

of the feathers at the bend of the wing in specimen no. 468554, and in all those of *Z. albicollis* in the USNM are lemon yellow, whereas this same area is cream or white in specimens of *Z. l. leucophrys* and *Z. l. gambelii*.

Several other pertinent features of the hybrid specimen are: (1) Extreme amount of chestnut in the edgings of the secondary wing feather corresponding well with the majority of specimens of *Z. albicollis*, whereas in specimens of *Z. l. leucophrys* and *Z. l. gambelii*, this color, if present, is either confined to a much narrower area on each feather and to a less extensive area on the wing, or is darker (almost umber) in color. (2) The nearly pure white belly and pure gray breast of the specimen which match the normal shades of *Z. albicollis* rather than the darker gray and/or brownish-tinted coloring of these areas in nearly all specimens of *Z. l. leucophrys* and *Z. l. gambelii*.

This appears to be the first known specimen of a hybrid between *Z. l. leucophrys* and *Z. albicollis*. Cockrum (1952. *Wilson Bull.*, 64:150) reported no record of such a hybrid. A search of the literature since that date has revealed no notation of previous examples of such a hybrid as this one.—JACKSON M. ABBOTT, 1100 Doter Drive, Alexandria, Virginia, January 12, 1959.

A nesting colony of Forster's Terns and Black Skimmers in Southwestern Louisiana.—From July 12 to August 18, 1958, a small breeding colony of Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) and Black Skimmers (*Rynchops nigra*) was observed on Rockefeller Refuge in southwestern Louisiana. The refuge is an expanse of marshland adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico. The nesting birds were concentrated on two low clay levees on the margin of Deep Lake, approximately four miles inland from the coast. The levees were parallel and separated by a canal 150 yards wide. Each levee was about five yards wide by 400 yards long, and the maximum height of either area was 18 inches above water level. Waves frequently washed across the levees in several locations. Nesting was concentrated at the ends of the levees. The vegetation was very sparse and consisted of scattered clumps of *Spartina alterniflora*, *Distichlis spicata*, and *Heliotropium curassavicum*.

The average population of the colony was 165 Black Skimmers (range 118 to 207) and 53 Forster's Terns (range 46 to 57). Actual nest concentration of the two species, however, was about equal. Maximum nest counts, on nine checking dates, were 76 Black Skimmer nests and 62 Forster's Tern nests. There were nearly three times as many skimmers as there were skimmer nests, but there was approximately one tern for each tern nest. This suggests that the Black Skimmer population was composed of breeding and non-breeding birds of both sexes. The Forster's Tern population, however, probably consisted of nesting birds of only one sex.

Terns and skimmers nested close together on both levees, but the ratio of the nesting species in the two locations was quite different. On the north levee the ratio of Forster's Tern nests to Black Skimmer nests was 4:1. The ratio was just the reverse on the south levee. There was no apparent conflict between species.

The Black Skimmer nests were merely depressions in the hard clay. The tern nests were prominent conical mounds of dead marsh vegetation, each containing a definite depression on top. The number of eggs per nest was about three for both species. Many skimmer eggs, particularly on the south levee, were concentrated at the water edge. They had either been laid at random, thrown from the nest, or washed from the levee by high waves.

The height of nesting occurred in the tern population on July 12, but the Black Skimmer population did not attain a nesting peak until July 25. Downy young terns

were first observed on July 14, and Black Skimmer young were not seen until July 30. Nesting was completed for the terns by the first week of August, but the majority of the skimmer eggs had not hatched until August 18.

Egg-laying dates of this particular colony are unusually late. Probably this represents at least a second nesting effort of both species. Low, exposed levees projecting into open expanses of water would be precarious sites, quite vulnerable to inundation.—
J. L. CHAMBERLAIN, *Department of Biology, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Virginia, February 22, 1959.*

NEW LIFE MEMBER



Donald N. Bucknell, of Ingersoll, Ontario, is joining the growing number of Life Members of the Wilson Ornithological Society. His interest in ornithological natural history is an avocation from his exacting duties as a time-study- and standards-analyst for a manufacturing firm. Mr. Bucknell is a past-president of the Ingersoll Nature Club, and is also a member of the A. O. U. and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. He also spends considerable time and energy as Scout Leader of a troop of 36 boys, instructing them in his special interests in birds and plants.