

The Ring-billed Gull colony appeared to contain complete clutches, although no young had yet hatched. Their nests contain "usually three, sometimes two, very rarely four" eggs.<sup>1</sup> Sixty-two of these Ring-billed Gull nests contained four eggs, eight had five eggs and one had six eggs. The remaining gull nests had the usual three. Numbers of four- and five-egg clutches appear significant because they infer a larger than normal clutch size rather than the pairing of two females.

Other Ring-billed Gull colonies surveyed in 1979 contained abnormal clutch sizes, but none approached the proportion documented on the Bachelor's Island colony.

HARRISON, COLIN. 1978. A field guide to the nests, eggs and nestlings of North American birds. Collins, New York. 416 pp.

## BALD EAGLE NEST IN A MANITOBA HERON COLONY

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On 19 June 1979, while making an aerial census of a Great Blue Heron colony on one of Lake Winnipegosis' Sister Islands (52° 25' N, 99° 46' W), two observers and I saw two adult Bald Eagles close to a nest containing two young eagles. The nest was near the top of the island's largest tree, a dead balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*). I did not see any active heron nests in that tree although there were 30 or more active nests in surrounding trees, some at a distance of 10 m or less. The eaglets

were several weeks old while heron chicks were just beginning to hatch.

The observation is of interest and worthy of future field observation to determine if the two species will co-exist in such close proximity. The abandonment of a heron colony at Beaver Lake (54° 43' N, 111° 53' W) between 1970 and 1972 supposedly due to the establishment of an eagle nest in the colony was reported by Vermeer (Can. Field Nat. 87:427-432).

## EAGLE/COYOTE INCIDENT

SIG JORDHEIM, White Bear, Saskatchewan, S0L 3L0.

On 25 November 1979, I was on a hill overlooking Lake Diefenbaker. At this late date there were still several hundred Canada Geese and Mallard ducks on about an acre of open water toward the south shore of the lake.

I noticed a gathering of eagles on a small island close to the north shore. Through 16X binoculars I noted that one Golden Eagle was feeding on a Canada Goose, and four others were gathered around, hoping to get something for themselves. While they seemed to respect the feeding eagle, they were constantly harassing each other; at one time two of them came to grips and thrashed wildly for a moment until one got free and gave ground.

Then I saw a coyote trotting briskly toward the gathered eagles, coming across the ice from the south side. On getting closer it broke into a lope, then on reaching the island, with head lowered, hackles up and tail swinging from side to side it charged directly at the eagles.

The four that had no prey took to the air, but not the one with the goose. When the coyote was quite close, the eagle jumped right at it, and from my vantage point, it looked as if it actually grabbed the coyote. There was a lot of action for a brief moment; the eagle with flailing wings and the coyote struggling to get back in the direction he had come from.

Suddenly the coyote dashed around the eagle and made a rush for the goose, but before he could pick it up, the eagle again attacked and the coyote jumped out of reach.

Now the eagle remained on the goose carcass and resumed eating as if nothing had happened. The coyote meanwhile circled the feeding bird at a distance of perhaps eight feet. Once he tried to sneak up behind and grab something, but immediately the eagle turned and struck out with his feet and the coyote hastily retreated.

Eventually he lay down some 30 feet from the eagle and waited. In about a half-hour the big bird had his fill and flew away. Immediately the coyote picked up the remains of the goose and trotted back to the south side and there stopped to eat.

## CARDINAL AT PIKE LAKE, SASKATCHEWAN

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On 14 October 1979, the Saskatoon Natural History Society's Rare Bird Alert sprang into action and reported two rare sightings. A farmer near Warman had spotted three Whooping Cranes. Meanwhile at Pike Lake, Laura Hoyte reported

that a male Cardinal had been regularly visiting her bird feeder. Two rare birds in one day presented a dilemma — which bird should one look for? The only reasonable solution — look for both. That afternoon I drove out to the Warman district with my parents and found several SNHS members looking for the Whooping Cranes. After an hour's search we found them behind a hill. After viewing the whoopers, we continued on to Pike Lake. Ten minutes after arriving we were delighted to find the Cardinal emerge from the bushes and feed on the ground with some juncos.

The Cardinal had first been spotted in the area as early as late July by the Hoytes' neighbours, Mr and Mrs. Bell. However, the Cardinal was then very elusive and was seen only occasionally until mid-October. From 14-27 October, it visited Hoyte's feeder regularly. During this period it was observed by many members of the Saskatoon NHS. Stuart and Mary Houston attempted to trap the bird for banding purposes but were unsuccessful. Lawrence Baschak was able to obtain several photographs.

The only previous record for the Saskatoon district was a Cardinal observed by Frank Roy and party on the May Day Count, 26 May 1951 (*Blue Jay*, 15:102). Other Saskatchewan observations were made east of Yorkton by P. Fraser in May 1895 (*Blue Jay*, 19:142), in Regina by F. G. Bard during summer 1926, in Esterhazy by Mrs. Bert Ford during January 1951 and at the farm home of Mrs. Ted Scriven on 9 July 1951 (*Blue Jay*, 19:77). The last report in Saskatchewan was a male collected at Craven by R. W. Nero and Elmer Fox on 29 December 1960 (*ibid*). The Pike Lake observation therefore represents the only Saskatchewan report during the last 19 years.