

## STOP #6. DICKSON MOUNDS MUSEUM

**Directions:** Turn right (north) from the parking area at Emiquon NWR and follow the signs 4.0 miles to the final stop on this tour, Dickson Mounds Museum (hours: daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; telephone 309-547-3721).

Just after turning onto the museum entrance road you will have passed from the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River Bottomlands Natural Division to the Western Forest-Prairie Natural Division. Check flooded fields here in spring for a variety of shorebirds. Both godwits and Snowy Plover have been seen here. Surrounding wet fields can be good for American Golden-Plover and Lapland Longspur in spring. Before observing exhibits, museum staff will direct you to the third floor to watch a short video describing the Illinois River Valley and its importance to past and present cultures. Following the video, you will be directed to the museum's observation deck (bring your compass, binoculars, and spotting scope).

As you are looking out onto the broad floodplain of the Illinois River Valley, try to find the sand prairie at H.A. Gleason Nature Preserve at 80o (11 miles distant) and the smokestack at Havana's power plant. Think back on the video you just saw, past cultures inhabiting this area long ago, and the time you spent listening and observing on the banks of the Illinois River at Bellrose Island. While viewing the distant refuges within the context of the entire Illinois River

Valley, a landscape that has received many environmental abuses over the years, it is an appropriate time to consider that we are only the latest in a long line of many destined to eventually pass this area and its abundant natural resources on to future generations. Have we made improvements during our tenure? Or will future generations have less? Chautauqua and Emiquon National Wildlife Refuges would seem to allow us plenty of room for optimism.

For more information on birding, contact: Emiquon Audubon Society, 503 S. Pearl, Havana, Illinois 62644; 309-543-2744.

For information on restaurants and overnight accommodations, contact: Havana Area Chamber of Commerce, 227 West Main Street, Havana, Illinois 62644; 309-543-3528.

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## Photo Quiz — Answers from Vol 10 No. 3

In our last issue we featured photos of two immature jaegers to test your identification skills. Compare Photo A with Photo B. Photo B shows much dark on the head with a lighter nape tapering to a darker back. Photo A shows much more light on the neck and nape. Photo B's nape is distinctly streaked with darkish brown, while Photo A's nape is very thinly streaked at best, but with a very thinly streaked darkish brown crown. Also note the proportion of dark versus light on the bills of these

birds. Photo B's bill has a one-third black to two-thirds blue proportion, while Photo A is more 50/50. Finally, note the light-colored tips at the edge of the primaries on Photo B, which is not seen on Photo A. Put these all together and you'll discover that Photo A is a Long-tailed Jaeger (taken 13 September 2000 at Lake Chautauqua, Mason County, by Dennis Oehmke) and Photo B is a Parasitic Jaeger (taken 13 September 2000 at Lake Chautauqua, Mason County, by Dennis Oehmke).



Photo A



Photo B