

## 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-  
ed Gulls, were pure white except  
for (black-tipped flight feathers  
primaries and some secondaries) giv-  
ing a slightly speckled, dark-bordered  
contrast 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,  
1967. Birds of the Churchill region,  
Manitoba. Manitoba Mus. of Man and  
Nature, Spec. Pub. 1, Winnipeg. 87 pp.).

## DOZEN CRABAPPLES AND SEVEN WAXWINGS

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Some years ago, while visiting in  
Mowbray Lake, a local gardiner told  
me of an unusual happening with  
respect to bird fatalities. He had, in  
his back 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.