

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

over the water. None of us had ever seen the species before in life, but we were able to name it before referring to a text-book. Moreover, this is not a bird likely to be confused with any other North American species.

Our friend, Mr. J. T. Nichols, informs us that a "northward invasion" was under-way, this summer, the birds being recorded more freely in Long Island waters, than since 1898, when another such movement took place. He attributed the birds' presence "inland" to the storms which had been sweeping the coast line.

On the same date the writers met with a couple of Golden Plovers, on a nearby stretch of burned meadow. They were approached within seven or eight yards and were watched on the ground for over a quarter of an hour. A decidedly yellowish tinge covered the top of the head and the middle of the back. The call-note was heard at regular intervals. When the birds finally flew, we were careful to note the gray axillars which at once distinguish this species from the Black-bellied Plover. It is perhaps only proper to add that the writers have been long familiar with the Black-bellied Plover in life.—J. AND R. KUEIZI AND P. KESSKI, *New York City*.

**Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) in Bronx County.**—On September 21, 1924, at the New York Botanical Garden we observed a Wilson's Phalarope in company with about twenty Lesser Yellow-legs and two Stilt Sandpipers, in what was formerly known to local bird students as "Half-mile." Like the other Phalaropes our bird was quite tame, readily allowing an approach to within twenty feet.

The bird might be roughly described as decidedly smaller in size and "squatter" than the Lesser Yellowlegs. The bill was dark, long, and excessively slender, in fact almost needle-like. The crown and nape were a light grayish color, which extended down the back, the feathers of which were bordered with white. The primaries and secondaries of the wing were noticeably darker. The bird had a very prominent superciliary line. The throat, breast and belly appeared pure white. The color of the legs, yellowish. The characteristic "Phalarope mark" on the side of the head and neck was faintly visible. The bird spent most of its time wading; only occasionally did it indulge in swimming, and then to no great extent.

The writers were privileged to inspect the skins of *S. tricolor*, at the American Museum, the following day, and were satisfied that their identification was correct. It might be fitting to state that two of the undersigned had had field-experience with the Northern Phalarope. Late in the day the bird was seen by several other credible observers.—F. T. AND J. AND R. KUEIZI AND P. KESSKI, *New York City*.

**A Remarkable Flight of Sanderlings.**—In looking over some old photographic negatives, I came across one that settled the exact date of a remarkable flight of Sanderlings. Some of my friends have told me that this great flight deserved to be put on record, but without the exact date, which I could not remember, I hesitated to do so.