w Gull, Lake Athabasca, June 1960

Fred Lahrman

EW GULL SIGHTING AT INDEER LAKE, MANITOBA

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t 11:15 a.m., DST, on June 29, 1974, iglas R. Storey, a Manitoba ernment wildlife technician, and I rved an adult Mew Gull on a ll rocky island in the Manitoba ion of Reindeer Lake. The island 42' N, 101° 54'W) was ap-cimately 2 ha in size and was used nesting site by 90-100 Common s. Fifteen Herring Gulls and 16 -billed Gulls were also seen in vicinity of the island.

e Mew Gull was observed under I weather conditions for five utes both at rest and in flight. The pr field marks observed were: ler than Ring-billed Gull; short, arked, pale green bill; slightly er, yellowish-green legs; outer aries which contained a more v. KV ceable amount of white than the eerrs -bills. It appeared relatively tame tobac twice it perched on a tree snag 12 om us, the only gull to do so. It not call during our observations free was not seen on subsequent visits

adee 9 ew Gulls are known to nest in s, Whinies as well as solitary pairs. Nests dee senerally on the ground in ng in trees is not unknown. The

species, which breeds throughout the southern Yukon, adjacent areas of the Norhtwest Territories and northwestern and coastal British Columbia, also breeds in northwestern Saskatchewan.¹ Mew Gulls , however, have been reported at several locations in northeastern Saskatchewan, including Reindeer Lake, where sightings go back as far as 1914 when Angus Buchanan collected an adult female and saw another bird on July 9.³ More recently two or three pairs of these gulls were recorded in June and July, 1965, at a fish-filleting plant at Kinoosao.³ A male collected there on July 1 had testes measuring 12 mm. Kinoosao, which lies just inside Saskatchewan on Reindeer Lake, is almost 80 km southwest of the island where our observation was made. On July 20, 1965, the same party saw a Mew Gull only 32 km from our sighting, northwest across the Saskatchewan boundary on Reindeer Lake. The species, therefore, could occur throughout much of the Reindeer Lake area, perhaps even on a regular basis, though in small numbers. One could expect a few to overlap into the Manitoba portion of Reindeer Lake and even possibly breed there.

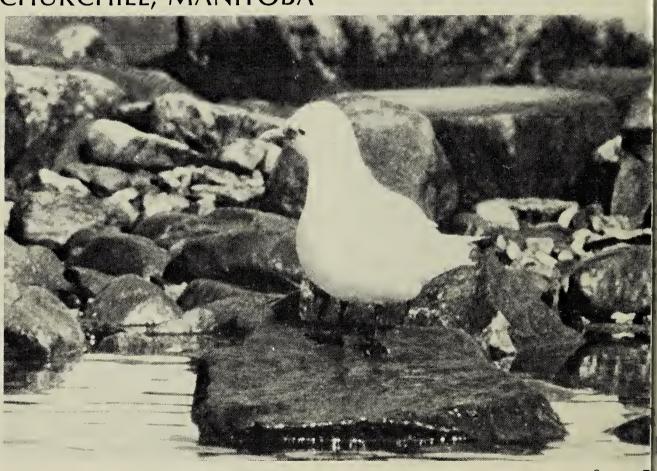
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To date, there have been two reports of Mew Gulls elsewhere in the province, both from Churchill. A single bird was seen near the grain elevator on June 23, 1967.² It was reported to have remained in the area for a few days and was seen by several other observers. The second Churchill sighting comes from Alf H. Rider of Forest, Ontario, (pers. comm., 1976) who carefully observed an adult bird there on June 10 of that year. This bird was seen in the vicinity of the granary ponds and was notably tame. No specimen has been collected and it is not currently listed under irregular occurrence on the field check-list of Manitoba birds.

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IVORY GULL AT CHURCHILL, MANITOBA Manitoba Museum of Man i Nature, and Martin K. McNiche f assisting me with information Robert W. Nero who reviewed manuscript and made helf suggestions.

- ¹GODFREY, E. W. 1966. The bir Canada. Nat. Mus. Canada 203. Otrtawa. 428 pp.
- ²JEHL, J. R. Jr. and SMITH, 1970. Birds of the Churchill r Manitoba. Manitoba Mus. and N Spec. Pub. 1. Winnipeg. 87 pp.
- ³NERO, R. W. 1967. The bir northeastern Saskatchewan, Nat. Hist. Soc. Spec. Pub. 6. R 96 pp.



Steve B

Steve and Josephine Blanich (Box 96, Crosby, Minnesota) observed an Ivory G Churchill daily from June 9 to 12, 1976. In addition, they reported seeing Par Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Glaucous Gull, Herring Gull, Thayer's Gull, Bonap Gull and about two dozen Sabine's Gulls, as well as 72 other species. Churchill tinues to be a spectacular place to visit to see unusual birds! J. R. Jehl and B. A. S (Birds of the Churchill region, Manitoba, 1970) list the Ivory Gull as hypothetical colour slide from which the above photo was taken provides evidence of it currence at Churchill.