

40. Habitat, Breeding and Food Habits of the Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus* Linnaeus, 1758, Falconiformes, Accipitridae) in the State of Paraná, Southern Brazil

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Habitat, breeding and food habits of the Swallow-tailed Kite were observed in 1995-1996 in some locations of the state of Paraná, southern Brazil. Kites were watched in the dense ombrophilous forest, in pioneer formations with marine influence, in mixed ombrophilous forest and in the seasonal semidecudal forest. Breeding was observed at Anhangava Mountain (250 27' 07.9" S 49 00' 34.5" W). At this location, the vegetation was dense ombrophilous montane and high montane forest, disturbed by occasional wildfires and mining activities. By mid-September of 1995, a group of 16 kites arrived at this location and left in March of 1996. A nest with a young bird was identified on 2 November 1995 in a 20-m tall tree (*Sloanea guianensis*), which was emergent from the forest canopy. Direct and continuous observations of six kites active around this nest was documented 0600-1920 hr. Substitution of the bird on the nest was observed three times daily. While a bird remained on the nest, the others shared the activities of foraging for the young bird, protection of the nest and self feeding. A second nest was located 27 October 1996, about 500 m from the first nest, in an 18-m tall tree (Myrtaceae). Two eggs were found (weights = 34.5 g and 41 g). The young birds were born close to 2 December 1996; one weighed 82 g and the other weighed 29 g. At the beginning of fourth week, one was found dead on the ground near the nest tree (skull was broken). Weight increase of the other bird was only 0.5 g during the first week. This young bird was not found the second week. We observed the capture of small birds, rodents and lizards. In the nests, we observed the bones of birds and lizards and the remains of insects (Coleopterae, Hymenoptera).