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Two Species of Mosquitoes Feed on Snail Kites in Florida

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SYKES, P. W., JR. 1984. The range of the Snail Kite and its history in Florida. Bull. Florida State Mus. 29. in press.

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Two species of mosquitoes feed on Snail Kites in Florida.—On 30 April 1969, while routinely checking the nesting progress of Snail Kites (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*) in eastern Conservation Area 2A of the Everglades, Broward County, Florida, I discovered that at one nest mosquitoes were having a blood meal on three nestlings 12 to 14 days old. At 0810, I collected several adult female mosquitoes while they were feeding on the exposed skin near the base of the birds' bills. The sky was clear at the time. The mosquitoes were identified at the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory at Vero Beach as *Anopheles crucians* and *A. walkeri*. No mosquitoes have previously been identified as parasites of the Snail Kite in Florida. Furthermore, these two culicids almost never feed in daylight, even when they are placed on a host on which they readily parasitize at night (H. W. Kale, II pers. comm.). A number of species of *Anopheles* mosquitoes are transmitters of avian and mammalian malaria parasites (Garnham, 1966. Malaria parasites and other Haemosporidia. Oxford, England, Blackwell Sci. Publ.; Greiner, E. C. et al. 1975. Distribution of the avian hematozoa of North America. Can. J. Zool. 53:1762-1787). Whether *R. sociabilis* is susceptible to avian malaria is not known. There are undoubtedly other species of mosquitoes in Florida that use Snail Kites as hosts, but they remain to be documented.

I express my appreciation to Hilda Lynn for identification of the mosquitoes and to Herbert W. Kale, II for making arrangements for the identifications.

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