

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW SUBSPECIES OF THE SNAIL KITE, *ROSTRHAMUS SOCIABILIS* (VIEILLOT).

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We are indebted to Dr. Herbert Friedmann for directing our attention to an interesting new geographic race of *Rostrhamus sociabilis* collected by us during our work in Mexico. The type, a male, while full grown is in the immature plumage. Two other full grown young males in the Biological Survey collection taken at Flores, Lake Peten, Guatemala, by Harry Malleis, June 18, 1923, were evidently residents. Still another specimen of the same form in fully adult plumage in the National Museum, lacks full data. It was probably collected by F. Sartorius as the locality is given, with a query, as Mirador, the name of his coffee plantation in Vera Cruz.

Rostrhamus sociabilis major, subsp. nov.

MEXICAN SNAIL KITE.

Type.—Catemaco, Vera Cruz, Mexico (altitude 1,000 feet). No. 144168, ♂ (subadult plumage), U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey collection), collected by Nelson and Goldman, April 26, 1894. Original number 1980.

Distribution.—Lowlands of eastern Mexico and Peten district of northern Guatemala.

General characters.—Color practically as in *Rostrhamus socialis socialis* of South America and *R. s. plumbeus* of Florida; size largest of the known forms of the species; bill much larger and heavier; wings and tail longer.

Measurements.—*Type*: Wing, 380 mm.; tail, 198; tarsus, 52; culmen from cere, 30; culmen including cere, 38.

Remarks.—The new form is readily distinguished by the remarkable size of the bill. It agrees closely in color, however, and other essential characters with the more northern and southern subspecies.



Nelson, Edward William and Goldman, Edward Alphonso. 1933. "A new subspecies of the Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis* (Vieillot)." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 46, 193–194.

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