

Wilson Bull., 100(3), 1988, p. 510

First record of the Blue-throated Goldentail (Hylocharis eliciae) in Belize. - The Bluethroated Goldentail (Hylocharis eliciae) is resident from southern Mexico to western Panama (AOU 1983, Check-list of North American Birds, 6th ed. A.O.U., Washington, D.C.), but it has not been recorded previously from Belize (Wood, Leberman, and Weyer 1986, Checklist of the Birds of Belize. Carnegie Museum of Natural History Special Publication No. 12). The Blue-throated Goldentail has not been found in the Yucatan peninsula or in the Tikal area of northeastern Guatemala, and the nearest record to Belize is from the Caribbean lowlands of Guatemala (D. S. Wood, pers. comm.). A Blue-throated Goldentail was captured in a mist net in Belize on 19 April 1987 in a 4-ha orange orchard, and was released after being photographed (VIREO accession numbers VO6/5/001, VO6/5/002, VO6/5/003). No other individuals were observed or captured during the nine months (25 Aug 1986–10 May 1987) of netting and observation in the citrus plantation. The Blue-throated Goldentail has a shiny gold tail, a red bill with a black tip, and a blue gorget. The underparts are mostly green, and the rump is copper (Peterson and Chalif, 1973, A Field Guide to Mexican Birds. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts). The identification of the bird was confirmed from our photographs by P. E. Scott and J. V. Remsen, Jr., Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University. The study area (17°10'N, 88°40'W) is part of a 1400-ha citrus plantation owned by Belize Groves Management Company and is located 55 km west of Belize City on the Western Highway in the Cayo district. The plantation is situated in a transition zone from pine savannah to broadleaf hardwood forest. The vegetation surrounding the plantation predominantly is second growth, consisting mainly of Cecropia sp. trees, but also contains Castilla and Orbignya. There is a slender area of bamboo (Gramineae) where the plantation borders the Sibun River. The valencia organge trees (Citrus sinensis) were fairly uniform in height ($\bar{x} = 3.1 \pm 0.45$ [SD] m, N = 25) and diameter before branching ($\bar{x} = 12 \pm 2$ cm). The approximately 950 trees were spaced at 6 m × 6 m, and the ground was completely covered with grasses in the 6-yr-old orchard. The orchard is about 100 m from the Sibun River and is bordered by a dirt road, a 10 ha clearing, and a small housing compound.

Acknowledgments.—Work during 1986–87 in Belize was funded by the J. Nicholene Bishop Memorial Fund, the Latin American Studies Program, and a Student Government Association research grant, all from the University of Alabama. We are indebted to B. Sokolsky, V. Sokolsky, Y. Plasmann, B. Hasse, J. Van Der Vinne, D. Van Der Vinne, and Belize Groves Management Company Limited for aid in Belize. We thank C. Blem and D. Wood for their comments on an earlier draft of this manuscript, and P. Scott and J. V. Remsen, Jr. for confirming the identification of the hummingbird. EDWARD D. MILLS AND DAVID T. ROGERS, JR., Dept. Biology, Univ. Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487. Received 18 Aug. 1987, accepted 8 Feb. 1988.

