

Project Update: November 2009

In 27th October 2009 , in the elevations put in front of the pulp-removing machine of coffee in the location known as El Zapote de Mal Nombre a Cuban Kite (*Chondrohierax wilsonii*) was perching in a dry tree and it flew on the canopy of the forest, near it a Broad-wing hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) with an appreciable difference of size, this the last one spread out an aggressive conduct which motivated to the Cuban Kite to changing perch towards other tree, without showing signs of territorial answer.

A second sighting was carried out on 29th October at 06:30 h, in front of the house of the farmer Modesto Suárez in Cabezadas de Los Lirios, about 3 Km from the first location. After a tenacious shower, we observed a Cuban Kite perched in a dry tree. The bird showed a general bluish color in the back, that made to him evident when the bird clean up the chest, the tail was long but wide; near it an second individual was observed, appeared be the female or a juvenile, the patrons of this was colored dorsal leopard and ferruginous areas towards the back, but was not possible to observe more details due to the distance in which found to him and the position in the vegetation.

The identified bird as the bruising flew towards a tree of Jaguey (*Ficus sp.*) put to a few 300 m of the previous and later in fly heavy and with slow batters it flew above the canopy. It was out of reach of the view for a few 40 mins and turned to be descried while two Cuban Crow (*Corvus nasicus*) and a Broad-wing hawk attacked it in the air. It turned to put down near to the female or juvenile and after several minutes both flew together and they are not observed again during the day.

We collect snails shells samples depredated by those birds of prey .The almost totality of alimentary remainders collected under big trees that understand the arboreal emergent stratum they surpass the 10 meters of height, fundamentally composed for Mango tree (*Mangifera indica*), Santa Maria tree (*Calophyllum utile*), cupey (*Clusia rosea*), trumpetwood (*Cecropia schreberiana* Miq.), búcaro (*Erythrina poeppigiana*) and milky (*Sapium jamaicensis*), in plantations of coffee of shadow (*Coffea arabica*) and banana bears fruit (*Musa sp.*).

See:

<http://www.aba.org:80/bex/recipients/2009kite.html>

<http://birding.typepad.com:80/peeps/2009/12/cuban-kite-discovered-eastern-cuba.html>

