

FIELD NOTES

Pomarine Jaeger near Lake Saranac: I observed a single young jaeger, most probably a Pomarine (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), flying south over the southeastern end of Oseetah Lake, near Lake Saranac, Franklin County, New York in mid-morning, September 5, 1965. The surrounding land level is all in excess of 1100 feet. Observed at less than 50 yards, the bird's stocky body, heavy, deliberate flight and pointed wings with light flashes in the primaries were similar to those of numerous Pomarine Jaegers I have observed and collected at sea in the tropical Atlantic Ocean. The underparts appeared mottled and the tail lacked elongated central rectrices indicating immaturity. The jaeger stayed about 50 feet above the surface of the lake and did not gain altitude while I watched it continue southward out of sight over the land.

Pomarine Jaegers are not rare during fall migration along the Atlantic coast, and jaegers, both Pomarine and Parasitic, *S. parasiticus*, have occurred regularly in Lakes Ontario and Erie during recent years (*Kingbird*, vols. 6-15, 1956-1965, and *Audubon Field Notes*, vols. 3-19, 1949-1965). Such non-pelagic jaegers, however, may not reach their ultimate migratory destination in the tropical and south Atlantic Ocean for "some of these birds which appear casually on Lake Erie seem to be in a weakened state, and several have been found dead." (*Kingbird* 9: 158, 1959). Inland records of Pomarine Jaegers in New York State are rare; Reilly and Parkes (1959: *Prelim. Annotated Checklist of N.Y. State Birds*, N.Y. State Mus. Sci. Dept.: 20) list four inland occurrences up to 1959. I can locate no subsequent inland records but Scheider saw an immature "cross Sandy Pond at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, loft higher and higher in wide circles, then head southeast inland, a lake escaping tactic suspected for a number of years but never demonstrated heretofore." (*Kingbird* 15: 27, 1965, *Audubon Field Notes* 19: 19-20, 1965). The present sighting, therefore, appears to be the fifth inland record for the state and the first time the species has been seen in the Adirondack region. The only previous jaeger record for the Adirondack region was a juvenile Parasitic Jaeger at Joc's Lake (43° 50' N, 74° 50' W) in Herkimer County, 40 miles southeast of Lake Saranac (W. L. Ralph and E. Bagg 1886. *Trans. Oneida Hist. Soc.* 3: 104). There had been no weather disturbance just prior to my seeing the jaeger so that the individual was probably an extreme stray which had inadvertently followed the St. Lawrence river drainage upstream rather than the usual pelagic route southward.

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Ed. Note: For additional fall Pomarine Jaeger records see Region 1, 2 and 5 reports in this issue.

Louisiana Waterthrush in Jefferson County: On July 29 and 30, 1965 I closely observed a Louisiana Waterthrush along a tributary stream of South Sandy Creek near the boundary of Washington Park 1.5 miles NW of Lorraine, Jefferson County at an elevation of 800 feet. At distances estimated sometimes as near as six yards, I watched the bird fly from low tree branches down to the shallow water to snap up water striders as it walked around, teetering all the while. On the 29th at approximately 8:15 AM it came to the water's edge as I was "spishing." On the 30th I observed it from 8:10 to 8:20 AM, both times watching through 7 x 50 binoculars. The white eyeline, unmarked white throat, generally whitish underparts with just a slight tinge of buffy, and the more grayish-brown upperparts than the Northern Waterthrush (especially on the top of the head) were very clear. The bird (or birds) did not seem very shy.

On July 31 Frank Clinch and I had at least ten minutes of further observation between 8:15 and 8:45 AM.

On April 29, 1961 I saw a Louisiana Waterthrush at Felts Mills Creek, Jefferson County (*Kingbird* XI: 116, 1961). This is the only other record of this species in this Region to my knowledge. The 1961 bird was undoubtedly a stray migrant. Felts Mills Creek is not suitable breeding habitat.

The July 1965 record would seem to extend the known summer range approximately 40 miles NW on the western side of the Adirondacks. Most northern breeding record appears to be Pixley Falls south of Boonville (Scheider, *Kingbird* XIV: 230, 1964).

The South Sandy Creek tributary runs over a shale rock bed strewn with small boulders. Its banks are sometimes steep and rise 10 to 60 feet to a beech-maple hemlock forest. The possibility of breeding should be carefully checked. There are many suitable stream segments with gorges throughout southern Jefferson and Lewis County in Tug Hill or near it which could harbor this species. I would think Whetstone Creek south of Lowville and the many branches of Sandy Creek would be places to begin the search.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

August 16 – November 30

DAVID B. PEAKALL

It was, according to most observers, a migration period without pronounced waves. The banding stations on Long Island reported a poor season with many species occurring in far lower numbers than usual. Nevertheless nearly 14,000 individuals of 125 species were banded. A similar effort along the shores of Lake Ontario would give a good deal of additional information on migration. Banding at Vischer Ferry Game Management Area (Region 8) revealed numbers of Lincoln's Sparrows, as was indicated by the 1963 TV kills at Elmira. This secretive species passes through in considerable numbers. Observations on the Appalachian ridges in Region 4 and along the Hudson valley added additional information on these flyways. Although the overall migration was not spectacular there was an unprecedented coastal flight of Saw-whet Owls on Long Island (involving at least 91 individuals, which will be detailed in the next issue) and some interesting waterfowl movements on Lake Ontario.

The migration of Brant upstate was well marked this fall. The count of 9520 at the south-east corner of Lake Ontario on October 23rd was apparently the largest concentration ever noted in the state away from the coast. On the same day 6500 were observed flying east along the lake edge in the Rochester area. Most textbooks refer to the Brant as strictly coastal but this is no longer correct. Eaton (1910) records only six specimens for the state away from the coast. Sheppard (*Canadian Field-Naturalist* 63:99, 1949) reviewed the status of this species for the Canadian side of Lake Ontario and Erie. He concluded that there had been