

First record of Belted Flycatcher *Xenotriccus callizonus* from Honduras

Belted Flycatcher *Xenotriccus callizonus* is a small tyrant flycatcher that is generally uncommon and locally distributed in the North Central American Highlands Endemic Bird Area (EBA 018)^{1,9,10}. It is reportedly common at El Sumidero Canyon in Chiapas, Mexico⁴, and has been found at several other highland locations in the south Mexican state of Chiapas, in Guatemala^{4,7,8} and El Salvador^{3,6}. The species occurs in dense scrubby deciduous and semi-deciduous tropical woodland (especially with *Quercus* oak) at 1,200–2,000 m^{1,9}. These forests are undergoing widespread clearance throughout the EBA and, consequently, the species is currently considered Near Threatened⁵. Here I report the first record from Honduras.

Observations

On 21 March 2005, I heard an unfamiliar song at the boundary of Reserva Biológica Opalaca (14°27'20"N 88°22'21"W), north-east of the small town of San Juan, dpto. Intibucá. The habitat in this part of the reserve is dominated by young pine forest with dense understorey. Much of this area had burned c.7 years before the sighting (E. B. Manueles pers. comm.) The bird was heard

in an area of dense brush with no pine canopy cover. I recorded it using a Sony MZ-R700 Minidisc recorder and Audio-Technica AT815b microphone. Following playback, the bird stopped calling immediately and, after c.30 seconds, appeared at the edge of the brush c.1 m above ground, where I identified it as Belted Flycatcher. The bird resembled an *Empidonax* in overall shape and size, with a long and obvious crest held almost erect as it sang. The whitish eye-ring appeared broader immediately behind the eye, giving a 'teardrop' shape. Its bill was dark above and completely pale orange below. Head grey and throat slightly paler. The most prominent characteristic was a broad cinnamon band on the breast, with the rest of the underparts yellow (Fig. 1). There were two yellowish wingbars and tertial fringes.

The bird began to sing again as it moved through the brush, remaining c.1–2 m above ground. The song comprised several accelerating, emphatic notes (not unlike *Lophotriccus*), followed by a quick, descending buzzy *swee*—the full song being rendered *bi-bi-bi-bi-bi-be-be-swee*. The entire effect was similar to but slower than the song of male Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*. The song was repeated every c.10 seconds before playback and every five

seconds afterwards. Occasionally only the first few emphatic notes were given, or the first few notes were followed solely by an abrupt *wee*. The bird flicked its tail while singing. I obtained more recordings while L. Howard photographed the bird. The bird continued to sing excitedly for several minutes following cessation of playback and remained close to the forest edge repeatedly coming into view over the next 20 minutes. My recordings are archived at www.xeno-canto.org (XC169131, XC169129).

Belted Flycatcher has not been reported in Honduras previously². The nearest known locality is Parque Nacional Montecristo, dpto. Santa Ana, El Salvador^{3,6}. My observation represents an easterly range extension of c.120 km^{3,4,6}. As I have not returned to the site or to similar habitats in the region, it is presently unknown whether the bird was resident, or, as is probably the case for the El Salvador records (O. Komar *in litt.* 2014), it was dispersing through the area.

Acknowledgements

I thank Edras Benítez Manueles of San Juan, Intibucá, for organizing my visit to Reserva Biológica Opalaca and for information about the reserve. Mark Bonta confirmed the lack of previous Honduras records of *X. callizonus* and supplied other information on birds in the country. Laura Howard provided the photographs of *X. callizonus* and its habitat. Knut Eisermann, Guy Kirwan, Oliver Komar and Huw Lloyd reviewed the manuscript and provided many useful suggestions.

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Figure 1. Belted Flycatcher *Xenotriccus callizonus*, Reserva Biológica Opalaca, dpto. Intibucá, Honduras, March 2005 (Laura Howard)

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Michael Haldeman
940 N. 6th Street, Coeur d'Alene,
ID 83814, USA. E-mail: [mhaldy@
yahoo.com](mailto:mhaldy@yahoo.com).

Received 4 February 2014; final
revision accepted 2 September
2014; published online 10 March
2015