



Figs 1-2. Purple martin (*Progne subis*) with *Anax junius*.

AVIAN DRAGONFLY COLLECTORS (ANISOPTERA)

July 1998 I noticed our purple martins, *Progne subis*, feeding large dragonflies to their almost fully-grown fledglings. Because most of the food was dragonflies, I decided to photograph the activity. I placed the camera and electronic flashes on a tripod which I had modified to reach a height of 12 feet, then lowered the martin house to that

level. Then I photographed by remote control while watching through binoculars.

From the color slides, several large dragonflies could be identified. There were three *Anax junius*, one *Macromia annulata*, and another which appeared to be *Anax*, but certainly was not *A. junius*, I sent copies to Dr Sidney W. Dunkle for identification. In a letter, Dunkle stated that it was *Anax amazili*, one of the rarest dragonflies in North America. I never had seen this species, so the purple martins were better collectors than I! Unfortunately, they quickly destroyed their specimen!

C.E. Williams, 704 Foster Street, Marlin, Texas 76661-2428, United States