

species, save for a few specimens. The challenges and pitfalls in identifying the many confusing plumages of the three species of jaegers found in Illinois, especially juveniles, can be found throughout the literature (Lee 1989, Olsen 1989, Kaufman 1990, McGeehan 1995, Sherony and Brock 1997, and Wiley and Lee 1998, 1999). It is beyond the scope of this paper to discuss the fine points of jaeger identification, plumage, and structural and behavioral differences. Many other authors have adeptly covered these points, including Cramp (1983), Olsen (1989), Olsen and Larsson (1997), Sherony and Brock (1997), and Wiley and Lee (1998, 1999). Many of the early North American ornithologists have misidentified species even with specimen in hand (Lee 1989). In fact, Illinois' "first" Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) record, a specimen from southern Illinois, was recently reviewed by members of IORC. They reached a split, no-decision vote (Stotz 2001). Misidentifications continue today even for birds viewed under excellent conditions. Such examples include when a number of Illinois' most experienced birders recently identified a Long-tailed Jaeger as a Parasitic (Kassebaum 2001) and a Parasitic Jaeger as a Pomarine (Bailey 2001). Some of these observers had a fair amount of experience with jaegers especially along Lake Michigan, where at least Parasitics are regular. Unfortunately, many birds continue not to be documented. If we are ever to straighten out the true picture of jaeger migration in Illinois, thorough documentation, including photographs when possible, needs to be made for every jaeger, especially juveniles, regardless of location. Although Parasitics are likely the most common jaeger migrating through the state, at least on Lake Michigan, Long-tailed might also be more common than records indicate (see Lee 1989 and Sherony and Brock 1997).

Ninety percent of the identified Great Lakes jaeger records compiled by Sherony and Brock (1997) were Parasitics. This picture holds true for Illinois alone as well. Of 98 Illinois birds identified to species along the Lake Michigan shoreline, 94.1 percent were Parasitics. Sherony and Brock analyzed records for a 20-year period, apparently

from 1976 to 1996, although this is not exactly clear. From records for all jaegers that I gathered from published sources, as well as a few unpublished records supplied by Kevin Richmond and Jim Landing, a total of 206 jaegers have been seen throughout Illinois between 1974 and 2000. Of the 100 identified to species, 77 were Parasitic, 21 were Pomarine, and 2 were Long-tailed. However, if the other 106 jaeger species are added into the total of 206 birds detected since 1974, the percentage of Parasitics drops substantially to 37.3 percent, with the percentage of Pominines dropping to 10.1 percent and Long-tailed to 0.9 percent, and jaeger species, composing 51.4 percent of the total. Many of these jaeger species are likely mostly Parasitic Jaegers, and most, if not all, are difficult-to-identify juveniles.

In a larger sample size, Brock (unpublished data) shows similar percentages for all jaegers observed along the Indiana

Table 1. Summary of 206* Illinois jaeger records 1974-2000.

Year	Parasitic		Pomarine		Jaeger Sp.	
	Chicago	Downstate	Chicago	Downstate	Chicago	Downstate
1974	8u		1u		4u	
1975	8u					
1976	1u					
1977	3u				3u	
1978	2u		1u		2u	
1979	1ad			1u	1u	
1980	1ad				1u	
1981					2u	1subad
1982				2u	2u	4(1juv,3u)
1983			1a		2u	1u
1984					1u	2(1juv,1u)
1985	5(2juv,3u)	2(1juv,1u)		3(1juv,2u)	4(3juv,1u)	
1986	12(7ad,5juv)	1juv			9(1juv,8u)	
1987	1juv			1u	1u	1u
1988	2ad	2juv		3(1juv,2u)	1u	1u
1989	2u					
1990	2u				1u	
1991	10(5ad,2juv,3u)	2u		2juv	3(1juv,2u)	2u
1992	1u				1u	
1993	3u				5(4juv,1u)	
1994						2(1juv,1u)
1995		2(1a,1juv)				2juv
1996				3(2juv,1u)	8(3a,1juv,4u)	8(4juv,4u)
1997	2ad		1juv		9(1ad,1juv,7u)	1juv
1998		1subad			1ad	1u
1999	1u			1juv	6(1ad,1juv,4u)	4(2juv,2u)
2000		2(1juv,1u)		1juv	9(1ad,4juv,4u)	
TOTALS	65 (18ad,10juv,37u)	12 (1ad,1subad,5juv,4u)	4 (1ad,1juv,2u)	17 (8juv,9u)	76 (7ad,16juv,53u)	30 (1subad,12juv,17u)

Total Parasitic Chicago and Downstate: 77 (19ad, 1subad, 16juv, 41u)

Total Pomarine Chicago and Downstate: 21 (1ad, 9juv, 11u)

Total Jaeger Sp. Chicago and Downstate: 106 (7ad, 1subad, 28juv, 70u)

Key: ad = adult, subad = subadult, juv = juvenile, u = unknown age

* includes 2 accepted Long-tailed Jaeger records.