

extent of the gray base of the bill, and the warty protuberances on the bill (*Auk*, 88:856-873), but these are difficult to observe. We studied the two geese at Pea Island very carefully while checking for all of the marks. Because none of the characters of the intermediates were seen and since all of the marks of the Ross' Goose were noted, we feel certain that these two birds were indeed pure Ross' Geese. One of the observers, Sebastian Patti, has seen about 15 Ross' Geese in Kansas and Missouri, one of which he observed under nearly perfect conditions.

To my knowledge these two birds are the only Ross' Geese ever reported on the Atlantic coast. Because Ross' Geese have been extending their winter range eastward to the Midwest (*Auk*, 88:856-873) and since these two geese were never seen together, indicating that they came to Pea Island independently, it is quite possible that more Ross' Geese will appear on the Atlantic coast in the near future.

[DEPT. ED. -- These geese have been seen by a number of other qualified birders in addition to the careful study of the author. While it is recognized that separation of Ross' Goose from its hybrid with the Snow Goose is very difficult under field conditions, these studies have been carefully made with full knowledge of the possibilities. Thus, on the basis of this study the Ross' Goose should be retained on the hypothetical list for North Carolina. Because collection of one of these birds was not possible, every effort should be made to secure good close-up photographs to further document the record.]

Inland Record of a Black Skimmer At Roanoke Rapids, N. C.

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25 January 1972

On 6 and 7 October 1971 an adult Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*) was found at Roanoke Rapids Lake just north of Roanoke Rapids, N. C. This location is about 95 miles inland from the Atlantic coast. The skimmer was discovered perched on a concrete platform directly adjacent to the V.E.P.C.O. dam structure at about 6:30 PM on 6 October.

Watching it for at least 20 minutes, I clearly saw the distinctive scissor-like bill plus all other field characteristics from about 60 feet. It was relatively tame on both days, allowing me to approach within 30 feet before flushing. When flushed, it circled low over the water, returning to its resting place on the platform after 2 or 3 minutes. If not molested, the skimmer remained perched on the platform; in fact, I never saw it take flight except when intentionally flushed. Its flights were always of short duration and never more than 100 yards from the platform. During the two days of observations, the skimmer was not seen to engage in feeding activities. Although flight appeared strong and well sustained, its apparent lack of appetite led to speculation regarding the bird's general physical condition. Its hesitation on leaving its resting spot was also puzzling.

On 7 October Bill Collier and I returned armed with cameras to take some photographs. Excellent light conditions prevailed, allowing us to secure several recognizable photographs even though our equipment was quite basic and our experience limited.

In all probability the Black Skimmer at Roanoke Rapids Lake was driven inland by Hurricane Ginger's passage through North Carolina a week earlier. The 1959 revision of *Birds of North Carolina* cites no previous inland records for this strictly salt-water inhabitant.