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VOLUME 44 (3)

SEPTEMBER, 1990

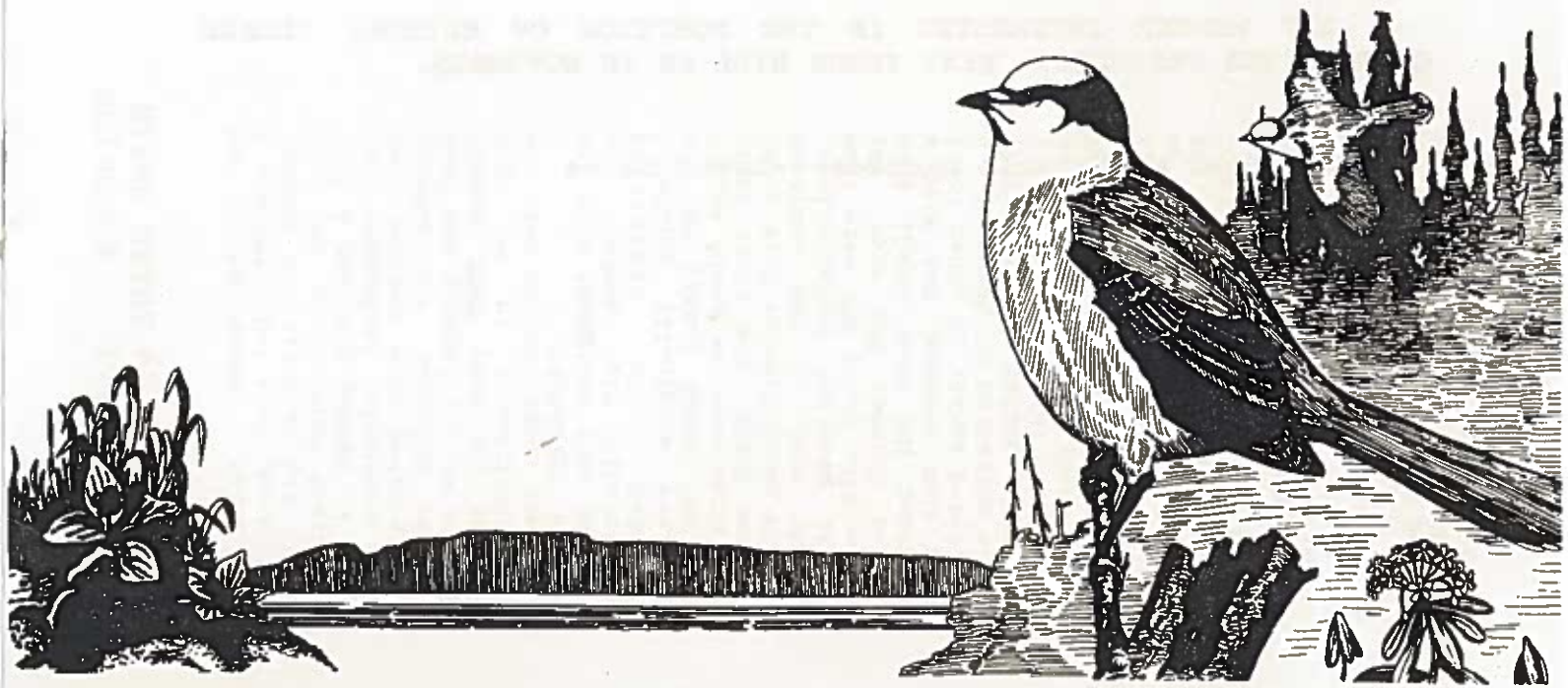
NATURE NORTHWEST

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THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

NEWS LETTER OF THE THUNDER BAY FIELD NATURALISTS



VOLUME 44, NUMBER 3

SEPTEMBER, 1990

INDEX

NATURALLY SUPERIOR REPORT by SUSAN BRYAN
FIELD TRIPS TO DECEMBER by ALLAN BAXTER
THUNDER BAY DISTRICT BIRD RECORDS by NICK ESCOTT

Each volume of NATURE NORTHWEST (ISSN 0836-4702) consists of four issues published in February, May, September and November. We welcome unsolicited material for possible publication. Material accepted is subject to editing and revision. NATURE NORTHWEST is intended to be informative and of general interest to the membership. Articles accepted and views expressed in NATURE NORTHWEST are not necessarily those of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club.

