

IVORY GULLS AT MIEBEN LAKE, SKATCHEWAN

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While boating and fishing on the
afternoon of September 16, 1976 on
Mieben Lake, Dr. Fred G. Bard
observed five pure white dove-like
gulls feeding on a bay of the lake.
Three were swimming and two were
feeding; soon all were on the water
feeding. Fred eased the boat to ap-
proximately 100 yards from them
when the gulls flew up and alighted
about 30 yards farther away. Here Fred
observed them for 15 minutes
without approaching closer.

With the aid of binoculars he could
ascertain that they were smaller than Ring-
necked Gulls, were pure white except
for black-tipped flight feathers (primaries
and some secondaries) giving
them a slightly speckled, dark-bordered
appearance on the wings. He was unable to
see any colour on the bills or feet but
they appeared dark. Unfortunately,
his camera was out of film at the time and was
unable to photograph them. He iden-
tified them as Ivory Gulls.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: This is the first report of
this species for Saskatchewan, although
there are at least four records for
Manitoba (Jehl, J. R., Jr., and B. A. Smith,
1964. Birds of the Churchill region,
Manitoba. Manitoba Mus. of Man and
Nature, Spec. Pub. 1, Winnipeg. 87 pp.).

DOZEN CRABAPPLES KILLED WAXWINGS

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Some years ago, while visiting in
Mieben Lake, a local gardiner told
me of an unusual happening with
respect to bird fatalities. He had, in
his yard, a rather large Siberian
crabapple (*Malus baccata*). The

species has small, usually red, fruits
which are commonly less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch
in diameter. A flock of Bohemian
Waxwings was feeding on the
crabapples of this tree.

It must have been an extremely
cold day in midwinter and the fruits
were frozen solid. In three or more
instances a Waxwing picked a crabap-
ple and the fruit stuck in the bird's
beak. Unable to close their beaks, the
cold air injured their lungs and the
birds dropped to the ground and
perished. The other birds in the flock
were either able to swallow the fruits
or else they deserted the tree in a
hurry. I wonder if other incidents of
this kind have been recorded?

PRAIRIE NEST RECORDS SCHEME

The Prairie Nest Record Scheme
report for the 1976 nest season is now
being prepared and will be available
before the end of March.

Persons interested in recording in-
formation on bird nests they discover,
and becoming contributors to this
program, can obtain information,
recording cards and a copy of the
1976 report by writing to:

H. W. R. Copland,
Prairie West Records Scheme,
Manitoba Museum of Man &
Nature,
190 Rupert Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0N2

Contributors or former con-
tributors having nest record cards
from past seasons are asked to
forward them to the above address as
soon as possible. The Canadian
Wildlife Service has a program un-
derway to enter data from all cards in
the Prairie Nest Records Scheme files
into a computer system. For this
reason we wish to have as many as
possible completed cards returned.