

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

A migrant and winter visitor along San Diego County's coastline, the Parasitic is less numerous here than the Pomarine but seen uncommonly, from shore as well as at sea. The Parasitic Jaeger enters San Diego Bay rarely. There are two summer records.

Winter: The Parasitic Jaeger, like other ocean birds, is most likely to be seen from shore, especially at La Jolla (P7), during the strong northwest winds that follow the passage of a cold front. Maximum daily counts from shore are of 18 at La Jolla 13 February 2001 (B. L. Sullivan) and 17 at Oceanside (H5) 26 December 1998 (S. Walens). The San Diego Christmas bird count has recorded the Parasitic Jaeger on 25 of 34 counts 1969–2002, with a maximum of eight on 20 December 1986. The Oceanside count has recorded it on 19 of 28 counts 1976–2002, with a maximum of 19 on 26 December 1998 (including 18 from shore). There were no reports within San Diego Bay during the atlas period, but weekly surveys of the bay 1993–94 yielded four sightings totaling five individuals (Mock et al. 1994).



Photo by Kenneth W. Fink

Migration: The Parasitic Jaeger's seasonal distribution in San Diego County remains that reported by Unitt (1984): 27 August–23 May, except for sightings of one at the Santa Margarita River mouth (G4) 12 June–10 July 1971 (AB 35:906, 1971) and of two 1 mile off La Jolla 14 June 1978 (AB 32:1208, 1978).