NATURE NORTHWEST PRODUCTION TEAM

THIS ISSUE --PRODUCED BY THE EXECUTIVE

ANY MEMBER INTERESTED IN THE POSITION OF EDITOR, PLEASE CONTACT THE PRESIDENT. NEXT ISSUE WILL BE IN NOVEMBER.

Computer Membership Records---David Bates

NATURALLY SUPERIOR
REPORT by SUSAN BRYAN

"NATURALLY SUPERIOR", FON Conference, June 1-3, 1990 was a really big success! The Thunder Bay Field Naturalists can take pride in having produced a first class provincial conference that has received rave reviews from all who attended. The success was due to the talents and hard work of the many TBFN members who contributed in so many different capacities to make the weekend 'SUPERIOR'.

We were delighted with the unexpectedly high numbers who attended. The organizing committee originally estimated that 300 would likely be the best attendance we could expect to come NORTH. The final tally was 526 participants! This total exceeds most of the southern Ontario previous registrations. Of the 526, fully 60% were from outside Thunder Bay area. The remaining 40% were local, some being club members, but also a gratifying number of other local people attracted by the event.

The weather was certainly memorable (although I heard other words used for it). On Thursday and Friday we cooked our guests to death--it was 40 degrees celsius in the residence buildings! On Saturday we drenched them with rain on the 6am bird walk. Sunday brought freezing temperatures - there was actually sleet and the canoes were caked with ice at Whitefish Lake. Monday was glorious for those who went on boat trips and by bus to the Ancient Pines.

The finances are still not finalized but certainly a

profit was made--how much we won't know until all the bills are in.

In closing, I would like to share a letter with you. It comes from Ian Kirkham, Executive Director of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

"I want to congratulate you, the other conference organizers, the numerous volunteers and the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists for your outstanding performance in hosting our Annual Meeting this year.

Personally, I was amazed by the unprecedented attendance of our members at a northern site. I was more impressed by the superb level of organization and smooth operation that resulted in the wake of such large numbers.

The final outcome will certainly stand for many years as the benchmark by which other meetings will be measured, and will be the model for future host clubs as to how to do things properly and professionally.

Once again, and on behalf of everyone at the FON, thank you for a great weekend.

FALL FIELD
TRIPS-1990

FALL MIGRANTS-CHIPPEWA

OCT 6 SAT 9.00AM

MEET AT Chippewa Beach parking lot. Dress warm and bring a lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided.

LEADER--SUSAN ROBINSON
344-1739

SPARROW WORKSHOP

SEPT 28 FRI-7.30 PM
AND SEPT 29 SAT

EVENING WORKSHOPS at Lakehead University, field trip the following day. Learn to identify those "boring brown birds". Fee is \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for non members. Register on September meeting notice. Information: Myra McCormick 345-6485 or LEADER-NICK ESCOTT 345-7122.

SILVER ISLET
MIGRANTS

OCT 14. SUN. 8.30 AM

MEET at County Fair Plaza parking lot, EAST of the gas bar at 8.30 am, or at the PASS LAKE corner TRUCK STOP at 9.00 am. LEADERS: TOM DYKE 622-9980 AND JACK EVANS 475-0222

LATE FALL
MIGRANTS
THUNDER BAY AREA

NOV 4. SUN. 8.00AM

MEET AT Chippewa Parking lot. Dress warmly. Bring lunch, refreshments. All day outing. Participants can quit at any time. Waterfowl, late sparrows, rarities are possible.

