

Long-tailed Jaeger/juvenile  
10-14 September 2011  
Barren Reservoir Allen/Barren Counties  
Second Kentucky Record  
David L. Roemer

A series of high pressure systems moved across the Great Lakes region from the west, and a series of low pressure systems, including that associated with Tropical Storm Lee, was spread across the eastern states including eastern Kentucky. The clockwise rotation of the highs and the counter-clockwise rotation of the lows resulted in strong northerly winds and ideal migrating conditions across the Great Lakes over the next few days. A link to a weather map from 5 September is copied below. Click on the "next day" link to follow the movement of the weather systems.

[http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/dailywxmap/index\\_20110905.html](http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/dailywxmap/index_20110905.html)

Single distant jaegers were observed near the mouth of Skaggs Creek at least twice on the morning of 10 September from Bailey's Point boat ramp. I got the impression of Long-tailed during one sighting, and the impression during another that it was not a Long-tailed, appearing too bulky and broad-winged. Images of a jaeger were obtained with a digital camera through my scope from across the lake as it sat on the water, but I was unable to identify it due to distance. It was flushed by a boat and flew upriver where I spent most of the day searching for it unsuccessfully. Aaron Hulsey and I located a juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger late in the afternoon from Bailey's Point Campground, and I went home to get my boat to attempt to obtain images of it. We were able to obtain poor but diagnostic images just before dark.

When reviewing images that night, it did appear that the jaeger photographed that morning showed features of Parasitic. I did locate 2 juvenile jaegers the next morning, the Long-tailed and a Parasitic. Both birds were present through 14 September. The Parasitic was incapable of flight on that date, due either to injury or malnutrition, and Hap Chambers and I caught it from my boat. I took it to a rehab facility, and was told that it was released on the Ohio River in Meade County on 24 September by facility personnel. The Long-tailed was observed flying around the lake on the morning of 14 September, apparently searching for food. This was the last date that it was observed.

The Long-tailed was readily distinguished from the Parasitic given good views by its overall colder plumage, lacking the cinnamon tones of the Parasitic as well as the prominent pale primary crescents. Of particular interest was retained downy feathering on the forehead of the Long-tailed visible in some images.



Long-tailed Jaeger 11 September 2011 Barren Reservoir Allen/Barren Counties, Kentucky



Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers 11 September 2011 Barren Reservoir Allen/Barren  
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Kentucky