

Toronto.' ('The Auk,' Vol. XXIII, p. 453.)—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoölogy, Toronto.*

Abundance of the Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) about New York City.—During the past late summer and early fall there was an unusual abundance of the Laughing Gull in the vicinity of New York City. It was first reported in the latter part of August. On September 6, the writer counted around 50 along Brooklyn's water front. The following day about 25 were seen from the Fort Lee ferry (125th street). The largest flock was seen at the mouth of the Bronx River on September 28. On this date there were fully 1000 birds in the flock and their cries were deafening. At this writing, October 8, there are still some birds present.—GEORGE E. HIX, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*) at Long Beach, N. Y.—On October 5, 1924, the writer, accompanied by Bernard Nathan, Charlton Ogburn, Joseph Lilienthal, Edward Spingarn and Victor Rosen, visited Long Beach. At the easternmost end of the beach a Black Skimmer was flushed from the shore. It flew out over the surf and returned to the shore further along. It was found again and allowed a very near approach before again taking flight. The bird was not in fully mature plumage, being rusty black on the back. Two or three tips of the primaries of the right wing were broken, otherwise the bird was in good condition.—GEORGE E. HIX, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

The Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*) at Ipswich, Massachusetts.—Early in the morning of September 1, 1924, Mr. Baker saw flying over the estuary on the inside of the Ipswich dunes, six birds which he recognized as Black Skimmers. In the afternoon, we went together to the outside beach and saw in a flock of Roseate, Common and Arctic Terns, alighted on the sand and afterwards on the wing, three Black Skimmers. Their distinctive plumage and peculiar bill formation, which latter they displayed by opening their bills, made their identification easy and certain.

This is the first record for Essex County, Mass., but there are several records for Massachusetts in August, 1879, when three were taken at Sandwich, one at Falmouth and one in Boston Harbor, while in the same month and year a number wandered as far north as Grand Manan and St. Andrews, New Brunswick.—JOHN H. BAKER, *New York*, and CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Boston.*

Black Skimmer and Golden Plover in Bronx County.—On September 14, 1924, we noted a Black Skimmer flying north, off Hunt Point. Approaching us from the direction of "Hell-Gate," it hovered for a moment, and alighted on a mud-flat, not thirty yards distant, in company with a large number of Gulls. After taking wing, it flew by, and we were at once impressed by the remarkably long slender wings, the forked-tail, the sharply contrasting black and white coloration and the low, easy flight