



REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA

DEPARTAMENTO DEL VALLE DEL CAUCA

SECRETARIA DE AGRICULTURA Y GANADERIA

No. _____

Cali. July 1st. 1961

Dr. Eugene Eisenmann
Dept. of Ornithology
The American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th. Street
New York 24, N. Y. @ U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Eisenmann:

This time I write to you from my other quarters in Cali, where I work mostly on Conservation of Natural Resources, at the Secretaría de Agricultura.

Probably you are aware that one of my main preoccupations is the problem of conservation of our natural resources. When the Colombian Section of the International Committee for Bird Preservation was established in Colombia in 1940 by my good friend Dr. Thomas Gilbert Pearson, I was elected the first President of it. Most of the members of the Colombian Committee were people from Bogotá. Later in 1945 I moved to Cali, and since then I don't know who is in charge, and have not heard of any activities of the Colombian Section.

I wish to inform you that continuing with my interest in Conservation, I have had an active part in having established two National Parks in Western Colombia. One is "Parque Nacional de los Farallones de Cali". which includes the highest part of the Western Andes in this part of the Country, and a good space of land on the western side to the Pacific to save many species of the Flora and Fauna of that particular area. The other is "Parque Nacional del Puracé" in Cauca Department, which includes the active volcano of Puracé, snow Peaks, hot springs, and a large tract of forest on the eastern side to protect there the spectacled bear, the Mountain or Woolly Tapir, the Oroaëtus isidori Eagle, the Pudu Deer of the Páramo and many many more interesting things. If you are interested in having more details on these areas. I'll be happy to send you any needed information.

Also I have been lucky to have the Governors of Cauca and Valle Departments to sign decrees regulating hunting in these two Departments, and thanks to this several species are coming back after being almost extinct here, like the Muscovy Duck and others, on which we had closed season for several years, and now is limited the hunting of it to only one piece a year per hunter. We have also regular closed seasons on other ducks, pigeons, and many other birds. If you are interested in knowing what we have on these matters, I can send you copies of the regulations.

Coming to the problem of the new swift, I must say now that I believe that the white breasted specimens are only color variants of Cypseloides cryptus, because recently I was able to collect a few more specimens that give an indication in this direction. Next week when I'll be in Popayán, I'll send you pictures of the whole series, so you can judge by yourself, and if you wish I can send to you the full series for your study.

With very best personal wishes. Cordially. F. C. Lehmann V.