

The strategy of the hunting Pigeon Hawks seemed quite apparent. They took advantage of the fright induced among small birds along the track by the noisy and swiftly moving locomotive. They hung back several cars from the front of the train, thus allowing the attention of their intended prey to become entirely focused in one direction. Then, as the small birds hurried away from the tracks, without thought of any aerial attack, they became the easy victims of as skillful a flier as the Pigeon Hawk. The nearness with which three of the Pigeon Hawks approached the side of the train, flying just outside our window, made identification certain; while the size, dark color and manner of flight of the others seen at greater distances dispels any doubt from my mind as to their identity.—KARL W. KENYON, *La Jolla, California*.

**A hummingbird feeding habit.**—On September 13, 1941, a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird was observed to hover before several spider webs, which it visited successively, and to feed upon several small insects entrapped therein. The webs were located at a height of about ten feet in the dead branches of small trees situated at the edge of a swamp. They seemed to be undamaged by the operation. The observation was made along the Potomac River near Alexandria, Virginia. No showy blossoms of the types usually frequented by hummingbirds were seen in the vicinity and no spiders were evident at the webs.—GEORGE A. PETRIDES, *National Park Service, Washington, D. C.*

**Coöperative feeding of White Pelicans.**—On June 28, 1941, the writers were privileged to witness an effective coöperative feeding venture of twelve White Pelicans in Blitzen Valley at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon. Observation was made from a commanding position on top of volcanic 'Rim Rock,' which rises almost perpendicularly some sixty feet above the valley floor. When first observed, the birds were loosely grouped and leisurely swimming about the small pond that is a unit of a larger impounded body of water. The pool is some fifty or sixty feet from the observation point; consequently, from their elevated position the writers could see into the water and observe very clearly the movement of the birds.

It appeared that a school of fish swam into the pool through a connecting area leading from the larger body of water. Suddenly the birds assumed a circular position, surrounding the school. All the pelicans moved slowly but cautiously toward the center of the circle, their heads near the surface of the water or partly submerged and their necks slightly extended. The birds moved in perfect unison, making the circle progressively smaller, and ready to engulf their helpless victims at the first opportunity. When all twelve pelicans were close to the fish, the birds made rapid jabs at the fish and apparently consumed a large number of them. It appeared that every bird got from one to several fish. The degree of dexterity and the rapidity of movement of these large, awkward-appearing creatures were surprising. The birds seemed to know instinctively that coöperation materially benefited each individual.

Coöperative action in obtaining foods is probably much more prevalent than has been recorded for aquatic birds. Occasional instances have been observed at the Bear River Marshes in Utah of White Pelicans doing the actual herding of fish, the Forster's Terns and California Gulls flying overhead and darting down to pick up small carp and chub which the pelicans missed or forced to the surface. Avocets and, to a lesser extent, the Black-necked Stilts, also band together for coöperative drives on small fry and aquatic insects. Such drives are made in water of wading