LEADER: NICK ESCOTT 345-7122

ANNUAL BOXING DAY BIRD COUNT
DEC 26 WED. DETAILS FROM
NICK ESCOTT 345-7122

THUNDER BAY DISTRICT BIRD RECORDS

SPRING & SUMMER 1990

The following records include first (F) and last (L) reported migration dates, and notes on plumage (ad=adult, imm=immature, m=male, f=female, pr=pair, s=singing male on territory, juv=juvenile, migr=migrant, N=nest). Species in capitals are considered rare in Thunder Bay District. Send bird records at the end of each month to Dr. N.G.Escott, 133 S. Hill St., Thunder Bay P7B 3T9.

OBSERVERS: Gord Allen, E.R. (Ted) Armstrong, Jean Hall Armstrong, Doug Asquith, Barry Atkinson, Sue & Mike Bryan, Gordon Cameron, Olga Cearnas, Don G. Cecile, Barb & Bud Chapman, Keren Chipeska, William S. Climie, Mary Cryer, Nicholas G. Escott, Geoffrey Gooding, Allan G. Harris, Cathy P. Harris, K. Joan Hebden, Sharon Illingworth, Marion Koehler, Irene Macdonald, Cilla Mitchell, Helen & Bruce Peterson, Stanley V. Phippen, Tom Ross, Rod & Pat Sein, Bea Termaat, Jen & Tony Thompson, Maureen Vaclav, George A. Williams, John Woodcock, Alan Wormington, Wally Zarowsky, Mike Zettek.

COMNAME	M DATE	NUMBER	PLUMAGE	LOCATION	OBSERVERS
Common Loon	F 04 22	1		over Mission Island	SVP,BA
Pied-billed Grebe	F 04 21	2		Brule Bay	WZ
Horned Grebe	F 04 29	30+		Silver Islet	NGE,AGH
Red-necked Grebe	F 04 25	42		Cloud Bay	RS,BA
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN	07 06	2		Ombabika Bay,L.Nipigon	Paul Odoruzi
Double-crested Cormorant	F 04 14			Mission Island	BA
American Bittern	F 04 23	1		Chippewa	BA,RS,SVP
Tundra Swan	F 04 27-29	1		Chippewa	BA, m.obs.
Snow Goose	F 04 14	2	1 blue	Richardson's elevator	SVP
Canada Goose	F 03 10	1		mouth of Mission River	ERA,JHA
Wood Duck	F 04 10	1	m	Sibley Creek, Sibley	BP
Green-winged Teal	F 04 13			Mission Island marsh	R&PS
Blue-winged Teal	F 04 16	1		Mission Island marsh	BA,SVP
CINNAMON TEAL	05 09	1	m	Chippewa landfill	AW,DGC,RS
