

some poor shots of the right leg; but these photos also strongly suggest the bird did not have a band.

Speculation at the time centered on the Smew being the same one that had occurred the previous year in Wisconsin, which was accepted by the state's ornithological records committee. That the bird showed up with migrating Common Goldeneyes and Common Mergansers in Missouri lent credence to it being of wild origin. The Missouri Bird Records Committee has since accepted the January 2001 Smew as a wild bird, and it is now on the state checklist (pers. comm. Chris Wood). The Illinois Ornithological Records Committee has not voted on whether this species should be accepted for Illinois.

Unfortunately, the issue has since been clouded with the discovery of how common the Smew is in captivity. While there have been no reports of Smews lost from zoo collections, and reports of Smews lost from private collections have not come to light, the sheer number in captivity has to give pause to any consideration of this bird's origin.

Thousands of visitors observed this bird at Riverlands through the winter season. A Eurasian sea duck, the Smew is native to Siberia, the northern Pacific,

and the Arctic, and in North America found as a rare vagrant in the westernmost islands of Alaska. Females have a white throat and lower face, with a reddish head and nape. Males are white, with a black mask and black body markings. In flight the Smew, considered accidental in most of North America, has conspicuous black-and-white wings.

Despite the questions of origin, the Smew's presence at the Riverlands introduced this marvelous birding area (previous good birds in the area included Slaty-backed Gull, Ross's Gull, and Wood Stork) to the national birding community. Many people enjoyed not only the Smew, but also the variety of winter gulls, including Laughing, Franklin's, Thayer's, Iceland, Glaucous, and Lesser Black-backed; Eurasian Tree Sparrows; numerous Bald Eagles; and the variety of ducks, including an elusive (to me!) Barrow's Goldeneye.

Literature Cited

Granlund, J. 2001. The changing seasons: western great lakes. *North American Birds* 55:176.

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Photo Quiz

by Steven D. Bailey

A rare sight indeed! In each case, the photo shows a jaeger soaking up the rays on solid ground. Given you've read the articles on jaegers in this issue, you should have no problem identifying these two birds. Too bad the photos are so good. The quiz would

have been even more difficult if both birds had their heads in their backs, asleep. Identify the birds in these two photos, noting why you made your choice. Answers will appear in the next issue of *Meadowlark*, along with credit to the photographers.



Photo A



Photo B