

## SPECIMENS OF BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER AND YELLOW-GREEN VIREO FROM WEST TEXAS

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On 22 June 1971 at 11:30, my wife and I found a dead, adult, female (ova, 1 mm and below) Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) at our home in Panther Junction (elevation, 3850 ft), Big Bend National Park, Brewster County, Texas. The bird was still fresh and apparently was a window-kill as both of its mandibles were broken, and it was discovered beneath a picture window. Factors influencing the presence of this species in late June in the Chihuahuan desert in Big Bend are unknown. Probably the bird was a late, stray migrant, as it was very fat (9.6 g) and appeared to be in good health. The previous night had been very stormy. This is the first specimen for West Texas. It was preserved as a study skin (DAE 2571) and is deposited at Big Bend National Park Museum.

One previous sight record exists for Big Bend National Park. On 11 May 1969, one adult male was seen and heard singing on the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail for about 2 hr. During this time it was observed by nine birders (Roland Wauer, pers. comm.). Other sight records exist for West Texas: one was observed at El Paso on 3 and 9 November

1959 (Audubon Field Notes 14:63, 1960), and at Midland on 24 October 1963 (Audubon Field Notes 18:51, 1964) and 9 October 1970 (Audubon Field Notes 25:77, 1971). P. Espy and C. Miller found one on 7 May 1964 at the Miller Ranch, and Espy found another one in June 1970 in Limpia Canyon, Davis Mountains, Jeff Davis County (Roland Wauer, pers. comm.). Wolfe (Check-list of the birds of Texas, p. 65. Intelligencer Printing Co., Lancaster, 1956.) considered this species a rare migrant along the eastern edge of Texas, and Peterson (A field guide to the birds of Texas, p. 207. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1960.) considered it an occasional transient in the eastern half.

On 12 July 1972 at 10:30, I observed a singing Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*) near the Rio Grande at Cottonwood Campground (elevation, 2100 ft), Big Bend National Park, Brewster County, Texas. The bird was observed in small cottonwoods (*Populus palmeri*) for about 10 min. On the afternoon of the following day the bird was taken and proved to be an adult male (testes, 11 × 7 mm; 21 g). Searches revealed no other individuals of this species. This record is the first for Big Bend National Park and West Texas. The species is known in Texas as a rare summer resident in the lower Rio Grande valley (Wolfe, Checklist of the birds of Texas, p. 62. Intelligencer Printing Co., Lancaster, Pa., 1956; Peterson, A field guide to the birds of Texas, p. 199. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 1960). Recently this species was reported for the first time from Arizona (Borror, Condor 74:80-86, 1972). The specimen was preserved as a study skin (DAE 2686) and is at Northwest Missouri State University.

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## STATUS OF THE WHITE-TAILED KITE IN EL SALVADOR

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The White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) was not reported for El Salvador by van Rossem (Dickey and van Rossem, Chicago Field Mus. Natur. Hist. No. 406:1-609, 1938) after his intensive field work in that country during the years 1912 and 1925-27. Neither did Marshall (Condor 45:21-33, 1943) nor Rand and Traylor (Manual de las aves de El Salvador, Universidad de El Salvador, 1961) report the species after their field work in 1942 and 1954, respectively.

The first record we have of the White-tailed Kite in El Salvador is a specimen taken by one of us (J.F.S.) in January 1962; the specimen was not preserved. Eisenmann (Amer. Birds 25:529-536, 1971) mentions a sighting by P. Slud on 3 February 1962, and Miles (Auk 81:229, 1964) obtained a specimen on 30 April 1963.

In recent years the population of *E. leucurus* has grown rapidly. Five years ago White-tailed Kite were seen regularly but sparingly. Today they are fairly common. It is not unusual to sight eight or nine birds along a 20-km stretch of highway. The expansion of both range and population has not been confined to El Salvador but has paralleled similar developments throughout Middle America (see Eisenmann, op. cit.).

### DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT IN EL SALVADOR

Nearly all our sightings of White-tailed Kites have been made in the western third of the Central Coastal Plain probably because we have visited it more often. Nonetheless, we have seen the species throughout the Central Coastal Plain from Isla San Sebastián at the east to Rio Huiza at the west (fig. 1). We have one sighting from the small Western Coastal Plain where Miles (op. cit.) took his specimen. We have two sightings from the east coast by the Gulf of Fonseca where Slud (Eisenmann, op. cit.) saw a bird in 1962.

We have one record of White-tailed Kites outside the coastal lowlands. Between 18 February and 12 March 1964, a pair was seen regularly in the capital city, San Salvador. This city has an altitude of 700 m and is located on a dissected plateau of volcanic ash, distinctly different from the level coastal plains.

The preferred habitat of the White-tailed Kite in El Salvador is open country, usually pastures, dom-