Northern Shoveler	F 04 20	2	pr	Mission Island	R&PS
EURASIAN WIGEON	05 16	1	m	Hurkett Cons. Area	DGC,NGE,BA
Canvasback	F 04 19	2	pr	Mission Island	R&PS
Redhead	F 04 22	4		Mission Island	NGE
Ring-necked Duck	F 04 12	5		Mission River mouth	BA
Oldsquaw	F 04 29	10		Silver Islet	NGE,AGH
Surf Scoter	05 19	2	pr	Geraldton	JW
White-winged Scoter	F 05 08	1		Red Rock	AW
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE	04 22	1	m	Whitefish Lake	TR
Bufflehead	F 04 12	2		mouth of Mission River	BA
RUDDY DUCK	04 early	2	pr	Chippewa Park	Mr.Gilhouly
Turkey Vulture	F 04 21	1		Boy Scout Camp Rd.	J&TT
Osprey	F 04 21	1		Dog Lake	AGH,CPH
Bald Eagle	05 10	5		Hurkett dock	AW,DGC
Northern Harrier	F 03 30	1		Pearson Twp.	Chapmans
Sharp-shinned Hawk	F 04 15	1		over Mission Island	BA
Cooper's Hawk	F 04 27	1	ad	Squaw Bay	WZ
Northern Goshawk	04 15	2	pr	Oulmet	NGE,BA
Broad-winged Hawk	F 04 25	1		Cloud Bay Road	BA
Red-tailed Hawk	F 04 08	1		Whitefish Lake	TR
Peregrine Falcon	L 05 23	1	imm	Sibley cliff	AGH
Spruce Grouse	04 18			Marks Lake	GAW
Virginia Rail	07 05	1	called	Chippewa landfill	NGE,GC
Sora	F 05 05	1		Cloud Bay beaver pond	WZ
American Coot	F 04 22	1,1		Chippewa,Mission Island	SVP,BA
Sandhill Crane	F 04 06	1		Pearson Twp.	Barb Chapman
Black-bellied Plover	F 05 15	1		Thunder Bay airport	BA
Semipalmated Plover	F 05 12	1		Rosspoint	AW,AH,SP,NGE
AMERICAN AVOCET	04 20	1		Mission Island	H&BP,RS
Greater Yellowlegs	F 04 20	1		Pool 6	SVP
Solitary Sandpiper	F 05 05	1		Correctional Ponds	NGE
WILLET	05 17	1		O'Connor farm pond	HZ
Spotted Sandpiper	F 04 26	1		Pickeral Lake, Sibley	H&BP
Upland Sandpiper	F 05 12	2		Thunder Bay airport	BA
Whimbrel	F 05 21	12+	flock	St. Ignace Island	Jim Stevens
Hudsonian Godwit	F 05 12	4		Hurkett Cons. Area	AW,NGE,AH,SP
Ruddy Turnstone	F 06 01	1		Mission Island	IM
Semipalmated Sandpiper	F 04 27	2		Chippewa landfill	BA,SVP
Least Sandpiper	F 04 27	1		Chippewa landfill	BA,SVP

