

## TCWC 21957

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 31 \frac{-4(10)}{-6(10)} & 29 \frac{+8(56)}{+8(58)} & 31 \frac{+9(90)}{+8(87)} & 33 \frac{8+9(144)}{7+8(139)} \\
 31 \frac{-8(153)}{7+8(150)} & 29 \frac{6+7(162)}{4+5(156)} & 27 \frac{6+7(184)}{6+7(175)} & 25 \frac{5+6(232)}{4+5(233)} \\
 23 \frac{+4(258)}{} & 24 & & 
 \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 31 \frac{7+8(7)}{6+7(7)} & 29 \frac{+9(60)}{+7(63)} & 31 \frac{+8(98)}{} & 32 \frac{-7(133)}{} \\
 31 \frac{6+7(146)}{6+7(147)} & 29 \frac{7+8(156)}{5+6(155)} & 27 \frac{5+6(167)}{5+6(165)} & 25 \frac{5+6(195)}{4+5(198)} \quad 23
 \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 31 \frac{6+7(8)}{?} & 29 \frac{+7(52)}{+6(51)} & 31 \frac{+7(87)}{?} & 33 \text{ -?} \quad 31 \frac{-6(127)}{3+4(131)} \\
 29 \frac{6+7(143)}{6+7(144)} & 27 \frac{3+4(165)}{6+7(166)} & 25 \frac{4+5(212)}{?} & 23
 \end{array}$$

Thus the Bay Island populations of *Elaphe flavirufa* have a higher maximum number of dorsal scale rows than do mainland populations, at least one higher, and the posterior minimum is also higher (except for *E. f. phaescens*, which have a posterior minimum of 23 to 25). Duellman (1965) discussed three additional specimens of *E. f. phaescens* from Yucatán but neglected to mention the number of dorsal scale rows.

The mainland subspecies of *Elaphe flavirufa* are distinguished from one another by a combination of color and pattern characteristics, ventral numbers, condition of the preocular, and numbers of dorsal scales. Thus *E. f. flavirufa*, *E. f. phaescens*, and *E. f. matudai* can be distinguished from one another by color and pattern, but *E. f. pardalina* is indistinguishable from *E. f. flavirufa* on this basis and is differentiated instead by numbers of preoculars and ventrals. *E. f. polysticha* is also like *flavirufa* and *pardalina* in color and pattern and is distinguished from both by yet another character, the number of dorsal scale rows. We believe that recognizing these nominal subspecies unduly simplifies the variational picture and suggest that a revision of the species *Elaphe flavirufa* will further demonstrate this interpretation.

The Bay Island *flavirufa* are obviously most closely related to that segment of the species patterned with light reddish-brown, black-