

Feeding habits of the black skimmer, *Rynchops niger* Linnaeus 1758, in four wetlands of central Chile

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The black skimmer, *Rhynchops niger* (Linnaeus 1758), is a migratory bird inhabiting wetlands off both North and South America. Although feeding habits are useful in understanding ecological function, these data may be hard to obtain, especially from a charismatic species. Lethal sampling in species, such as the black skimmer, have been of major concern and alternative methods to this kind of sampling become a desirable alternative for conservation biologist, managers, and policy makers. The aim of this study is to identify prey items of the black skimmer at the lowest possible taxonomic level by examining their regurgitates in different localities along the coast of central Chile. Additionally, we will test the accuracy and applicability of a non-lethal sampling method that may be applied to other birds. In total, we will examine 214 regurgitates from four localities. Our preliminary results indicate that this species feeds on fishes and crustaceans. However, other elements like feathers and microplastics were also found.