

### **Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

The Pomarine Jaeger is primarily a migrant over the ocean off San Diego County and the commonest jaeger here in both spring and fall. It is regular if uncommon in winter as well. Occasional Pomarine Jaegers remain through the summer. The species is rarely seen on shore; perhaps any that alight on beaches are in poor health.

**Winter:** Most Pomarine Jaegers winter in the tropics; California is at the northern edge of the species' normal winter range. Of San Diego County's Christmas bird counts, the San Diego and Oceanside counts regularly deploy a boat on the ocean, thanks to the consistent dedication of David W. Povey. The San Diego count has recorded the Pomarine Jaeger in 15 of 34 years, 1969–2002, with a maximum of three individuals. The Oceanside count has recorded it in 17 of 28 years, 1976–2002, with a maximum of four, except for 25 on 28 December 1980. The birds can occasionally be seen from shore; our maximum 1997–2002 was of four from Torrey Pines State Reserve (N7) 22 December 2000 (S. Walens).



*Photo by Kenneth W. Fink*

**Migration:** The Pomarine Jaeger is most numerous in fall migration (up to 140 between San Diego and San Clemente Island 11 September 1971, G. McCaskie), and common also in spring migration. It is seldom seen in June or July, but eight were off San Diego 17 June 1982 (D. W. Povey, AB 36:1016, 1982). One was in the south San Diego Bay salt works (U10) 9 June 1999 (found dead 13 June, SDNHM 50438); another was there 23 June 1999 (R. T. Patton).