

Further southwards, along the shore of Western Mexico, Xantus found *P. haliaetus* at Colima¹⁶, and Sumichrast on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec¹⁷.

On the eastern coast of Mexico the Osprey no doubt occurs from the Rio Grande to Yucatan and the islands off the coast. From the interior of Mexico we have not so many records; but Herrera tells us²¹ that he obtained specimens at various times at Xochimilco, in the valley of Mexico, and that he was informed that the Osprey also occurred on the lake of Chalco, and that it arrives in September or October. It feeds on the fishes of the valley, each bird eating daily one or two *Antherina humboldti* and many small fish, leaving the heads of the larger kinds. Batrachians and other aquatic animals are not touched. The natives say that it chases and kills Kingfishers, but never devours them.

On the coast of British Honduras this species is very abundant, and one of the first birds Salvin secured on landing at Belize in December 1857⁸ was an Osprey, which, flying over the forest at the back of the town with a fish in its talons, fell to a charge of small shot. Nearly every one of the cays which stud this coast has its pair of Ospreys, and on Tobacco Cay, on the barrier-reef, Salvin saw a large nest which seemed to have been occupied for several years and added to from time to time¹¹.

When visiting the Pacific coast of Guatemala in 1863 Salvin again found this species in numbers—every lagoon inside the beach was tenanted by a pair. This was from San José and Champerico to Huamuchal near the frontier of Soconusco.

The most recent account of the Osprey in North America is given by Bendire²³ in his 'Life Histories of North-American Birds,' and Dr. Fisher has also drawn up a good summary of the observations concerning it²⁴. As is well known, it builds a huge nest of sticks, and lays as many as three eggs, which are varied in shape and colour, the latter consisting of heavy blotches of various sizes and shades of a rich brown and vinous red on a whitish ground.

The American Osprey was separated from the European by Gmelin in the last century⁵, and since then opinions have differed as to whether it is really distinct or not. Most American writers now call it *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*, but Dr. Coues and Dr. Sharpe unite both forms under Linnæus's title *P. haliaetus*. The trifling larger size and the presence generally of a few less spots on the breast are all the characters that can be assigned to the American bird.

Fam. FALCONIDÆ*.

In the following arrangement of the Falconidæ we adhere to a great extent to the system of the 'Nomenclator Avium Neotropicalium,' which does not very materially differ from that adopted by Mr. Ridgway in his paper on the outlines of a natural

* At Mr. Salvin's death the MS. of the Falconidæ was in a forward state. It has been continued with the assistance of Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe.