

north of the Tehachapi Mountains, agrees with that to the south of this range rather than that farther north in the Central Valley. Although this could indicate a crossover in the southern part of the Sierra Nevada, the different findings of the several studies may merely reflect latitudinal or temporal differences.

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**Harrier Observed Catching a Fairy Tern in Tahiti.**—On September 4, 1964, a harrier was observed flying slowly over the grounds of Hotel Taaone two miles north of Papeete, Tahiti, followed by half a dozen screaming Fairy Terns (*Gygis alba*). The hawk kept well above the cocoanut trees and the terns were above and behind the hawk, although from time to time one would swoop down upon it, banking sharply upward just before making contact. As this procession passed near me, one tern did not break its dive but dropped below the hawk, which banked sharply and immediately took after the tern in hot pursuit. The chase was wildly gyrating above the cocoanuts, the hawk following every maneuver of the tern and swiftly closing the lead. Capture was made within 75 yards. The harrier took the tern with both feet, rolled over in a slow easy glide, and departed toward the mountains in level flight, with the white wings and tail of the tern flopping beneath.

The hawk presumably was *Circus approximans*, the common harrier of the southwestern Pacific islands. This species is designated by Mayr (*Birds of the Southwest Pacific*, 1945:55), as "introduced" in the Society Islands, including Tahiti, although it is native in Fiji, Tonga, and elsewhere in Polynesia. Mayr (p. 55) characterizes the food habits as follows: "Feeds on frogs, lizards, mice, grasshoppers, and other insects, occasionally on birds." Amadon (*Emu*, 40, 1941:369) mentions an individual taken on the Loyalty Islands that contained most of a fruit pigeon (*Ptilinopus greyii*). Perhaps this harrier captures birds more often than occasionally.

The ubiquitous Fairy Tern was seen daily among the cocoanuts and broadleaved trees on the grounds of Hotel Taaone. No nests were found, although I saw birds entering the canopy of one large tree. Nesting may have stimulated the terns to harass the passing hawk.—A. STARKER LEOPOLD, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California*.