

**CINNAMON-BREASTED TODY-TYRANT** *Hemitriccus cinnamomeipectus* V<sup>9</sup>

*This rare tyrant-flycatcher is confined to northern Peru and immediately adjacent Ecuador, where it is known from just four localities, and inhabits humid ridge-top elfin forest at 1,700-2,200 m.*

**DISTRIBUTION** The Cinnamon-breasted Tody-tyrant (see Remarks 1) is known from just the following four localities in Zamora-Chinchipe province, southern Ecuador, and Cajamarca, Amazonas and San Martín departments, northern Peru:

**Ecuador** (*Zamora-Chinchipe*) near Chinapinza, 4°00'S 78°27-28'W, at 1,700 m in the Cordillera del Condor, where three specimens (in ANSP and MECN) were taken in September 1990 (Krabbe 1992);

**Peru** (*Cajamarca*) above San José de Lourdes, 5°02'S 78°51'W, Cordillera del Condor, where a male and female (type and holotype) were taken in July 1976; (*Amazonas*) 12-20 km by trail east of La Peca Nueva, c.5°34'S 78°17'W, Cordillera de Colán, where a female was collected in June 1978; and (*San Martín*) Abra Patricia (see Remarks 2), 5°46'S 77°42'W, near the border with Amazonas, where four birds were collected in August 1976 (all records and coordinates from Fitzpatrick and O'Neill 1979), with 3-4 birds seen at the last locality in August 1989 (B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1991). It has not been reported further south-east in San Martín (Davis 1986).

**POPULATION** It was given the status "rare" by Parker *et al.* (1982), although a substantial population presumably exists along the ridge crests of the Cordillera del Condor. With 3-4 birds seen near Abra Patricia in August 1989 (B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1991), whence come four specimens taken in 1976 (see above), the species is presumably not uncommon within its specialized habitat.

**ECOLOGY** The Cinnamon-breasted Tody-tyrant inhabits mossy stunted (elfin) forest on isolated mountain ridges east of the main Andean chain at elevations ranging from 1,700 to 2,200 m (Fitzpatrick and O'Neill 1979, Krabbe 1992: see under Long-whiskered Owllet *Xenoglaux loweryi* for details of the vegetation near Abra Patricia). Most specimens were mist-netted in the dense lower strata of the cloud-forest interior, although one appeared to be associated with a small mixed flock containing antbirds and warblers, in which it foraged with quick sallies, gleaning prey from nearby foliage, about 1.5-2 m off the ground in forest undergrowth (Fitzpatrick and O'Neill 1979). In August 1989 near Abra Patricia, B. M. Whitney (*in litt.* 1991) recorded a number of birds on a low ridge where the vegetation consisted of dense thickets 4-5 m tall with much bamboo and emergent palms: the birds foraged on their own at 0.5-2.5 m above the ground, and generally made darting, upward-directed sally-gleans (usually less than 0.5 m), returning to a different perch each time. A bird taken in Ecuador sang somewhat hidden in the vegetation 1.5 m above the ground, 0.5 m below the canopy, and its songposts suggested a territory no more than 15 m long and only a few metres wide (Krabbe 1992). All Peruvian specimens were collected between 25 June and 27 August of two different years: four of the seven adults had active gonads, one was in the late stage of moulting remiges, two were moulting outer rectrices, only one was in body moult; these data, together with the presence of a bird in juvenile plumage taken on 27 August, suggest that the birds were near the end of their breeding season (Fitzpatrick and O'Neill 1979). A singing male responded vigorously to playback of its song on 12 September (NK).

**THREATS** The absence of the similar Black-throated Tody-tyrant *Hemitriccus granadensis* in Cordillera del Condor suggests competition with that species (NK), and only near Abra Patricia have both been recorded (Fitzpatrick and O'Neill 1979, Davis 1986). The vegetation on these inaccessible ridge-tops appears to be relatively untouched and safe from the threat of deforestation (see under Long-whiskered Owllet).

**MEASURES TAKEN** None is known.

**MEASURES PROPOSED** Further study is needed on many of the elfin forest ridge-tops in this area, to determine the distributional status and population size of this rare species. Any conservation initiatives should be integrated into proposals presented for those species mentioned below. Although the habitat is at present under little apparent threat, a protected area, perhaps in the Cordillera del Condor or Cordillera de Colán, would help to guarantee the survival of this species and many other montane forest endemics. A number of species restricted to north-central and northern Peru have been recorded at the same localities as the present species, e.g. Long-whiskered Owlet, Royal Sunangel *Heliangelus regalis*, Russet-mantled Softtail *Thripophaga berlepschi* (see relevant accounts), and Pale-billed Antpitta *Grallaria carrikeri*, Bar-winged Wood-wren *Henicorhina leucoptera*, Rufous-browed Hemispingus *Hemispingus rufosuperciliaris* (see Remarks under Masked Mountain-tanager *Buthraupis wetmorei*) and Rusty-tinged Antpitta *Grallaria przewalskii* (NK). Many of these species may be found to occur further south in the Río Abiseo National Park, for which see Remarks under Yellow-browed Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus huallagae*.

**REMARKS** (1) This bird appears to form a superspecies in a relict group with two other threatened flycatchers (see Remarks under Kaempfer's Tody-tyrant *Hemitriccus kaempferi*). There is a sighting of what may be a fourth member of this group from Páramo de Tamá in western Venezuela on 2 January 1984 (C. S. Balchin verbally 1989). (2) The Abra Patricia locality is presumably the same as the type-locality of Long-whiskered Owlet, 10 km north-east of Abra Patricia (= Pardo de Miguel: Stephens and Traylor 1983), as the coordinates given coincide precisely with this (see relevant account).