

species, and after circling about they flew off up the river. Both birds were adults. To the best of the writer's knowledge, this is the only record of the bird in Camden County. Mr. John T. Emlen, Jr., however, recorded it on April 21, 1929, in Burlington County, N. J. (*Auk*, Vol. XLVI, Page 534).—JULIAN K. POTTER, *Collingswood, N. J.*

Fishing Ability of the Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra nigra*).—I have watched Black Skimmers many times "ploughing the main" (fishing?) without ever seeing them catch anything but on August 28, 1932, Henry H. Collins, 3rd, and I were watching one cutting the water in a shallow pool at Tuckerton, N. J., when suddenly it had a fish struggling between its mandibles at a point about one half way between the tip and base of bill. The bird wheeled over a dead sod bank on the edge of the pool and as it did so, the fish freed itself and dropped to the ground. Immediately the Skimmer lit and tried to secure the fish with a straight thrust. The sod did not yield and the bird seemed unable to grasp the fish, though in soft sand or mud the result would probably have been different. It then tried to get the struggling fish by turning its bill sidewise but this also failed and without further delay it flew out over the pool and started again to cut the water in its characteristic manner. Almost at once another fish was caught. This time the victim was forced far up near the base of the bill and the skimmer flew off holding it crosswise.

Mr. Stanley C. Arthur states that he has never seen the skimmer catch a fish while cutting the water with its bill. (*Auk*, XXXVII, p. 566) He also says that during the performance the bill is not held open. From my observations I believe the skimmer's bill is always partly open for the greater part of its length when actually fishing,—an open elongated notch wide at the tip of the bill narrowing to a point at the base. Naturally as the skimmer forces the bill through the water any object such as a fish that is hit by the protruding tip of the lower mandible is forced up into the notch-like opening and caught. This method of fishing appears to be the normal way for the bird to capture its prey and has been previously noticed by Dr. Witmer Stone (*Auk*, XXXVII, p. 595). That it is not witnessed more often is due largely to the fact, no doubt, that a single bird cannot be kept under observation for any great length of time. That it uses other methods of capturing fish is plainly pointed out by Mr. Arthur in the above mentioned article.

As to another possible use of the bird's peculiar bill—I have on several occasions seen skimmers on approaching shallow water to alight, apparently test the depth by the skimming and when the lower mandible struck bottom, they would come to rest. I have never seen an adult Skimmer swimming or floating on the water, but always standing in a position where its feet touch bottom.—JULIAN K. POTTER, *Collingswood, N. J.*

Least Tern on the New Hampshire Coast in July.—On July 3, 1932, while walking along Hampton Beach, N. H., I was surprised to note several Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) plunging into the water with the other