

FROM FIELD AND STUDY



American Avocet on nest. Photograph taken May 16, 1940, at Tule Lake, California, by Ed Harrison and Frances Roberts.

Pigeon Hawk Catching Dragonflies.—Although the Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius*) is known to eat dragonflies with some regularity (Dawson, *Birds Calif.*, 1923:1634; Bent, *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 170, 1938:75; Kennedy, *Ecol. Monogr.*, 20, 1950:104-142), there appear to be few accounts of the capture of this prey. On the morning of October 8, 1950, I was inspecting a farm pond near Goleta, Santa Barbara County, California. It was a sunny morning, and many large blue dragonflies (*Aeschna*) were flying around and resting on leaves of emergent cattails. Suddenly, a Pigeon Hawk shot down about 25 feet from me and seized a flying dragonfly in its feet. It swung off away from me, biting at its prey in flight rather like a Sparrow Hawk carrying a grasshopper. However, it went behind some trees, before I could be certain that it was actually feeding in flight, and perched about 200 yards away. About five minutes later, the bird flew back to the pond, reaching the area about 300 feet in the air. It circled once, and then stooped at great speed to take another dragonfly a few feet above the pond. This time the hawk flew to a dead limb at the top of a live oak and ate its prey there, discarding the wings. The hawk, from its plumage, was either a female or an immature male. From its small size, I took it to be the latter. It was not especially dark, so appeared to be *F. c. bendirei* rather than *suckleyi*.—R. M. BOND, *Soil Conservation Service, Portland, Oregon, March 21, 1951.*

Frigate Bird Crossing Isthmus of Tehuantepec.—On January 25, 1951, approximately 27 kilometers east-southeast of the town of Jesus Carranza, Veracruz, Mexico, in almost the middle of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, a Frigate Bird (*Fregata magnificens*) was seen flying over hills and jungles headed almost due south. The day was overcast, with intermittent showers, but there was only a moderate wind and there had been no severe storms for at least a week before. The direction of the bird's flight was more or less parallel to the winding course of the Rio Coatzacoalcos, a few miles to the north. The bird was not following the river, but was heading swiftly and apparently purposefully for the Pacific Ocean, sixty miles to the south. It may be that Frigate Birds regularly fly overland from one ocean to the other. The distance across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec is only a trifle over 100 miles, and no hills of more than 1500 feet elevation above sea level need be crossed.—WALTER W. DALQUEST, *Baton Rouge, Louisiana, March 14, 1951.*