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### **Fotografía portada / Cover photograph**

Slender-billed Schiffornis *Schiffornis stenorhyncha*, a newly split near-endemic species for Colombia proposed in a paper in this issue. Photograph taken at Santa Cecilia, Bolivar on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Photo by Blanca Huertas and Thomas Donegan.

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**Conservación Colombiana** es publicada gracias al apoyo de nuestros donantes:



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

*Primer registro publicado de la Tijereta Rosada Tyrannus forficatus para Colombia y Suramérica*

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## Abstract

We present the first published record of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* for the country of Colombia and continental South America. Three individuals were observed together near the El Paujil Bird Preserve in the lower Magdalena Valley on 13 January 2010.

## Resumen

*Se presenta el primer registro publicado de Tyrannus forficatus en Colombia y Suramérica. Tres individuos de la especie fueron observados en los alrededores de la reserva El Paujil, Valle del Magdalena, el 13 de enero de 2010.*

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* is a migrant flycatcher species that breeds in the southwestern United States into the far North of Mexico. Its breeding range extends as far North as the states of Kansas and Missouri, occasionally into Nebraska, Iowa, and Colorado (Sibley 2003). The species' primary wintering range is mostly restricted to the Pacific Slope of Mexico from Guerrero south to western Panama, though Gulf Coast records from the Mexican state of Veracruz into Belize are becoming more frequent (Jones 2003). Despite relative proximity of wintering range to northern Colombia, no confirmed records of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher exist (Salaman *et al.* 2010). The species has appeared in various lists, field guides and other publications as occurring in Colombia but no details of the record or specimen on which this is based have apparently ever been published or forthcoming (as discussed in Donegan *et al.* 2009 and see references cited therein).

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Forrest Rowland was guiding a private tour for Dr. Bernard Master. This was the final day of the tour, dedicated mostly to travel from the El Paujil reserve, near Puerto Pinzon (Santander), to Bogota, Cundinamarca. At approximately 8:40am, some three kilometers from "Pozo Dos" (06°01'52"N, 74°22'53"W) FR noticed 3 tyrannids, Kingbird-size, with exceptionally long tails, perched on the electrical wires near the road. Both of the authors, having some 60 years' experience with the species between them, quickly identified the birds as Scissor-tailed Flycatchers.

Two individuals bore fresh adult plumage, the third appeared to be a 1<sup>st</sup>-year individual very near to achieving full adult plumage, but lacking some length in the tail. The Flycatchers

were leisurely foraging for insects from perches on the wire near to each other during the course of the 10 minute observation period. Observation distance varied from 30 to 60 meters. Light conditions were that of a clear morning, partly cloudy with little haze, and frontal or side lighting.

Defining features of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher noted on these three individuals include the gray head, nape, neck, throat, breast, belly, and mantle. The flawless gray plumage set off the salmon orange/pink flanks and vent. All flight feathers, coverts, tertials, *etc.* were the expected charcoal black color. The tail was stiff, even during flight and sallying out to catch insects, unlike the flowing, languid, tail of Fork-tailed Flycatcher. Obvious white patterning in the outer rectrices and pink underwings were noted on all individuals in flight. These features were reaffirmed as definitive by reviewing both North American and Colombian Field Guides (Sibley 2003, McMullan 2010).

Once satisfied with the species, and assumed age, of these individuals was achieved, the authors continued on their journey. These records are the first published records from a specific locality in South America, although the species remains unconfirmed for the region owing to the lack of published photographic or other confirmation to date.

## Acknowledgements

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