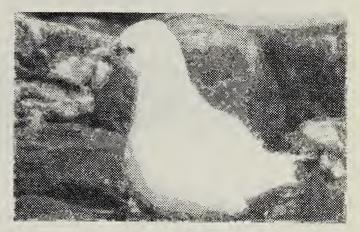
VORY GULL IN REGINA

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The lvory Gull is the quintessential ctic bird, mainly remaining in the circumlar high latitudes all year. Tuck notes at its breeding grounds are arctic isnds and coasts.⁵ Godfrey describes its anadian summer habitat as arctic asts and islands, permanent ice and en water, while it winters over arctic ft ice south to the arctic coasts, Labrar. pack ice off Newfoundland, and sually further south to the New Engnd coast. It is rare elsewhere in Cana.¹ Peters and Burleigh inform us that birds vary their marine food fare with rrion, lemmings and other small ronts.4

Thus the lvory Gull is a most improble avian visitor to Regina but on 4 ptember 1989, a beautiful sunny day, ile John Nelson and I were enjoying fee on the deck of the Marina Cafe in iscana Park, we saw one. 1 was ted at a table in the shade of a poplar ve, facing north towards the cafe and in sat opposite. It was about 10:15 As I glanced upward a small white came sailing into view over the cafe, too high (about 10 m), and planed thwards, hardly moving its wings, il it passed from view behind the trees ny rear. I drew John's attention to the , which he saw from a different perctive. I was looking upward at an le of about 45°.

What I saw was a small gull, about nklin's Gull size, 35 to 40 cm long. Its erparts were all white. It had no trace band on the end of its straight ended nor any black on the wings or head, its bill was dark basally with yellow ards the tip. Just before it was lost to v I could see that its upper parts were white. I did not notice the colour of



Ivory Gull

the legs. John's view, being more restricted, confirmed the white underparts and the straight-ended tail. There is only one gull that matches that description an adult Ivory Gull.

While an Ivory Gull in Regina is almost incredible there are some records that confirm its occurrence far inland. Gollop reports an Ivory Gull northeast of Calgary on 17 May 1987;² Lahrman cites Fred G. Bard's sighting of five Ivory Gulls on Nemeiben Lake (near La Ronge, Sask.) on 16 September 1976.³

¹GODFREY, W. E. 1986. The birds of Canada. National Mus. of Canada, Ottawa. 595 pp.

²GOLLOP, J. B. 1987. The spring migration, March 1-May 31,1987. Prairie provinces region. *Amer. Birds* 41:448-450.

³LAHRMAN, F. W. 1977. Ivory Gulls at Nemeiben Lake. *Blue Jay* 35:49.

⁴PETERS, H. S. and T. D. BURLEIGH. 1951. The birds of Newfoundland. Dept. of Natural Resources, Prov. of Newfoundland, St. John's. 431 pp.

⁵TUCK, G. S. 1978. A field guide to the seabirds of Britain and the world. William Collins, London. 292 pp.

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