

trickier first-cycle and second-cycle birds. Two birds, in particular, were of great interest this season. Although the photos may prove inconclusive, I'm not so ready to assume that all unusual immatures are Herring Gulls by default. With the advent of north-east Asian gulls, which are now being seen with some regularity around the Great Lakes, the prospects of Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*), 'Kamchatka' Gull, Vega Gull (*Larus argentatus vegae*), Slaty-backed Gull, and Glaucous-winged Gull are all worthy of consideration when scouting a large winter roost. If this season is any indication, when Asian gulls are present, take advantage of the list serves and map out where others are being seen. It is likely that the movement of birds is considerable given the right weather pattern and may involve multiple species possibly dispersing from a common source. Is it also safe to assume that if adults are present, younger birds are likely present as well? How many first-cycle and second-cycle birds are going unidentified or, worse yet, misidentified? A new era may be upon us. The digital camera has brought birding to a new threshold and few species are easier to photograph than gulls. I can hardly wait for next winter and another season of rarities.

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A potential first North American record of 'Kamchatka' Mew Gull away from Pacific Ocean

By Bill Rudden

At around 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, 23 February 2008, Dan Kassebaum called Travis A. Mahan to report an adult Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) that he had found around 8 a.m. while scanning through the large numbers of gulls amassed at the sailboat marina at the south end of Carlyle Lake (Clinton County). I also happened to be birding around Carlyle Lake and ran into Dan at the marina. He told me about the gull, which of course had just flown from the ice out onto the main lake. Dan relocated the gull when it returned to the marina. My first comment after observing the gull through my binoculars was, "It's huge!" We both returned to our vehicles for warmth and to steady our spotting scopes to obtain more photographs. Dan had

already acquired more than 100 photographs prior to my arrival.

The marina maintained a high level of gull activity. Hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), along with the Mew Gull, were feeding on the countless fish that were trapped in the ice. Fortunately, the Mew Gull defended a small territory that was among the closest line of docks to our position. This allowed close observation and accessibility



FIGURE 4



FIGURE 3