

General observations: people entering area affect bird population.

Build-up of population slow in A.M.

Gull-billed tern white back and wings most diagnostic.

When laughing gulls are fed in area, boat-tailed grackles arrive in 15 seconds as if understanding voice. Other laughing gulls will leave area all at once on voice from gulls 1/10 mi. away. 2 royal terns flew by area. When Louisiana heron leaves area it flap out into gulf and then proceeds up or down shoreline. A black butterfly has been flying by all day (22), all to E. Laughing gulls left at 6:15 P.M. for the night. At 6:30 P.M. 38 blue-wing teal, ^{plus 3 baldpate,} and 28 fulvous tree ducks swam in gulf about 150' out from shore. They were separate groups, both groups in extremely compact formation. They swam toward each other, merged and mingled for about 20 seconds, then re-collected each group formation, then merged again and continued as one group. The black stripe from head down neck in back is diagnostic. Black skimmers occasionally enter pond, hunt for food then leave. Their flight does not upset other kinds of birds feeding in the area. Snowy egrets and roseate spoonbills feed together as a symbiotic relationship, the spoonbill frequently overpowering the egret by feeding between legs etc. It is the most aggressive in the relationship. There were 3 instances of copulation between laughing gulls. The ♀ is receptive for 2 contacts but seldom allows the 3rd while ♂ is on back. Whimbrel remained in an area 100' x 20' the entire day observed and was last to be in area at late twilight. It walked in open stretch of sands most of the time and fed in grasses on either side.

Port

Lavaca State Park, Lavaca, Calhoun Co., Texas

April 14, 1983.

First bird a laughing gull at 6:45. High wind this A.M. white caps on bay waters (from N.E). 6:50 ring-billed gull, 6:55 boat-tailed grackles. At 6:00 A.M. birds in area of census. 8 laughing gulls (flying thru to E and are practically all other birds, 2 snowy egrets (flying past to E). Other birds at time of appearance; 6:10 willet, Louisiana heron, Redstart, common tern, barn swallows (12) all birds flying E. 2 Louisiana heron could not fly against wind, all other birds could, other ^{Louisiana heron} fly into wind if just a few feet above water or land. At least 15 Louisiana herons have flown E this A.M. to 8:00 A.M.