

fish per fifty seconds of skimming time per bird. Most of the fish caught were about three to four inches in length, and the glint of the fish flopping in a skimmer's bill was undoubtedly visible to the gulls on the mud bank from a considerable distance. The skimmers were not able to swallow fish of this size immediately and one or more gulls usually flew up and pursued the skimmer upon observing a catch. On a number of occasions the gulls did not wait on the mud bank, but one or two of them flew a short distance behind a skimming bird, about twelve feet above the water, carefully following each change in direction of the skimmer. A gull sometimes followed a skimming bird for several minutes, losing interest only when the skimmer ceased fishing. However, when the latter made a catch, the gull flew rapidly toward the skimmer, and other gulls joined the chase. Although the skimmers could easily have out-distanced the gulls by flying straight downwind, they were reluctant to leave the feeding area, and they usually gained altitude and flew in ever tightening circles, trying at the same time to swallow the fish. The pursuit sometimes lasted several minutes, but it ended the moment the skimmer swallowed or dropped the fish. The gull which retrieved the falling fish in midair was set upon by its fellows, and, after several exchanges, the fish sometimes fell into the murky water and was lost. The thwarted skimmer ordinarily resumed skimming, usually followed by a gull. Because of this parasitism, the skimmers lost about twenty per cent of the fish they caught.

I have not observed this phenomenon elsewhere, and it was probably the following combination of circumstances which brought it about in this instance: first, the skimmers and gulls were loafing on the same mud bank, and the feeding sorties of the skimmers were thus in plain sight of the nearby gulls; second, most of the fish were large enough to be conspicuous when carried and too large to be swallowed immediately by the skimmer; third, because of the muddiness of the water, the gulls were unable to catch fish by their usual methods.

It is interesting that the Laughing Gulls, given the foregoing circumstances, quickly recognized the connection between skimming and fish-catching in the Black Skimmer.—RICHARD L. ZUST, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, August 9, 1957.*

Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow in Gunnison County, Colorado.—In 1953 I listed (Condor, 55, 1953:216) a specimen of the Leconte Sparrow (*Passerherbulus caudacutus*) taken near Gunnison, Colorado, on October 24, 1952. Further study of the skins in the college collection has made it evident that this bird is a Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacuta nelsoni*) in rich fall plumage. To the best of my knowledge this is the first record for Colorado. The other specimen of the Leconte Sparrow, mentioned in the same article, taken in May, 1952, is indeed a Leconte Sparrow.

I wish to record also a specimen of an immature male Grasshopper Sparrow taken about one mile south of Gunnison on October 15, 1953. Presumably it is *Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus*. So far as I know this is the first record of this sparrow for western Colorado.—A. SIDNEY HYDE, *Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado, June 1, 1957.*

Some Recent Bird Records from the Salt River Valley, Central Arizona.—Since the early part of 1953, rather extensive field work has been in progress in the Salt River Valley and adjacent areas about Phoenix, Maricopa County, Arizona. This has resulted in a number of records which we feel should be reported. The field work, for the most part, has been conducted by the writers with a great deal of aid from Dr. A. S. Margolin of the Phoenix College Biology Department, Phoenix, Arizona, R. Roy Johnson, Peoria, Arizona, and James T. Bialac, Phoenix, Arizona. Collecting was made possible through the cooperation of Dr. Margolin. Several records of other observers are included with citation of their names. The following records unless otherwise noted comprise the first recorded occurrence of the species, or race, for the Salt River Valley. The specimens mentioned are now in the Phoenix College collection unless otherwise indicated.

We wish to express our appreciation to Dr. Allan R. Phillips for racial identifications and suggestions on the preparation of these notes and to the observers acknowledged in the text.

Aechmophorus occidentalis. Western Grebe. A single bird was taken at a pond one mile south and two and one-half miles west of Peoria on December 10, 1956.

Ixobrychus exilis. Least Bittern. On June 25, 1955, a grown juvenile, with both the wings and tail still pinfeathers and with down adhering to the nape and posterior parts, was taken at a cattail