

BIRD NOTES

WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE TAKING SILVER GULL—While travelling alongside Sleaford Mere one evening last April 1978, I noticed a flock of Silver Gulls *Larus novaehollandiae* becoming very agitated. On stopping to investigate I noticed a White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* circling overhead. As I watched, a single gull broke away from the group and headed off up the mere. Through binoculars I was able to identify the gull as a juvenile. The Sea-Eagle proceeded to chase the young gull, repeatedly diving on it. The gull continued to climb higher, making it easier for the eagle to manoeuvre. Unfortunately at this stage I took my eyes away from the binoculars for a second, and on looking back at the birds I saw the eagle flying back towards me with the gull in its talons. It then landed in a tree near me and proceeded to eat the gull. — COLIN GILL.

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