

NOCTURNAL FORAGING BY SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHERS UNDER ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

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I observed nocturnal foraging by Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (*Tyrannus forficatus*) on 27 April 1992 at College Station, Brazos County, Texas. Sunset was at 2001 central daylight time. At approximately 2130 I saw an adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher perched on a utility wire below a street light adjacent to a busy four-lane highway. A second Scissor-tailed Flycatcher arrived at approximately 2200. It perched on the utility wire about 1 m from the first bird. Both flycatchers hunted flying insects attracted to, or illuminated by, the street light. The flycatchers were not observed to chase insects beyond the lighted area. After pursuing an insect the birds returned immediately to their perch. Insect species that the birds were preying on were not identified but included several moths. The two birds continued foraging until at least 2300 when I discontinued my observations.

F. W. Davis, W. L. Gannon, and two anonymous reviewers commented on an earlier version of this note.

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BULLETIN BOARD

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE PURPLE MARTIN

I am documenting the historical and current distribution of the Purple Martin in California as part of a study initiated by the California Department of Fish and Game. This information will be used to determine the status of the Purple Martin in California as well as for my own research. I would greatly appreciate as much information as you can provide concerning Purple Martin nest sites and migratory staging areas: dates, location including county, nearest town, elevation, landowner, detailed directions to the site (photocopied topographic maps are excellent), number of individuals, pairs, or nests, stage of the breeding cycle, nest substrate, reproductive success, habitat type including condition and proximity to water, presence of starlings, and any other comments you believe may be useful. Please send information to Brian Williams, P. O. Box 605, Loomis, CA 95650, or phone (916) 624-4861.

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION 1993 ANNUAL MEETING

will be held 3-7 November at Marriot City Center, Charlotte, North Carolina. Seminars, papers, and awards will be presented. For information, contact the sponsoring organization, the Carolina Raptor Center, at (704) 875-6521. For hotel reservations call (800) 228-9290.