W

COMNAME	M DATE	NUMBER	PLUMAGE	LOCATION	OBSERVERS	COMNAME	M DATE	NUMBER	PLUMAGE	LOCATION	OBSERVERS
White-rumped Sandpiper	F 06 01			Chippewa	GAW	European Starling	05 12	3		Pays Plat	AW,NGE,AH,SP
Pectoral Sandpiper	F 04 27	3		Chippewa	WZ	Solitary Vireo	F 05 09	1		Chippewa Park	AW
Dunlin	F 05 04	1		Pool 6	IM	VARBLING VIREO	07 01	1	s-m	Harstone	NGE et al
Short-billed Dowlitcher	F 05 08	1		Red Rock	AW,DGC	Philadelphia Vireo	F 05 26	1		Northwood Bog	NGE,GG
Common Snipe	F 04 20	1		Mission Island	BA	Red-eyed Vireo	F 05 20	1		Whitefish Lake	TR
American Woodcock	F 04 13	4	display	Pass Lake	NGE,BA	Tennessee Warbler	F 05 02	1		Marks Lake	GAW
Wilson's Phalarope	F 05 02	2		Correctional ponds	IM	Orange-crowned Warbler	F 05 08	1		Silver Islet	AW,DGC
PARASITIC JARGER	07 15	2	light ad	Hurkett Cons. Area	ERA	Nashville Warbler	F 04 22	1		Whitefish Lake	TR
Bonaparte's Gull	F 04 27	1		Mission Island marsh	BA,SVP	Northern Parula	F 05 27	10+		Hurkett Cove	TBFN
Ring-billed Gull	F 03 23	5		Rosewood Cr.-on street	JHA	Yellow Warbler	F 05 12	2		Whitefish Lake	TR
Glaucous Gull	L 05 08	1		Hurkett	AW	Chestnut-sided Warbler	F 05 04	1		Marks Lake	GAW
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL	04 13	1	ad	Harbour @ Pool 6	RS,BA,NGE	Magnolia Warbler	F 05 12	3		Whitefish Lake	TR
CASPIAN TERN	F 05 08	1	ad	Hurkett	AW,DGC	Cape May Warbler	F 05 07	1	m	Heron Bay	AW,DGC
Common Tern	F 05 14	1		on log out in harbour	NGE	Black-thr. Blue Warbler	F 06 10	1	s-m	White Lake	WZ
BLACK TERN	07 02	8	ad	Buck L.(NE of Muskeg L.)	Bill Bottos	Yellow-rumped Warbler	F 04 20	2		Thunder Bay	Eide BA
Mourning Dove	F 04 19	1		Twin City Crossroads	JW	Black-thr. Green Warbler	F 05 05	2		Cloud Bay	TBFN
Black-billed Cuckoo	F 06 16	1	calling	Heron Bay	SVP,NGE	Blackburnian Warbler	F 05 12	5		Whitefish Lake	TR
Great Horned Owl	07 21	2	yg	Marks Lake	GAW	PINE WARBLER	F 06 04	9	s-m	Greenwood L.white pines	JW
Northern Hawk-Owl	04 11	1		by Kam R. @ Rosslyn	R&PS	Palm Warbler	F 04 25	1		Chippewa landfill	RS
Barred Owl	06 30	2	calling	Silver Harbour Heights	S&MB	Bay-breasted Warbler	F 05 20	5		Whitefish Lake	TR
Northern Saw-whet Owl	F 04 14	2	calling	Kay Lake, Sibley	B.Termaat	Blackpoll Warbler	F 05 27			Hurkett	GAW
Common Nighthawk	F 06 01	1		Con College	NGE	Black-and-white Warbler	F 05 08	2		Silver Islet	DGC,AV
Whip-poor-will	F 05 31	2	calling	Oulmet	NGE	American Redstart	F 05 15	1		Chippewa road	BA
Chimney Swift	F 05 14	sev.		high over P.W.	BA	Ovenbird	F 05 20	1		Kakabeka Falls	DA
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	F 05 13	1	m	Lakeshore Drive feeder	HK	Northern Waterthrush	F 05 13	1		Marathon townsite	AW,SVP
Belted Kingfisher	F 04 20			Duck Lake, Boreal Road	M.Vaclav	Connecticut Warbler	F 05 20	1		Whitefish Lake	TR
Red-headed Woodpecker	05 09-21	1	ad	Harstone feeder	M.Vaclav	Mourning Warbler	F 05 26	3+	s-m	Northwood Bog	NGE,GG
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	F 04 18	1		Port William	Marion Smith	Wilson's Warbler	F 05 26	10+	s-m	Northwood Bog	NGE,GG
