

## Arctic Birds Connect the World Comic Accessible Text

Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute's Migratory Bird Center

This comic consists of three pages of graphic art along with text in English and Inuktitut.

### Page 1

Large text at the top reads: "Arctic birds connect the world!"

### Top Panel

Smaller text reads: "Each spring, three related seabird species called jaegers nest in the Arctic."

Pictured in watercolor illustrations are three dark grey and white seabirds at their nesting grounds in the Canadian Arctic. There is a little bit of snow on hills in the background and some patches of bright pink tundra flowers. One a hill in the background is a hoodoo. The largest species, pomarine jaeger, is standing in profile to the right. The middle-sized species, parasitic jaeger is on the left standing in profile over its nest containing two eggs that are green with black mottling. The bird's eye is closed in appearance of a happy small smile. The smallest species, long-tailed jaeger, is sitting in the front on its nest. All three species have black caps, a dark grey or black back and tail. But the tail of the pomarine jaeger is rounded and twisted. The tail of the long-tailed jaeger is long and curved up. The tail of the parasitic jaeger is pointy but shorter than the other two species. The long-tailed jaeger also has some pale-yellow feathers near its neck. Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers have dark bills, but the pomarine Jaeger only has dark on the tip of its bill. The rest of the bill is an orangey yellow. At the front left is a little lemming popping out of its burrow with text asking: "Are they gone yet?"

### Three middle panels

Text reads "But when winter is coming..." at top of three horizontal panels.

The left panel shows the head of the long-tailed jaeger in profile. Then the center panel zooms in closer to show the forehead and eye. Then the right panel shows a close-up of the eye with a world map appearing in it as if a reflection. These panels indicate that the bird is starting to think of leaving its nesting grounds for migration.

### Bottom Panel

A muted blue and green watercolor world map shows all the continents except Antarctica. It is centered on North and South America and is slightly curved like the top portion of a sphere. Three curving arrows originate in the central Canadian high Arctic over Bathurst Island. Near each arrow flies a dark overhead silhouette of a jaeger with tiny tracking devices and their antennae on the lower backs of the birds. A dark blue arrow passes over the North Atlantic Ocean and curves around Africa to end with an arrowhead in the Mozambique Channel of the Indian Ocean near Madagascar. The silhouette of the long-tailed jaeger is near this arrow. A teal arrow follows the Atlantic coast of North America, through the Caribbean Sea, and curves

around Cuba, and Florida to end with an arrowhead in the Gulf of Mexico near southwest Florida, U.S. The silhouette of the parasitic jaeger flies near this arrow. A green arrow flows west over the Arctic Ocean, passes over eastern Russia, and enters the Pacific Ocean, flowing past Kamchatka, Russia, and Japan before curving east in a loop over Micronesia. The silhouette of the pomarine jaeger flies near this arrow.

A caption over the south Pacific Ocean reads: “Scientists from the Canadian Wildlife Service, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, and Acadia University track their migrations with satellite tags.”

## Page 2

The three species have arrived at the ocean habitats they use during the non-breeding periods. They are more mottled grey and white in their non-breeding plumage and have lost their long tail feathers. During this period of the year, they are much more difficult to tell apart from each other.

### Top panel

A pomarine jaeger is flying in profile with its wings pointed down over an aerial view of an archipelago of tropical islands. The water is in shades of watercolor turquoise and the islands are shades of bright green. Three shark fins appear in the ocean. A Micronesian lei of bright purple flowers and greenery appears draped around its neck. It says: Back for another sunny winter! A caption reads: “Pomarine jaeger – Micronesia, Pacific Ocean.”

### Middle panel

A long-tailed jaeger is sitting in profile on the surface of clear blue-green tropical waters, paddling gently with its webbed feet. It is near a tropical beach where a small fishing boat sits and palm trees line the shore. The boat is painted black with a red, yellow and green pattern along the top edge. A slight swell is in the water. Beneath the surface a green turtle swims. Flying in the background above the parasitic jaeger is a red-billed tropicbird, another seabird species. It has two very long white tail streamers and a red bill with black wing tips. The parasitic jaeger looks content, with its eye closed and in a small smile. A caption reads: “Long-tailed Jaeger—Mozambique and Madagascar, Indian Ocean.”

### Bottom panel

A parasitic jaeger is flying in profile with its wings flapping up. It is wearing black sunglasses. It is flying over teal blue water by a sandy shoreline of an island and on the edge of the island sits a reddish-brown fort with a United States National Park Service Flag flying to indicate Dry Tortugas National Park, Florida. Some shrubbery marks a walking path to the fort. The caption reads: “Parasitic jaeger—Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Ocean.”

## Page 3

Text at the top of the page reads: “The following spring...”

### Top panel

Three close-ups of the heads of jaegers appear in individual panels against sky-blue watercolor backgrounds. All the panels show a lit lightbulb floating over their heads and inside each lightbulb is a pink heart. The birds are starting to think of going home to Canada to mate and nest. The left panel shows parasitic jaeger profile with the bill pointed upwards. The middle panel shows a smaller profile of the long-tailed jaeger pointing left. The right panel shows a front-on view of the pomarine jaeger head.

### Bottom panel

The birds are flying back to their Canadian tundra nesting habitat in early spring. In the foreground is a bright green sign with a red maple leaf centered pointing up from the top. The sign says: "Entering Canada. Welcome Back!"

Some snow appears on the hillsides, the vegetation is a brownish shade and has not yet turned green. Running across the tundra is an Arctic fox in the greyish white color of its summer coat. The hoodoo appears on the highest hill in the background and a small partially silhouetted long-tailed jaeger flies overhead. There is some blue sky under a blanket of greyish white clouds. A pomarine jaeger with its twisted tail feathers and a satellite tag flies in from the lower right corner. A parasitic jaeger with the antenna of a satellite tag apparent, flies in from the left. It is flying over a lemming that exclaims: "Eep!" as it appears ready to pop back into its burrow. A pair of long-tailed jaegers are nesting in the center of the panel. One is sitting in profile on a nest, and the other is standing in profile near it. The birds have returned to Canada for another year of nesting.