

Saskatoon area prior to September 23.

There is apparently only one previous report of birds that were probably Trumpeter Swans in the Saskatoon area. Sometime between May 12 and 17, 1969, Jim MacPherson, Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources, saw four swans standing apart from a number of Whistling Swans on Goose Lake. The four appeared to be half as large again as the other swans.

SIGHT RECORD OF SNOWY EGRET NEAR CALGARY, ALBERTA

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On the evening of May 20, 1971, while observing Ring-billed and California gulls from a blind in a gull colony near Irricana, Alberta (35 miles NE of Calgary), we observed a Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*) alight amongst the colony and remain in the immediate vicinity for nearly an hour. At 6:15 p.m. the egret appeared from a southerly direction and landed about 50 yards from our blind on one of the four islands that comprise the gull colony. We observed the egret from the blind with a 20-40 X binocular telescope as well as with 7 X 35 binoculars at distances of 50 - 70 yards and later at about a quarter of a mile.

The egret landed on the fringe of one of the breeding islands and slowly made its way across the width of the densely nested island. It appeared to be foraging as it moved and showed no interaction with either species of nesting gull. During this time the completely white plumage, black legs, yellow feet and lores and hunched stance (as compared to the gulls) were repeatedly seen by both authors. It remained on the breeding island for about half an hour and then flew to and alighted on a long isolated peninsular loafing area on which gulls were already roosting. The egret remained there, preening and loafing, for about 20 minutes and then left the area entirely. A search, led by the junior

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author, was made of the area two days later but the egret could not be re-located.

The Snowy Egret is nowhere common in Canada. It is regarded only as a rare non-breeding wanderer to Alberta, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland; there are sight records for Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia (Godfrey, W. E., 1966. *The Birds of Canada*, Queen's Printer, Ottawa). In Alberta, two specimens were collected in 1901 and 1910 from the SW and central parts of the province respectively (Salt, W. R. and L. Wilk, 1966. *The Birds of Alberta*. 2nd (Revised) edition. Dept. of Industry and Development). Salt further comments (*in litt.*) that he knows of no other sightings since that time. Tom Sadler (*in litt.*) of Strathmore, however, reports that he and his brother, Ian, observed and photographed a Snowy Egret in June of 1970 approximately 5 miles east of the present sighting.

W. Weber (*Blue Jay*, 29:134-35, Sept. 1971) recently reported the sighting of a Snowy Egret in the Cypress Lake area of Saskatchewan and has summarized the sightings for that province (the majority of which occurred in May-June). It seems apparent that the Snowy Egret is an avid wanderer and should be watched for on the prairies during the late spring-early summer period.