Northern Flicker	F 04 14	1		Silver Islet	KJH	Canada Warbler	F 05 05	1		Cloud Bay	TBFN
Olive-sided Flycatcher	F 05 27	1	s-m	Oulmet	NGE	SUMMER TANAGER	F 05 25	11	imm m	Stanley	TBFN
Eastern Wood-Pewee	F 06 03	1		Silver Islet	SVP,WSC	Scarlet Tanager	F 05 25	2	pr(s-m)	Red Rock feeders	OC,AW et al.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	F 05 26	2	s-m	Northwood Bog	NGE,GG	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	F 05 13	1	m	Isabella @ Selkirk	LareneRosser
Alder Flycatcher	F 05 27	2		Hurkett Cove	TBFN	Indigo Bunting	F 05 05-10	1	m	Marathon townsite	AW
Least Flycatcher	F 05 08	1		Silver Islet	AW,DGC	American Tree Sparrow	F 04 19	3		Heron Bay feeder	AW,DGC
Eastern Phoebe	F 04 20	1		Palpoonge	Peter Boyle	Chipping Sparrow	F 04 24	1		Mission Marsh	ERA,JHA
Great Crested Flycatcher	F 07 01	3		Stanley	NGE et al	Clay-colored Sparrow	F 05 07	1		Rosewood Cres.	GA
WESTERN KINGBIRD	06 14	1		Marathon	SVP	Vesper Sparrow	F 04 24	1		Marathon	AW,DGC
Eastern Kingbird	F 05 08	1		Slate River Credit Union	IM	Savannah Sparrow	F 04 24	2	s-m	Chippewa	R&PS
Tree Swallow	F 04 21	1		Mission Island	R&PS	LeConte's Sparrow	F 05 08	1		Silver Islet	AW,DGC
Northern Rough-w. Swallow	F 04 26	2		Kakabeka Falls	BA,SVP	Fox Sparrow	F 04 19	1		Pool 6	R&PS
Bank Swallow	F 05 30	3		Cloud Lake	KC,CM	Song Sparrow	F 04 07	2		Grandview Beach	S&MB
Cliff Swallow	F 05 08	2		mouth of Wolf River	AW	Lincoln's Sparrow	F 05 07	10		Marathon	AW,DGC
Barn Swallow	F 04 23	1		Meeking Marsh	BA,SVP	Swamp Sparrow	F 04 21			Chippewa	TBFN
Boreal Chickadee	04 26	20	migr	Chippewa landfill	BA,SVP	White-crowned Sparrow	F 04 28	4		Marathon	WSC
White-breasted Nuthatch	04 21			Marks Lake	GAW	Harris' Sparrow	F 05 13	1	ad	Chippewa	TBFN
House Wren	F 06 11	1	N	Cloud Lake Road	KC	Lapland Longspur	L 05 16	2	pr	Squaw Bay, Sibley dump	S&MB
Winter Wren	F 04 20			Duck Lake, Boreal Road	JW	Snow Bunting	L 05 13	3		Marathon shore	AW,SVP
Sedge Wren	07 22	1	s-m	Mission Island	NGE	Bobolink	F 05 17	1		O'Connor farm	HZ
Golden-crowned Kinglet	F 04 13	6		Marathon	WSC	Yellow-headed Blackbird	F 04 29	1	m	Chippewa landfill	WZ
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	F 04 22			Connee Twp.	JW	Rusty Blackbird	F 04 23	80		Mission Is., Chippewa	BA,SVP
Veery	F 05 23	1		Lakehead University	TBFN	Northern Oriole	F 05 23	2	m,f	Marathon townsite	SVP,WSC
Swainson's Thrush	F 06 03	30+		Sibley	SVP,TBFN	Pine Grosbeak	L 03 18			Pine Bay	SI
Hermit Thrush	F 04 23	1		Rosewood Cr. backyard	ERA,JHA	Common Redpoll	L 05 13	1		Marathon townsite	AW,SVP
Gray Catbird	F 04 22	1		Mission Island	SVP,BA	Hoary Redpoll	L 04 22	1		Rosewood Cr. feeder	Marg. Allen
Northern Mockingbird	F 04 29	1		Red Rock	OC	Pine Siskin	05 11-12	1	albino	Kakabeka	M.Cryer
Brown Thrasher	F 04 26	1		Rosslyn area	BA,SVP	American Goldfinch	F 05 16	1		Harstone feeder	M.Vaclav
Water Pipit	F 05 10	4		Marathon	SVP						
Bohemian Waxwing	L 04 26	1+		133 S. Hill Street	NGE						
Northern Shrike	L 04 03	1		Sturgeon Bay Road	AGH,NGE,CPH						

