

An Aerial Feeding Flock of Ring-billed Gull: On 7 September 1991 at about 6 PM, a large flock of Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) entered Weesuck Creek, an estuary in the northwestern corner of Shinnecock Bay on the south shore of Long Island, Town of Southampton, Suffolk County. It was a group of 100–120 birds behaving more or less like a flock of migrating swallows, turning, wheeling, and twisting around the wide mouth of the creek, mostly over the water but also over the salt marsh edges on both banks. These gyrations suggested more than just casual exercise and, as the wheeling flock came closer, I was able to observe that these birds were hawking insects. The air was filled with small mosquitoes or midges and the birds were catching them like so many swallows or nighthawks. The sudden darting twists and the ability to twist or extend the neck in order to scoop up the prey revealed quite a bit of aerial skill for a medium large gull of this type. I could not see the actual mechanism of capture very well but I did not observe bill snapping. Rather, the method appeared to emulate the basic swallow, swift or nightjar open-bill gathering technique. Perhaps the more apt comparison might be with Forster's or Black Terns, which regularly feed on flying insects and in an apparently similar manner. In my experience, this flocking behavior is unusual and distinctive and I have seen it on Long Island only a few times in the past. Lauro (*Kingbird* 27:87-88; 1977) reported a similar phenomenon that took place on 13 September 1976, when a mixed flock of Ring-billed, Herring, and Laughing Gulls was observed feeding on swarming *Lasius* ants on Jones Beach, Long Island. *Eric Salzman, Box 775, East Quogue, New York 11942*