Gray-backed Terns eat lizards.—On 15 June 1973 while on Enderbury Island (3° 08′ S, 171° 05′ W) in the central Pacific Ocean, I made some observations of an unusual feeding habit of the Gray-backed Tern (*Sterna lunata*). Initially about 5 adult terns were seen swooping low over an area of coarse coral rubble sparsely covered by low bushes (*Sida fallax*), a prostrate herb (*Boerhavia diffusa*), and dry moribund clumps of a bunch grass (*Lepturus repens*). The first bird I saw clearly rose from a swoop with a lizard in its beak. The lizard was almost certainly a snake-eyed skink (*Cryptoblepharus boutoni*) because the only other species of lizard found on Enderbury, the mourning gecko (*Lepidodactylus lugubris*) is nocturnal. Another tern, which I watched for about 8 min caught skinks on 2 of 3 swoops. At least twice during this period the tern made incomplete swoops probably because the lizard had seen the tern and had taken evasive action. Captured lizards were held across the mid-body and swallowed head first while the birds were in flight.

As far as is known, the normal diet of this species consists primarily of small fish and squid (Munro, Birds of Hawaii, 1944; Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program, unpubl. data filed at the U.S. National Museum of Natural History). Small crustaceans and insects are also eaten but apparently quite uncommonly (POBSP, unpubl. data).

None of the species of terns treated in Bent (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 113, 1921) was noted as having fed on lizards. However, Rowher and Woolfenden (Wilson Bull. 80:330–331, 1968) reported green anoles (*Anolis carolinensis*) in the digestive tracts of 4 of 6 Gull-billed Terns (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) collected in Florida. As these authors have indicated eating of lizards by this species was also noted by Jensen (Dan. Ornithol. Foren. Tidsskr. 40:82–83, 1946). Anderson (Dan. Ornithol. Foren. Tidsskr. 39:199, 1945) also recorded Gull-billed Terns eating lizards (*Lacerta vivipara* and *L. agilis*).

Such a feeding habit of the Gray-backed Tern is apparently unusual because no mention of it is made in the extensive files of the Smithsonian Institution's Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program. Further, none of the Gray-backed Tern stomachs collected for the Program held anything other than that indicated above. It seems likely that this feeding pattern was an opportunistic response to the great abundance of these lizards on Enderbury at that time.—Roger B. Clapp, *National Fish and Wildlife Laboratory, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. 20560.* *Accepted 8 May 1975.*

Leaf-scratching in White-crowned Sparrows and Fox Sparrows: test of a model.—Many emberizine species turn leaves by a 2-footed scratching movement somewhat resembling hopping (Hailman, Wilson Bull. 85:348–350, 1973). To account for the number of successive leaf-scratches in a bout I offered a simple stochastic model in which the probability of adding another scratch to a bout is constant (Hailman, Wilson Bull. 86:296–298, 1974). The model predicts the relation between the number of scratches per bout (s) and the frequency (f_s) of bouts having s or more scratches as:

$$\log f_s \propto s.$$

Quantitative models aid understanding only if they accurately predict reality, and data from the White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) and Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) conformed to the relation (Hailman 1974, op. cit.).

I now have sufficient data to test the model against foraging in the White-crowned Sparrow (*Z. leucophrys*) and Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*). In the present test, data were collected from migrant Fox Sparrows in Madison, Wisconsin during October