
**Southernmost records of
Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides
forficatus***

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* is a partial migrant that occurs from the south-east USA to northern Argentina^{2,12}. Two subspecies are recognised, which are similar in coloration and size, and are almost impossible to separate in the field. *E. f. forficatus* is a trans-equatorial migrant and breeds from the USA to northern Mexico, spending the boreal winter in South America as far south as eastern Paraguay and eastern Brazil^{6,13}. *E. f. yetapa* breeds from southern Mexico to northern Argentina, and those birds that nest at southern tropical and

subtropical latitudes migrate to the tropics in the austral winter^{2,12}. The subspecies overlap during the austral summer in central South America¹³.

In Argentina Swallow-tailed Kite breeds in Andes forests and in the interior Atlantic Forest², with nine extralimital records during the austral spring and summer in central Argentina^{4,5,7}, five of them in Buenos Aires province, on the north ($n=3$)^{1,3,4} and central coasts ($n=2$)^{1,3,5,8}. At Punta Rasa, Swallow-tailed Kite is perhaps a regular vagrant⁵. The other four records come from Mediterranean localities in Córdoba province and north-west Buenos Aires province⁹⁻¹¹.

On 10 January 2007 I recorded an individual soaring north between 10h30–11h00 along the coast of Mar del Plata (Buenos Aires province) together with 20–30 swallows (Hirundinidae). The observation was made following a storm during the previous night. Furthermore, M. A. Juhant observed one at the Jardín Botánico de La Plata, on 25 November 2006, 46 days prior to my record in Mar del Plata. My observation was made 200 km, following the coast, south-west of the nearest record at San Clemente del Tuyú¹¹ and is the southernmost record of Swallow-tailed Kite.

Acknowledgements

I thank Alejandro Morici. I appreciate improvements in English usage made by Daniel Brooks via the Association of Field Ornithologists' programme of editorial assistance. Comments by Ignacio Roesler and Matias A. Juhant greatly improved the manuscript.

References

- Dabbene, R. (1920) Miscelánea ornitológica. *Hornero* 2: 133–136.
- Ferguson-Lees, J. & Christie, D. A. (2001) *Raptors of the world*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
- G.O.R.A. (1991) Ñacurutú, Milano Tijereta y Boyero Negro en el partido de Berisso. *Garganchillo* 11: 13–15.
- Grilli, P. G. & Arellano, M. L. (2008) Primer registro del Milano Tijereta (*Elanoides forficatus*) en la provincia de Entre Ríos y nueva observación para el nordeste de Buenos Aires, Argentina. *Nuestras Aves* 53: 20.
- Juhant, M. A. (2010) Austral spring migration counts of raptors in Punta Rasa, Argentina. *Orn. Neotrop.* 21: 263–270.
- Mager, W. (1967) Nestling Swallow-tailed Kite banded on Key Largo, recovered in Brazil. *Florida Field Natur.* 40(1): 13–14.
- Narosky, T. & Di Giacomo, A. G. (1993) *Las aves de la provincia de Buenos Aires: distribución y estatus*. Buenos Aires: Asocacion Ornitológica del Plata, Ed. Vazquez Mazzini & Literature of Latin America.
- Olrog, C. C. (1979) Nueva lista de la avifauna argentina. *Opera Lilloana* 27: 1–324.
- Roesler, I. (2001) Tres especies poco comunes en el noreste de la provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina. *Nuestras Aves* 18: 30.
- Sferco, G. D. & Baldo, J. L. (1992) Presencia del milano tijereta (*Elanoides forficatus*) en la provincia de Córdoba. *Nuestras Aves* 10: 29–30.
- Straneck, R. J. & Casanas, H. (1995) El chircote, *Aramides cajanea*, una nueva especie, y nuevos registros del gavilán tijereta, *Elanoides forficatus*, en la provincia de Córdoba, República Argentina. *Nótulas Faunísticas* 71: 1–4.
- Thiollay, J.-M. (1994) Family Accipitridae (hawks and eagles) In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. & Sargatal, J. (eds.) *Handbook of the birds of the world*, 2. Barcelona: Lynx Edicions.
- Zimmerman, G. M. (2004) Studies of the annual cycle of the Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*): migration, habitat use, and parasites. M.Sc. thesis. Statesboro, GA: Georgia Southern University.

Lucas M. Leveau

Brown, 2420 1°A 7600, Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
E-mail: lucasleveau@yahoo.com.ar.

Received 26 April 2011; final revision accepted 1 July 2011 (published online 10 March 2012)