

when catching fish during flight. It was not "ploughing the main" at the time, and it would seem as if the peculiar bill must have been a hindrance to its success rather than an aid. My observation therefore in no way explains the peculiar structure of the bill but as a slight addition to Mr. Arthur's paper it seems worthy of record.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

**Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) Captured by Snapping Turtle.**—

While employed during the past summer on the collecting crew of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, a very curious incident came to my attention. At the time, it did not occur to me that it was unusual, but at the suggestion of Mr. Henry W. Henshaw I am submitting this account for publication.

One morning in July, two of the collectors, Dr. H. B. Baker and Mr. Fred Erskine, while working at a fresh-water pond near Woods Hole saw a Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) struggling violently in the water. It seemed as if something had caught it from below and was trying to draw it under. The men secured a boat at once and rowed out to the scene. Once, before they reached the spot, the gull was drawn completely under, but immediately came to the surface again. When the men reached it they pulled it from the water. Its captor, a large snapping turtle, with carapace nearly eighteen inches long, did not release its grip and was hauled from the water with the bird.

The abdomen of the gull was torn completely open and the viscera mangled, so the bird was immediately killed by one of the men. The dead bird and the turtle were brought to the laboratory. I had an opportunity to examine the former. It was an adult, apparently healthy, and with both wings sound. The turtle was killed and its stomach contents examined by a well-known physiologist, Dr. McCullom. No bird remains were found. Mr. Henshaw told me that it was very unusual for a gull to be caught unawares while sitting on the water unless it were diseased or injured. Such may have been the case here, but the evidence was not found. Whether or no, the vitality of the bird seems to have been very remarkable.—E. GORDON ALEXANDER, *Fayette, Mo.*

**A Mating Performance of The Least Tern.**—On May 27, 1921, I was puzzled by the behavior of some Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) at Carpinteria Beach, Santa Barbara Co., Calif., which were feeding small fish to other Terns apparently full grown. On May 31, at the mouth of the Ventura River, Ventura Co., Calif., I had an opportunity to observe the performance again at close range. It was evidently a mating performance. There were four or five pair playing about an estuary, pursuing each other and screaming. Occasionally one bird would bring up a small fish and then be joined by, or join, another bird, and after some aerial skirmishing and much screaming, both birds would alight on the