



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

0603 1

Everglades National Park
Homestead, Florida, U.S.A.
P.O. Box 279

31 October 1961

Dr. F. Carlos Lehmann V.
Apartado Nacional
P.O. Box 680
Cali,
COLOMBIA

Dear Sir:

Through my good friend, Mr. Dennis Paulson, who recently visited you in Cali I have learned that you have information of value regarding the Swallow-tailed Kite, Elanoides forficatus, in Colombia. As Mr. Paulson may have mentioned, I am preparing the account of this species for the forthcoming "Handbook of North American Birds". I would be most grateful to receive any data on the following points that you may care to make available. It is understood, of course, that in any published use of the information it will be fully credited to you.

Breeding. - I have found very few records of actual observations of nests of Elanoides in South America. Any information on nesting dates and localities, nest sites, and breeding behavior would be of the greatest interest. Also, general comments on the altitudinal range and habitat spectrum of the species in Colombia would be of interest.

Seasonal Occurrence. - In some parts of northern South America where the subspecies yetapa is believed to breed it is not a permanent resident. An example of this is given in Friedmann and Smith's papers for northeastern Venezuela. I have wondered what your observations in areas that you have studied may indicate on this point.

Migration. - Various records, in particular Dr. Wetmore's notes from his studies of recent years in Panama, indicate a well-marked spring movement of Swallow-tailed Kites northward through Middle America. Any evidence of spring or fall migratory flight (with date, locality, and number of birds seen) that you may have encountered would be most useful in clarifying knowledge on this point.

Food. - My notes on food as regards the species in South America are very sparse. I'd greatly appreciate any comments you may have. Especially, I would like to know whether you have seen evidence that Elanoides preys upon nestlings of small birds, as Dr. Skutch has found in Costa Rica.

Any help that you can give me with this matter will be deeply appreciated. I take the liberty of enclosing several recent reprints.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Robertson, Jr.

Park Biologist
Everglades National Park