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FIRST REPORT OF SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER, *TYRANNUS FORFICATUS* GMELIN (PASSERIFORMES: TYRANNIDAE), IN EASTERN CUBA

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WE OBSERVED A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) on 20 January 1999, during an expedition to Guarda la Vaca (lat. N 21° 17', long. W 75° 50'), on the northern coast of Holguín, eastern Cuba. The bird showed the characteristics of a juvenile, lacking long outer tail feathers, as well as pink sides and flanks. We photographed the flycatcher while it was perched in a shrub in a xeromorphic scrubby site 100 m from the coast.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher breeds in the central and southern United States, and winters in Central America, although a small population remains in the Florida Keys. It is considered accidental in the West Indies, where it has been observed in the Bahama Islands, western Cuba, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico (Raffaele et al. 1998).

In Cuba, the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is considered an accidental migrant (Garrido and García 1975). Three previous sightings of the flycatcher have been reported for Cuba: La Fé, Pinar del Río province (21 November 1952, Garrido and García

1975), San Antonio de los Baños, La Habana province (15 November 1984, Alayón 1985) and, recently, in the Isla de la Juventud (15 November 1998; Pedro Blanco, pers. comm.). All previous observations were from western Cuba. Our sighting constitutes the first of *Tyrannus forficatus* in eastern Cuba and the latest date for the species in the West Indies.

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