

82
4 Sandwich terns in some group of gulls and 1 ruddy turnstone. ^{80% laughing gull paired, 8 copulating} 830420-82
Laughing gulls on sands. 830420-9 birds, and ^{830420-10 one gull,} some moved
SW along shore 3 photos of gulls at edge of water feeding
on some material washed ashore. Nos 830420-10, 830420-11,
830420-12. Barth, Annette ^{830420-13.} + daughter, bay. Continued to Aransas ^{Pass} and had
mirrors placed in Barth. Continued to beach on W side
Intracoastal waterway bridge, S end for camp along the
waterway and bay. Stranger came to Barth for handout.

S side Intracoastal Waterways bridge, S Aransas Pass, San Patricio
Co., Texas.

April 21, 1983

Laughing gull became active around 6:00 A.M. 28 black
skimmer arrived at point to W across bay and after circling
low 4 times landed on a sand bar with 8 laughing gulls.
Black-bellied plover with 30% more black (30% black) on belly
and chest. One week ago these plover had about 10% or less
black. A great blue heron walked backwards in continuous
consecutive steps for 8 feet. Cormorant fly over bridge,
Louisiana heron fly ~~to~~ under bridge. Other birds in area.
2 Willet, 1 eared grebe. A Forster tern was chased by 4 laugh-
ing gull. Finally a gull snatched a small fish from beak of
tern and the chase immediately stopped and the tern returned
to fishing. The action takes place about 30-40' above water.
Rain just before we left, 883.1. Great blue heron, laughing
gull, 2 willet, 3 Forster's tern. (census is impractical because
beach is invisible). Oleander dominant shrub along
causeway, 3 great blue heron. Arrived Ferry, 3 porpoise
(common) in crossing. They appear black and ^{backs} are above
surface of water. from start to finish in 3 seconds. Port
Aransas. now to W. On beach are 12 laughing gulls in 4.10
miles of beach, also 2 willet and 1 ruddy turnstone. Beach
wide (100') between sand dunes and water, also 8 sander-
ling. Higher dunes than to E. Different kinds birds
along route, meadowlark, laughing gulls, willet, sanderling,
boat-tail grackles,

Watched mating of laughing gull. Female billed male with
male the passive one and the female moving back and forth
in front of male from side to side. On 5 occasions the male
opened his mouth and offered the open mouth to the female
who took small fish (2 1/2 to 4" long) from the bill or throat of
the male. This was repeated 5 times at interval of about 1/2 to 1'