

Next morning we could not find it. The wind at the time was sufficiently strong to cover the sea with white caps, coming from a southwesterly direction.

Next day when off Nova Scotia well out of sight of land on three different occasions I noticed a bird rise hastily from the water close to the ship and beat off to leeward. I did not have my binoculars at hand at the time but I could note the snow-white underparts and gray above, and the rapid, sandpiper-like flight. One bird settled on the water again after a short flight, which led me to believe it and the others were phalaropes. Whenever they tried to attain any altitude, the half gale would sweep them off one way or the other so that they had to seek the surface immediately and find shelter among the hollows. The amazing fact was that any bird could survive in such a place, in real turbulent water like this.

On the afternoon of the 20th someone reported seeing a plover-like bird on the rear deck of the ship but although I searched all about I failed to find it. Part of the crew were uncovering the main hatch, causing much noise and commotion and I supposed the bird had been frightened away. But it was there all the time, hiding out of sight for on the 21st just before landing, I discovered it wandering about the deck, slightly injured and unable to fly. I readily caught it and found it to be a Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) in winter plumage, much exhausted. One of the stewards reported that birds similar to this one came abroad every trip this season of the year and quite often in the spring but refused to eat, even when placed with caged birds, and eventually would perish. Some water and raw meat taken forcibly revived our bird sufficiently to accompany us to Massachusetts where we hope to see it recover presently and proceed on its way once more.—AARON C. BAGG, *Holyoke, Mass.*

**The Iceland Gull in Connecticut.**—On November 26, 1926, I saw a single pure white gull among the Herring Gulls on Fairfield Beach, Fairfield, Conn. The bird looked to be about the same size as the Herring Gulls, or possibly a trifle smaller, and I took it to be an Iceland Gull (*Larus leucopterus*) in the second year plumage. Only one record of this species is reported in the 'Birds of Connecticut,' but its more frequent occurrence in neighboring states indicate that it may occur here more commonly than the records show.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Fairfield, Conn.*<sup>1</sup>

**Increase of the Roseate Tern in Connecticut.**—The Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougalli dougalli*), at the time of the publication of Sage and Bishop's 'Birds of Connecticut,' was a very rare bird in this State, no definite dates of occurrence being recorded later than 1888. With the recent increase of the Common Tern I watched for this species, but did not find it until the spring of 1929. Since then it has occurred regularly and this spring, 1931, has at times been about equal in numbers to the Common Tern.

The first occurrence I noted was on May 17, 1929, at Fairfield Beach,

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when I estimated the number of birds of this species seen as fifteen. I first detected the birds by the difference between their calls and those of the Common Tern, and later made out the distinctions in plumage and color of bill and feet.

These birds were observed again on May 18 and 24, 1929, and on the latter date were sitting on the beach in company with Common Terns, facing the late afternoon sun, which lighted their breasts sufficiently to make out the tinge of pink color.

In 1930 these birds had increased in numbers and occurred from May 8 to 20. In 1931 they were observed from May 7 to 24, and when they first occurred were fully as abundant as the Common Terns, though as May advanced their numbers decreased while those of the Common Tern increased. It seems probable that the increase of this species must have begun prior to 1929 but was at first overlooked. Inquiry among other observers has not disclosed, up to now, an earlier date of occurrence in this state.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Fairfield, Conn.*

**Caspian Tern in Connecticut.**—On June 27, 1931, the writer saw a Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*), in full breeding plumage on a sand flat laid bare by the tide, at Waterford, Conn.

This would seem to constitute the first known occurrence of the Caspian Tern in Connecticut (according to Forbush's 'Birds of Massachusetts'), and is particularly puzzling due to the date. I appreciate the fact that, unsupported by a specimen, the record may not be accepted,—a policy with which I am heartily in accord,—yet the bird was observed at close range, both at rest and in flight, with a good glass. All the distinguishing marks were clearly and carefully noted, as well as its great size as contrasted with the Common Terns which were near it. I am furthermore familiar with the Caspian Tern through having seen it several times on Lake Erie, where, though very rare, it is of fairly regular occurrence in the fall.—CLARK S. BEARDSLEE, *132 Mc Kinley Ave., Kenmore, N. Y.*

**The Black Skimmer a Permanent Resident in Georgia.**—In view of recent winter records of the Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra nigra*) on the Georgia coast my observations on this species seem worthy of record.

From July 1930 to May, 1931, I was located in the vicinity of the Savannah River entrance, and it was possible to keep quite a close watch on the birds of the near-by beaches and mud flats. Until November large flocks of skimmers could be seen at any time, and through the winter months a few birds or a small flock were seen during some time each month.

During a rather leisurely trip through the inland route along the entire Georgia coast, going south in January, 1928, and north again in February of that year, several flocks were seen near Brunswick, Ga. and Fernandina, Fla.

In March, 1930—from the 10th to 25th—on Tybee Island, Ga., migrating flocks were seen nearly every day, about four p.m., irrespective of tide.