

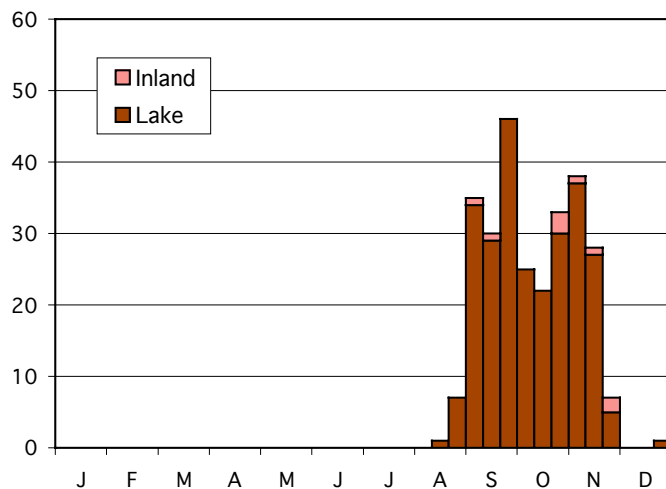
Parasitic Jaeger

Stercorarius parasiticus

Historical Information

First Published Record: Ford et al. (1934) reported that Sanborn's notes listed a specimen taken 30 November 1918 at Miller. This appears to represent the state's earliest Parasitic Jaeger report.

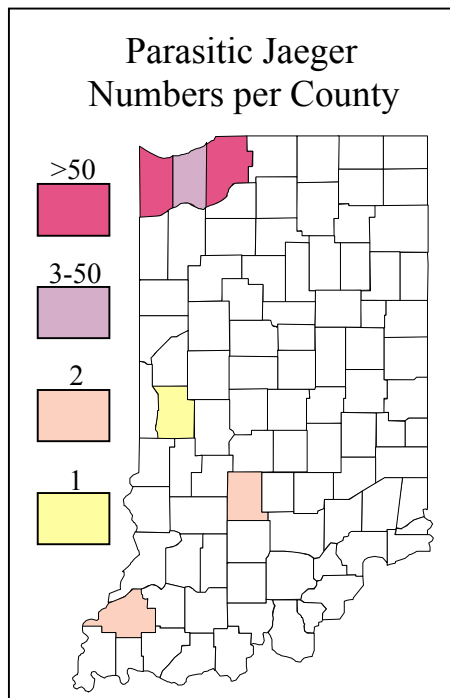
Butler (1898) relegated the Parasitic Jaeger to the hypothetical list, and based on four specimens from the Chicago region, Ford et al. (1934) deemed this jaeger a rare fall visitant. Keller et al. (1979) considered it a very rare fall migrant. Mumford and Keller (1984) noted that this is the most frequently encountered jaeger on Lake Michigan.



Status

Physical Evidence: At least two specimens are known (S.F. Jackson unpublished list and Brock 1985).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
Chicago Academy of Sciences				1
University of St. Francis				1
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	n	n	n	6
Central Tier	n	n	n	9
Southern Tier	n	n	n	9
Entire State	n	n	n	6



Current Status

The Parasitic Jaeger is an Uncommon (6) fall visitor to the Indiana lakefront; it is Occasional (9) elsewhere in the state.

Occurrence

This species remains Indiana's most frequently seen jaeger; indeed, on Lake Michigan more than eighty percent of all identified jaegers are this species. In contrast, based on a very small sample size, only 56 percent of the identified inland birds are Parasitic. Roughly a quarter of the aged Parasitic Jaegers were adults; however the true percentage is almost certainly lower than this value as many juvenile Parasitic Jaegers end up in the unidentified jaeger hopper. In addition, a few sub-adult birds (not juvenile or adult) have been observed.

Migration

It is tempting to relegate the double peaks in the migration histogram to separate flights by adults and juveniles;

however, that contention is not consistent with data in the migration envelopes.

Extreme Date

The state's only December record involved a bird found dead on the beach during the 21 December 1940 Baileytown Christmas Bird Count (Mumford files).



Juvenile Parasitic Jaeger at Michigan City Harbor 14 September 2003.
Photo by J.K. Cassady.

Parasitic Jaeger Data

Maximum Single Party Counts

Entire Year				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
14	04-Sep-2003	Miller Beach	J.J. McCoy	KJB
11	08-Oct-1955	Multiple Sites	Rarmond Grow	RGr
10	14-Nov-1999	Miller Beach	J.J. McCoy	KJB
7	11-Nov-1996	Miller Beach	J.J. McCoy	KJB
7	24-Sep-2001	Miller Beach	K.J. Brock	KJB

Migration Envelopes

Fall						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
Adults	19-Aug-2002	---	23-Sep	---	16-Nov-1977	24
Juv/Imm	30-Aug-2003	4-Sep	2-Oct	12-Nov	27-Nov-1988	79
All	19-Aug-2002	7-Sep	8-Oct	12-Nov	21-Dec-1940	160

References Cited

Brock, K.J. (1985) Field Notes; Fall Migration, 1984, *Indiana Audubon Quarterly*, 63:113-129.

Butler, A. W. (1898) The Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources Annual Report, 22:575-1187.

Ford, E. R., C.C. Sanborn, and C.B. Coursen (1934). *Birds of the Chicago Region* The Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, 80pp.

Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

Mumford files: An extensive accumulation of Indiana bird data on 5x7 file cards compiled by Professor R.E. Mumford of Purdue University, West Lafayette.

Mumford, R.E. and C.E. Keller (1984) *The Birds of Indiana*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 376 pp.