

office in a sack. Mrs. Jack Hagar came to see the bird and verified the identification. The bird was adult and measured 153 cm. in wing-spread. It was taken to the beach near Rockport and liberated; on May 2, it was given fish to eat, which it did not touch, and on May 3 it was dead. Apparently it had made no attempt to fly.

According to seamen, Gannets are not uncommon in winter in offshore waters south of Galveston. Possibly they seldom venture inshore and are seldom recorded. On the other hand, Boobies might be confused with Gannets by seamen.—GORDON GUNTER, *Game Fish and Oyster Commission, Rockport, Texas.*

Western Grebe in Michigan.—On July 5, 1943, the writer, while fishing on Wampler's Lake, Jackson and Lenawee counties, Michigan (the county line bisects the lake), observed a Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) lazily swimming in the middle of the lake. The bird was rather wary and attempts to draw nearer than a hundred and fifty or two hundred feet proved futile. It did not dive but merely kept a fixed distance from the writer's boat. The light and observing conditions were extremely good, however, and the bird's large size, coupled with the serpentine neck and definite black and white color pattern, left no doubt as to the identification. The writer had never seen a Western Grebe before but recognized it immediately from the plate in Peterson's 'Field Guide' and later examined skins in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

As far as the writer is able to discover there is but one other record of this bird for the state. Van Tyne records a specimen collected by F. Esbaugh on Feb. 17, 1917, at Fox Creek station, Kent Co. (*see* Van Tyne, Josselyn.—Check list of birds of Michigan, Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool., Univ. of Mich., No. 379, June 16, 1938).—JAMES S. FINDLEY, *Cleveland Heights, Ohio.*

Connecticut records.—The water birds recorded below from the shore of southwestern Connecticut appear to be rare or unusual in that state.

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*).—Single birds of this species were seen at Fairfield Beach on September 16 and 17, 1944, by both of us and on September 19 by Arnold alone. Perhaps more than one bird was present on September 16, as individuals were found at distinctly separate spots within two hours. Although these records followed the hurricane of September 14, the species cannot be regarded solely as a storm-borne visitant to Connecticut, for a single bird was seen by Arnold at Fairfield Beach about September 25, 1943. Apparently no record of the Caspian Tern in Connecticut has previously been published.

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*).—Three or four Black Terns in full spring plumage were seen by Arnold at the mouth of the Hoosatic River about June 3, 1939. This tern is rare in southwestern Connecticut in spring and uncommon during the fall migration.

BLACK SKIMMER (*Rynchops nigra nigra*).—Not less than sixty-five Black Skimmers appeared at Fairfield Beach on September 16, 1944, after the hurricane mentioned above. We closely observed flocks three times in a period of two hours. Although it was impossible to determine exactly, there were some indications that more than one flock was present, such as the fact that the numbers of birds varied from fifty to sixty-five or more. The following day some twenty birds were found, and on September 18 Mr. Frank J. Novak of Fairfield saw two flocks of about twenty and fourteen, respectively. None was definitely discovered thereafter, despite daily observation.

The appearance of so many Skimmers in Connecticut seems unprecedented. Previous records of any sort are extremely rare; the last of which we know is of a single bird seen in Black Rock Harbor, Bridgeport, on October 9, 1938, by the late Mr. Chas. K. Averill, some of whose notes are now in Saunders's hands.