



Coastal Carolina Wildlife Black Skimmers

The Black Skimmer is one of our most recognizable waterbirds. It would be difficult to mistake its “bark”, orange bill, and unique feeding method. Watching it fish is big time fun! Its maneuverability and ability to avoid plowing into a sand bar are incredible!

A skimmer’s lower bill is longer than its upper bill. When feeding, a skimmer flies over the water with its bill open and its lower bill slicing the surface as shown in the photos. The width of its highly tactile bill is narrow and knife-like, enabling it to cut through water with ease. When the lower bill touches a fish, the upper bill quickly snaps down on it.

No, the skimmer is not dead. Resting skimmers will lie with their heads flat and their chins and bills resting on the sand.

John Ennis

