

or at a slight angle from the vertical. Sometimes, however, I have seen them return to the surface on a spiral course, the bird's body rotating around its long axis. At no time, however, did I see any movement of the appendages during the ascent. I am grateful to Richard L. Zusi for drawing the accompanying figure from my field sketch.—PHILIP S. HUMPHREV, *Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.*

**Food of the Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*).**—A. H. Howell, whose finds are based on Biological Survey examinations of stomachs, states that "skimmers apparently feed wholly on fish" (*Florida Bird Life*, Fla. Dept. Game and Fresh Water Fish, 1932, p. 275). E. H. Forbush (*Birds of Massachusetts*, Mass. Dept. Agr., Vol. I, 1929, p. 134.) states that they feed on fish and shrimp. I. T. Tomkins (*Auk*, 68: 236-239, 1951), in an excellent note on method of feeding, agrees with the latter, as do others who have observed the birds in their nesting colonies. The following observation indicates that shrimp are an important item in the diet of adult birds at other times than during the nesting season.

In the course of other investigations, ten Black Skimmers (*Rynchops nigra nigra*) were sacrificed. These birds were killed on the nights of February 3, 4, and 5, 1954, at Merritts Island, Brevard County, Florida. They had been observed skimming over the water in a shallow brackish lagoon in the late afternoon, the lower mandible cutting the surface of the water as is their habit. Examination of these ten digestive tracts revealed that six contained both fish and shrimp, while four contained only fish. Digestion was in most cases so far advanced that specific identification of the fish was not possible; however, one large needlefish (*Tylosurus* sp.), several *Lutjanus* sp., and several *Fundulus* type minnows were present. All shrimp that were identifiable were *Palaemonetes* sp. The largest number of whole fish in any one stomach was ten; they varied from 21 mm. to 55 mm. in length. Several of the large minnows had apparently been severed into two pieces. Sand was present in only one gizzard, but all contained fish scales in two instances a clean mass, all other organic material having been digested. A filamentous green alga was present in significant amounts in two birds; however, this may have been unavoidably ingested with animal food.

I am indebted to W. L. Jennings of the Fla. Game and Freshwater Fish Commission for aid in making these specimens available.—B. B. LEAVITT, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.*

**The Gray Lag-Goose in Massachusetts: Correction.**—The Gray Lag-Goose (*Anser anser*) was recorded from Massachusetts by S. Morris Pell (*Auk*, 50: 208-209, 1933), with details of its capture December 2, 1932, on the ice of the Housatonic River.

Later Mr. Pell became convinced that the bird had escaped from captivity, since it could not fly and was too heavy for a wild bird. This was also the opinion of Bartlett Hendricks, who saw the bird, examined the skin, and obtained this information.

This correction is being published at the suggestion of Dr. Alexander Wetmore.—DOROTHY E. SNYDER, *Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.*