964

Record Number: 93-EL

Classification: A-D

REFERENCE

Petersen, P. 1964. Parasitic Jaeger in eastern Iowa. IBL 34:26
VOTE: 2 A-D Parasitic, 3 A-D Jaeger sp.

A-D, The overall darkness, bill shape, and behavior indicate a jaeger. Identification as Parasitic is based on size and apparent lack of white in base of primaries. Parasitic Jaeger should be longer but shorter winged and smaller bodied than a Ring-billed Gull. The difference in the white in the primaries on the upper wing surface between Parasitic and Pomarine is subtle. I assume the description applies to the upper wing. If so, the underwing is not described, and it should show white at the base of the primaries in Parasitic and more white with a double line effect in Pomarine. With minimal description, I give this difficult-to-identify species the edge based to a considerable extent on probability of occurrence. I could have easily voted A-D for jaeger species. Although not explicitly stated, I assume that this bird would have cruised both sides of the river in Iowa and Illinois. /thk

NA Parasitic, A-D Jaeger sp. Observer bases identification on size smaller than ring-billed Gull, and the presence of four white primary shafts. Size comparison supports Parasitic, but could also apply to less likely Long-tailed. According to Kaufman (Advanced Birding), "the number of white primary shafts is rarely much help in field identification." The description of a "finer bill" probably supports Parasitic, but is much too subjective to be considered diagnostic. /ric

A-D Jaeger sp., NA Parasitic, I agree that Long-tailed is not eliminated -- indeed minimal white may suggest this species (also "fine bill"). /wrs

Petersen, P. Jr 1964. Parasitic Jaeger in eastern Iowa. IBL 34:26.

Parasitic Jaeger in Eastern Iowa.—An immature Parasitic Jaeger was seen on December 6, 1963, at Lock #14 Pleasant Valley, Iowa, by Elton Fawks. The bird was seen the following day by Peter Petersen Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Don Price. On December 8 it was seen by Bob Trial and Ted Greer. It was probably seen on December 11 by Fawks. The bird chased Herring and Ring-billed Gulls making a size comparison easy. It was a little smaller than the Ring-billed Gulls and showed a very dark plumage except for white quills on about four outermost primaries. The bill also appeared finer and more noticeably hooked than the gulls' bills. This apparently constitutes the third Iowa record of this species. —PETER PETERSEN JR., 2736 East High Street, Davenport.