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PARASITIC JAEGER SIGHTING

DATE: July 15 1990
 TIME: 1745 hrs. (5:45 p.m.)
 LOCATION: Hurkett Conservation Area, Hurkett, Black Bay, Lake Superior

CONDITIONS: Fair, sunny/partly cloudy . strong on-shore(easterly) wind.

DETAILS: Two (2) jaegers were first observed when approximately 30 m offshore and 10-13 m high, flying near edge of shore, chasing each other in the vicinity of 2 herring gulls (smaller than herring gulls). Both birds had solid dark backs with white breasts, impression of Caspian tern-size, narrow pointed and slightly upturned wings. One bird turned towards me, and evidenced a distinct V-shaped dark, narrow necklace on the upper breast. On this same bird, a long tail of 2 distinct widths was noted - narrower at the extremity. Both birds gradually flew directly eastward across the bay, directly away from the land, while flying low over the water and continuing to pursue each other in flight. As the birds flew further out, I noted distinct whitish flashes from the upper wings of one bird, which could not be seen on the other. Both birds were similar in size, flight behaviour, and back and breast pattern. There was no vocalization. The birds moved out of sight range (against the horizon), and were not observed again prior to me leaving the site at 1900 hours (7:00 p.m.).

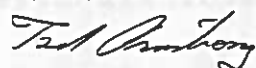
OBSERVATIONAL DETAILS : The birds were quite close when first observed, and gradually moved further away. They were probably observed for approximately 1-1.5 minutes, with the first observations being the best and closest. I was using 7X35 Bushnell Custom binoculars, and the first observations were made at close range in good lighting conditions. I have not previously seen this species, or any other jaeger.

SIMILAR SPECIES:

• Pomarine Jaeger - This is the only similar species with which it seems likely that a parasitic jaeger could be confused. Several guides mention the heavier and larger body, with slower wingbeats, of the Pomarine; my impression of these birds was of a graceful, fast-flying, tern-like bird. My first impression was that these birds were of Caspian tern size; while this would place them closer to the Pomarine size, I believe in retrospect that I may have misjudged the size due to lack of recent experience with the Caspian tern - ring-billed gull size may have been more appropriate. The breast band observed on one jaeger was distinct yet narrow, suggesting the Parasitic (narrow band) more than the Pomarine (Broad). All jaegers show a white wing flash, so this is not diagnostic.

OTHER OBSERVERS: No other observer saw the jaegers through binoculars. Jean Hall-Armstrong noted that these birds were unlike any species with which she was familiar (eg. recognized not to be gulls, etc.). The birds were initially pointed out to us by our children (Thomas-7, Heather-10), as they recognized that these were not familiar birds and wanted to know what they were.

Ted Armstrong
 615 Rosewood Crescent, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E 2R5
 (807)577-3997.



On July 30 Mike Jones, his brother Jerry, and Nick Escott visited Granite Island in Black Bay, site of a large Ring-billed Gull colony. Besides thousands of gulls, they saw 3 Caspian Terns, and, laying on the bare rock, a dead adult light phase Parasitic Jaeger. The jaeger had been dead only a couple of days, and may have been one of the birds seen by Ted Armstrong two weeks previously. The Parasitic Jaeger is a rare bird in Thunder Bay District, with only one previous record. It breeds in the tundra and winters at sea. A few are seen every fall at the southwestern ends of the great lakes, i.e. Duluth, Sarnia, and Hamilton. These fall migrants are usually seen in September, with the earliest reports at the beginning of August. Summer jaeger sightings on the great lakes are exceptionally unusual.

THUNDER BAY FIELD NATURALISTS--INFORMATION , 1990

The Thunder Bay Field Naturalist Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to : the study of natural history; the wise use of natural resources; the preservation of natural areas and ; teaching the public to understand and protect nature.

MEETING DATES: The fourth Monday of September, October, November, January, February, March, and April at 8:00 pm. The annual dinner will be held _____.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES: Adult ----- \$15.00
 Student and Senior-- \$13.00
 Family----- \$17.00
 Corresponding
 (news letter only)-- \$13.00

MAILING ADDRESS: BOX 1073
 THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO
 P 7 C 4 X 8
 CANADA

OFFICERS

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Meeting Refreshments	Tom Dyke	622-9980