

E end Galveston Island, Galveston Co., Texas.

April 9, 1983

Birds in area at 7:00 A.M. 205 black skimmers resting on sands by water. They first were view at 6:00 A.M. About every 10-20 minutes they would leave together, fly or circle once and return either to same place or adjacent areas of beach. Once they alighted in shallow water on beach, they a few at a time flew 20-50 feet to dry sand 40' away or higher on beach. When alighting they come in low and glide in like a plane. Their flight is much faster for the speed of wing beat than say gulls. The high position of wing beat is characteristic. Other birds in area. 8 avocet, 3 dunlins, 1500 ring-bill gulls that remained separate (300') from the black skimmers, 8 black-necked stilt, 3 godwits, 1 stilt sandpiper, 2 solitary sandpiper, 4 semipalmated sandpiper, 1 semipalmated plover, 3 black-bellied plover, 2 piping plover, 3 redwing, 12 western sandpipers, 8 willet, one fed in water up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  body and at times would keep head under water for 4 seconds and at other times swing head <sup>and bill</sup> ~~from side to side~~ <sup>with bill in water</sup>. At times it would chase fish or small swimming organisms but was never successful. 2 boat-tailed grackles, 4 common tern, 3 least tern, 12 sanderling, 3 cormorant, 5 red-breasted mergansers, eared grebe, Forster tern. 4 Long-billed dowitcher. Will bring large organisms to land to feed on. 2 barn swallows, 12 royal terns, Lesser yellowlegs moves faster and more nervously than willet when feeding. Photo 830409-1 of black skimmers and gulls leaving resting area (500 mm). Left 10:00 A.M. at 308.6. Drove over to pelican island to E end and returned and drove W to Thousand Trails Camp grounds, and one free night on courtesy Thousand Trails.

Thousand Trails Camp Grounds (Galveston Island Preserve), Texas

April 10, 1983

This camp is W on 3005 highway. Purchase membership for \$5995.00 (212.00 per year dues). Checked birds in area. Highway to bay to N. 12 black skimmers, one flew over freshwater lake and repeatedly splashed into water without bill contact for purpose of washing body. Would adjust feathers after each splash while in flight. 40 laughing gulls, 4 black ducks, 4 blue-wing teal, 1 Wilson snipe, 1 sanderling, 4 <sup>horned</sup> larks, 8 redwings.