

# First confirmed record of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* for Colombia and South America

*Primer registro confirmado de Tyrannus forficatus para Colombia y Suramérica*

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**Abstract.** Photographic documentation is presented of a record of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* in Colombia. Previously, this species was reported to occur in the country by sight records only, without confirmed documentation.

**Keywords:** new record, flycatcher, distribution.

**Resumen.** Se presentan detalles sobre un registro fotográfico de *Tyrannus forficatus*. La especie ha sido reportada anteriormente en Colombia con base en registros visuales, pero este es el primer registro confirmado.

**Palabras clave:** nuevo registro, atrapa-moscas, distribución.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* is a Nearctic migrant that breeds from the south-central United States to northeastern Mexico. It is a relatively short-distance migrant and has its wintering range primarily in southern Mexico and Central America, south into Costa Rica and (rarely) Panama and in Florida. It occurs further south as an occasional or overshooting migrant or vagrant (Regosin 2013).

The species was previously reported without details of any particular observations in various lists, field guides and other publications relating to Colombia (see discussion in Donegan *et al.* 2009 and references therein) until Rowland & Master (2011) reported three individuals near Puerto Pinzón (Santander). Although a comprehensive description of the observation was presented, no photographs were taken to further document that record.

On 30 December 2018 we observed a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in adult plumage along the road between Bahía Solano and El Valle, Chocó, Colombia (6°9.440'N, 77°24.017'W) (Fig. 1). The bird was present along the side of the road, perched in a bush with lots of dead branches, hunting for insects. After 10 minutes it flew towards another bush, further from the road. There it stayed for a couple of minutes, catching some more prey. Finally, it took off to fly over a hill, out of sight. The area consisted of pastures with cattle, interspersed with bushes and patches of forest.

Identification was checked and confirmed after reviewing our Colombian field guide (McMullan & Donegan 2014).

In the most recent checklists, the species is treated as hypothetical or as known only from observations for both Colombia (Avendaño *et al.* 2017, Donegan *et al.* 2019) and South America (Remsen *et al.* 2020). Since there are no records on eBird (2020) of this species except ours (Felix & Mosquera Lima 2018), the sighting described here appears to

be the first confirmed record for the country and the continent.

## Acknowledgments

Thanks to Thomas Donegan for his comments on the manuscript and encouragement to publish this record.

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**Figure 1.** First photographic documentation of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* in Colombia and South America: El Valle, Chocó, Colombia, 30 December 2018. © Rob Felix.