

of the common species, and that one at least was in all probability a Forster's Tern. The only other recent reports known to the writer of the occurrence of Forster's Tern on the Niagara frontier have appeared as records of single birds reported by the Buffalo Ornithological Society in their mimeographed journal, 'The Prothonotary.' One of these records, concerning a bird of this species seen at Fort Erie on September 21, 1935, has already been commented upon by the writer elsewhere (Sheppard, Hurlburt, and Dickson, 'A preliminary list of the birds of Lincoln and Welland Counties, Ontario,' *Canadian Field Nat.*, 50: 131, 1936), while the other relates to a more recent report of another single example, seen at Niagara Falls on September 16, 1936.—R. W. SHEPPARD, 1805 Mouland Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Royal Tern in Massachusetts.—On June 21, 1936, I was studying straggling shore-birds on the great flats of Monomoy, south of Chatham, Cape Cod, and turned idly to examine a large group of terns and gulls of various species resting on the mud at the edge of the water. Looming up among the terns, I was astonished to see a larger tern with an all-red bill. It was at first supposed to be a Caspian Tern, but the bird was not large enough, the bill was too light and red, and above all not proportionately any deeper or stouter than those of the adjacent Common Terns. Also the tail was long and deeply forked, projecting way beyond the closed wings. On approaching closer to flush the bird, the best field character was positively noted, the lack of black or dusky on the under surface of the spread wing in flight; also the generally more slender build and more buoyant flight. The bird was obviously a Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) in full nuptial plumage, as the forehead was not white. There are but three records for the State, all in the month of July. With the great increase of this species on the south Atlantic coast in recent years, the Royal Tern should be expected farther north as a rare spring and summer straggler. Observers, therefore, should be on the lookout for it. The more important field characters have consequently been stressed in this note. The wing character is omitted in practically all standard text-books, which give the wholly erroneous impression that the Royal Tern is a difficult bird to identify in life, on fine points of relative size and proportions.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

Black Tern in Maryland.—On June 9, 1935, while in western Maryland, I visited a trout pond belonging to James Todd of New York, located at a high altitude near Grantsville, Maryland. While fishing this pond from early afternoon until dark I observed two Black Terns (*Clidonias nigra surinamensis*); they stayed near me, sometimes only fifteen or twenty feet away, until I left the pond and it was too dark to see. Those who resided on the property told me these birds had been there since the spring. I am inclined to think they bred there. I was in that section June, 1936, but regret that I was unable to get to this pond and see if these tern had returned.—TALBOTT DENMEAD, *U. S. Bureau Fisheries, Washington, D. C.*

Black Skimmers in New England.—The striking and unmistakable Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*) has not been seen in New England since the great invasion after the hurricane of August 26, 1924, when it occurred as far north as Nova Scotia, and remained over a month in Massachusetts waters. The status of the species has changed notably in the past twelve years. There are now flourishing breeding colonies on the New Jersey coast, and in the past few years a small nesting colony has started on Long Island. Should this increase continue, it is within the bounds of possibility that future decades may see it return as a breeding bird to Massachu-