

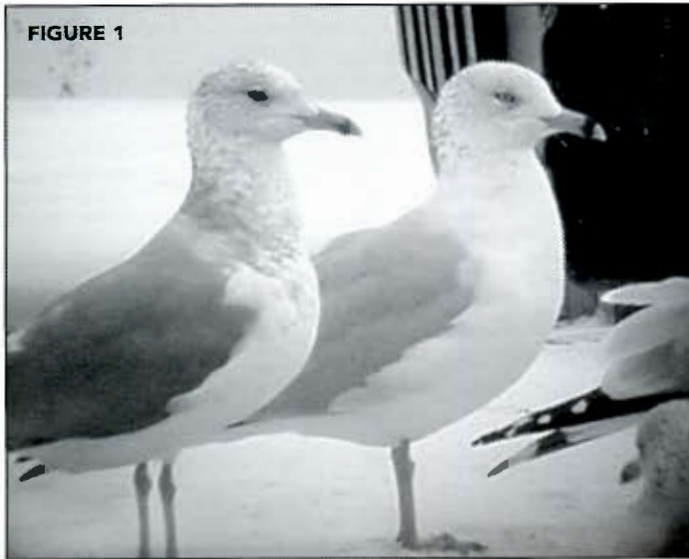
for photographs while it fed voraciously, chiseling fish from the ice. The gull remained in the same area of the marina throughout much of the day despite being flushed by maintenance workers numerous times.

The Mew Gull had some distinctive features that set it apart from the nearby Ring-billed Gulls. It was equal in size to the Ring-billed Gulls and seemed larger, darker-backed, and longer-billed than that expected for the North American race of Mew Gull (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*). Upon further observation, the bird was determined to be an immature due to the brownish coloration on its

primary coverts, greenish legs, and limited dark tertial markings. The gull did, however, have a clean, all-white tail.

After some maintenance work on the docks temporarily flushed the flock of gulls from the marina, we started to discuss the possibilities of this gull's identity. Dan had a few references in his truck, which included Howell and Dunn's Gulls of the Americas and Olsen and Larsson's Gulls of North America, Europe, and Asia. Given the features observed in this bird, other races of Mew Gull were examined and discussed: the European and Asian races Common

Gull (*Larus canus canus* and *Larus canus heinei*); and the east Asian race 'Kamchatka' Gull (*Larus canus kamtschatschensis*). Features such as the dark back coloration, dark eye, blue-green leg coloration, and long, thin bill with a limited gonydeal angle suggested a small California Gull (*Larus californicus*). "This isn't a small California?" was a question I presented to Dan, who quickly put that scare to rest by pointing out the presence of white tongue tips on the inner primaries (P5-7). The bill was also too thin and lacked the red and black gony spots.



**Potential 'Kamchatka' Mew Gull at Carlyle Lake, Clinton County.**

Photos taken 23 February 2008 clockwise as follows, by Dan Kassebaum (see gull at left, Figure 1 for comparison with Ring-billed Gull at right), Travis A. Mahan (see gull at right, Figure 2), and Tom Bormann (Figure 3), and on 24 February 2008 in flight by Frank Holmes (Figure 4).

