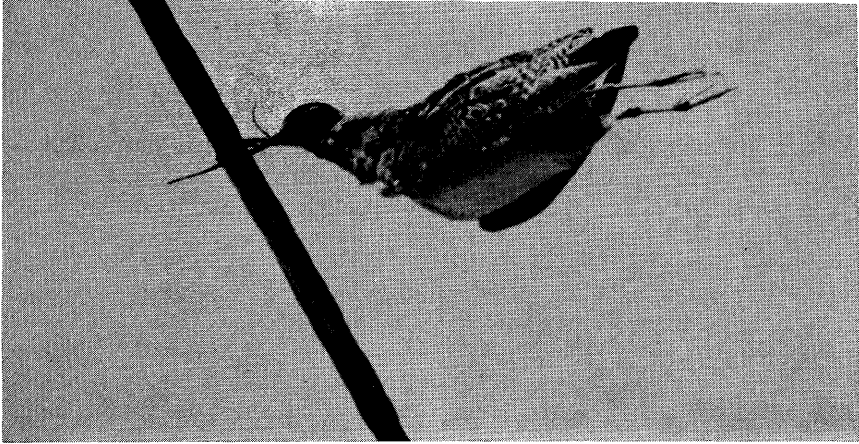


over the road (directly over a highway marker 10.18). The bird was a Common Snipe, *Capella gallinago*.

The Snipe must have been flying directly east. Its lower mandible struck the cable. The bird flipped over the wire and hung there. The point of the lower mandible was still secured in the cable strands, with the bill forming a crook as it went over the wire.

I returned Thursday morning with long equipment to retrieve the snipe. Dorothy Crumb accompanied me and took several photographs. When the bird broke loose, the lower mandible remained in the cable.

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Phalaropes Hawking Insects over the Water at Montezuma: While watching swallows, on Sept. 14, 1960 at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, hawking insects following an abundant hatch, I discovered a Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) running along a mudflat, visible through the cattails in my 30x Balscope, apparently picking up food and occasionally jumping up in the air a few inches and snapping its bill as though catching an insect. After a few minutes it was joined by six Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes lobatus*). Suddenly they all started flying low over the water hawking insects. For the next fifteen minutes, until it began to get dusk, there was furious activity as the phalaropes alternately swam, dabbled and spun in the water, and flew twisting and turning in the air, hawking insects a foot or so above the water.

The speed, agility, grace and beauty of the phalarope on the water can be matched in the air when they take to hawking insects.

Walter E. Benning, Clyde, N.Y. 14433

Sabine's Gull at Mecox Bay, Suffolk Co., New York: On August 25, 1970, at Mecox Bay, while looking over a group of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*), I discovered a Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) among them. It was in breeding plumage, with a few flecks of white on its forehead. My attention was first attracted to the bird by the yellow tip on its bill. It stayed on the beach with the terns and permitted close approach. The bird had all field marks — black legs, yellow tipped black bill, hood, white forked tail, and conveniently flexed its wings on the ground to display the spectacular wing pattern. I flushed the bird, and again noted the wing and tail characteristics as it flew about 100 feet and resettled with the terns. There was a SE