

I never saw them drink it again. Although these three birds were regularly fed one died at the end of five days and one on the sixth day. Suspecting that they might actually have died of thirst with fresh water to hand, I then released the remaining bird. After flying for a short distance, it alighted on the water by the side of my boat, and for half an hour appeared to be drinking sea water almost continuously, becoming so water-logged that it was unable to fly. I picked it up in my hand and threw it into the air and although it tried vigorously to fly, its weight was then too great and it fell back into the sea.

After the first two days I often fed the Shearwaters from my own hands, and noted that they were the most gluttonous birds that I have ever observed. Wishing to see just what one of them would really eat, I continued to give it little sardines, and although I kept no count, I must have given it approximately fifty. I used no force, just held the little wiggling fish in front of its bill, and it continued to take them in, until it appeared to get sleepy, and swallow with difficulty, then stopped taking them from my hand, and half an hour later I observed that the bird was dead. It would presumably have been unable to catch fish for itself at some time prior to eating itself to death.

During the stay of this large flock of Audubon's Shearwaters in the bight of Cape Lookout, there was quite a heavy on-shore wind one night, and the next morning, I counted thirty-two of these birds on the beach, about half of them either dead or dying, and in my opinion, less than a dozen recovered. It occurs quite frequently that not only this but other species of Shearwaters are blown ashore and killed. I know of no kind of bird that becomes so completely helpless from gorging itself with food, and very often they are the prey, when in this condition, of large voracious fishes. On several occasions I have found them in the stomachs of sharks, and I can recall only one instance of having found evidence of any bird other than Shearwaters having been eaten by sharks.

RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*).—The Red Phalarope is so rare at Cape Lookout, North Carolina that the occurrence of a bird of this species there, May 29, 1924, is worth recording. It was found swimming in a little pond in the marshes and was in process of acquiring summer plumage, the lower parts mottled with red and white.

Pearson, Brimley and Brimley (1919), Birds of North Carolina, give no record for the Red Phalarope later than April 17.—RUSSELL J. COLES, Danville, Va.

The Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) in Ontario.—On September 12, 1924, a Brown Pelican was shot at Frenchman's Bay about twenty-five miles east of Toronto. The specimen, an immature female, apparently in its second year, was in good condition and is now No. 24, 9, 16, 1, in the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoölogy, Toronto.

This constitutes the first authentic record of the species for the province although it had been included in Fleming's hypothetical list in 'Birds of

Toronto.' ('The Auk,' Vol. XXIII, p. 453.)—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoölogy, Toronto.*

Abundance of the Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) about New York City.—During the past late summer and early fall there was an unusual abundance of the Laughing Gull in the vicinity of New York City. It was first reported in the latter part of August. On September 6, the writer counted around 50 along Brooklyn's water front. The following day about 25 were seen from the Fort Lee ferry (125th street). The largest flock was seen at the mouth of the Bronx River on September 28. On this date there were fully 1000 birds in the flock and their cries were deafening. At this writing, October 8, there are still some birds present.—GEORGE E. HIX, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*) at Long Beach, N. Y.—On October 5, 1924, the writer, accompanied by Bernard Nathan, Charlton Ogburn, Joseph Lilienthal, Edward Spingarn and Victor Rosen, visited Long Beach. At the easternmost end of the beach a Black Skimmer was flushed from the shore. It flew out over the surf and returned to the shore further along. It was found again and allowed a very near approach before again taking flight. The bird was not in fully mature plumage, being rusty black on the back. Two or three tips of the primaries of the right wing were broken, otherwise the bird was in good condition.—GEORGE E. HIX, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

The Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*) at Ipswich, Massachusetts.—Early in the morning of September 1, 1924, Mr. Baker saw flying over the estuary on the inside of the Ipswich dunes, six birds which he recognized as Black Skimmers. In the afternoon, we went together to the outside beach and saw in a flock of Roseate, Common and Arctic Terns, alighted on the sand and afterwards on the wing, three Black Skimmers. Their distinctive plumage and peculiar bill formation, which latter they displayed by opening their bills, made their identification easy and certain.

This is the first record for Essex County, Mass., but there are several records for Massachusetts in August, 1879, when three were taken at Sandwich, one at Falmouth and one in Boston Harbor, while in the same month and year a number wandered as far north as Grand Manan and St. Andrews, New Brunswick.—JOHN H. BAKER, *New York*, and CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Boston.*

Black Skimmer and Golden Plover in Bronx County.—On September 14, 1924, we noted a Black Skimmer flying north, off Hunt Point. Approaching us from the direction of "Hell-Gate," it hovered for a moment, and alighted on a mud-flat, not thirty yards distant, in company with a large number of Gulls. After taking wing, it flew by, and we were at once impressed by the remarkably long slender wings, the forked-tail, the sharply contrasting black and white coloration and the low, easy flight