

kindly allowed us to examine specimens in their care. John P. O'Neill and Lester L. Short reviewed the manuscript and suggested several useful improvements. Support and travel during these observations came from a Univ. of Arizona-Peace Corps Graduate Research Program and Bird Bonanzas Inc., (Hilty), the LSU Museum of Zoology (Parker), and the Peace Corps (Silliman).—STEVEN L. HILTY, *Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721*; THEODORE A. PARKER III, *Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge, LA 70893*; and JAMES SILLIMAN, *Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721*. Accepted 8 Dec. 1977.

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An observation of stick presentation by the Swallow-tailed Kite.—On 26 January 1977, while conducting field research in Saül, French Guiana, we observed a Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) circling over the forest holding a long, narrow stick in its bill. The flight was maintained for several minutes, whereupon the individual, bird *A*, landed about 2 m from another kite, bird *B*, at the top of a 30 m dead tree. Keeping its head lowered, body flattened, and wings extended, *A* approached *B* along a horizontal branch. This was followed by both up and down and side to side movements of *A* during presentation of the stick to *B*. After about 30 sec posturing, *A* dropped the stick and flew off. The other bird remained impassive throughout the performance; preening after *A* had left. We observed *Elanoides* carrying sticks in their bills and noted chases and agonistic encounters numerous times in the ensuing weeks. Instances of males feeding females have been documented for the Swallow-tailed Kite during both nest-building and incubation (Snyder, *Living Bird* 13:73-97, 1974). In such instances, the male usually approached the perched female.

A nesting date in mid-March has been given for Swallow-tailed Kites in Surinam (Haverschmidt, *The Birds of Surinam*, Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh, 1968). As kites in Saül were still in flocks of up to 10 individuals in late January, we interpreted our observations as ritualized nest-building, serving in the formation rather than intensification of the pair bond.

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Record of Puerto Rican Screech Owl, Turkey Vulture and Osprey from St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.—The continued existence of the Puerto Rican Screech Owl (*Otus nudipes*) on St. Croix has been in question for some time although there have been reports of its calls (Leck, *Condor* 77:107, 1975). While attempting to capture deer at night on 21 January 1971 I observed a Puerto Rican Screech Owl on the ground in open pasture. It allowed approach within 10 m and was illuminated by a 100,000