

TWO SIGNIFICANT SPECIMENS OF THE SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

FROM ALABAMA

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The wing and tail measurements of two Swallow-tailed Kites collected in Alabama conform with those of Elanoides forficatus yetapa (Vieillot), the South American Swallow-tailed Kite, rather than with the prescribed race, Elanoides forficatus forficatus (Linnaeus), the North American Swallow-tailed Kite.

The following measurements are given by Friedmann (The Birds of Middle and North America, Part XI. U.S.N.M. Bull. 50: 84 and 90). For Elanoides f. forficatus, adult female, wing 436-445, tail 343-370; Elanoides f. yetapa, adult female, wing 390-427, tail 275-326. As can be seen the measurements do not overlap in the two races.

The measurements for the two Alabama specimens are as follows: Monroe County, Alabama, April 17, 1964, adult female, wing 412, tail 319; Montgomery County, Alabama, July 26, 1961, adult female, wing 400, tail 299.

The above measurements place the two Alabama specimens of kites well within the range of measurements given for the South American race.

The range of the South American Kite is given by Friedmann (op. cit.: 90) as South America north of Argentina, north to Campeche, Mexico, being known from Central America only as a summer visitor, probably absent in winter.

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NOTES

Additional Magnolia Springs Records. The following additions of interest may be made to my list in the last issue of ALABAMA BIRDLIFE: Mallard - one late female at Corte Pond, June 11, 1964; Dickcissel - April 28, 1964, 1 female at Gulf Shores, May 1, 1964, 6 singing birds at Foley; Pine Siskin - May 3, 1964, 6 birds in a flock of Goldfinches at Magnolia Springs. Fairly Chandler, Magnolia Springs, Alabama.

A banding trip to the Gulf Island Refuges. Lovett Williams, Mac Myers, and I made the trip in mid-July. Over 3,000 Royal and Sandwich Terns were banded, a few adult birds were dyed red and the juveniles blue. The Petit Bois colony has moved to one of the spoil banks (Walnut Island) approximately 5 miles south of Pascagoula. The spoil banks are not included in the refuge, and therefore, do not come under the protection of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

On July 14 we saw a Sabine's Gull about 3 miles west of the Ship Island lighthouse. July 16 we saw an adult Brown Booby, a Greater Shearwater, and another Shearwater, probably a Greater. These birds were seen in Chandeleur sound about 10 miles west of the North Islands. The same date two Pomarine Jaegers were seen mid-way between the Ship Island lighthouse and Biloxi. A Sooty Tern was seen on several occasions July 14 and 15 on Curlew Island, one of the Chandeleurs. The refuge manager obtained a good picture of the Sooty Tern, nest and egg at this location in June. July 11th, 12th and 13th as many as 19 Brown Pelicans were noted on the spoil banks south of Pascagoula. A pair of adult Common Terns with nest and two eggs was found on a spoil bank 3 miles south of Pascagoula.

Reports of any dyed terns seen on the gulf coast would be appreciated.

I have not been in the Montgomery area enough this summer to obtain much field data. However, the Cattle Egret seems to be on the increase and can be seen quite frequently. Robert W. Skinner, Alabama Department of Conservation, Montgomery, Alabama.

Sick Mourning Doves at feeding station. A greater number of Mourning Doves was observed at this feeding station during the summer of 1964 than during any summer of the ten years residence at this address. From June through August nine sick doves were observed, eight of which were trapped and destroyed. The last five were examined for possible evidence of disease. Four of these five had caseous of cheese like growths in the throat region. Each of the nine doves was observed to have difficulty in picking up and swallowing food. In each dove the breast was found to be thin. These Mourning Doves would seem to be victims of Trichomonas gallinae. An outbreak of trichomoniasis among Mourning Doves in Alabama was reported in 1950 (Mourning Dove Newsletter 1960, Fish and Wildlife Service). Harriett Wright, 2749 Millbrook Rd., Birmingham, Ala.