

*This rare cloud-forest species was until recently known from just four specimens collected in or before 1946 on Cerro Tatamá, on the Pacific slope of the West Andes, Colombia, and although threatened by forest destruction, records during 1992 show that a population still exists some 40 km north of this area.*

**DISTRIBUTION** The Gold-ringed Tanager was until recently known from just four specimens taken on three occasions in or before 1946, in the vicinity of Cerro Tatamá, at the boundary of Risaralda, Chocó and Valle departments on the Pacific slope of the West Andes, Colombia. These specimens come from the following localities (coordinates from Paynter and Traylor 1981): Cerro Tatamá (5°00'N 76°05'W), where the type (an adult male) was collected at 2,040 m during October 1909 (Hellmayr 1910a); on the Cartago–Nóvita trail, near Cerro Tatamá, where a male and female (in AMNH) were collected at 2,195 m in December 1911 (Chapman 1917a); and La Selva (4°55'N 76°09'W; Risaralda department *contra* Ridgely and Tudor 1989), on the north-west slope of Cerro Tatamá, where a female (in ANSP) was collected at 2,135 m in January 1946 (Meyer de Schauensee 1948-1952). The bird remained unrecorded until May–June 1992, when a population was found on the mountain ridge of Alto de Pisones, 24 km north-west of Mistrató, Risaralda (i.e. c.40 km north of Cerro Tatamá), between 1,600 and 1,800 m (F. G. Stiles *in litt.* 1992).

**POPULATION** M. Pearman (*in litt.* 1990) unsuccessfully searched the south-west slope of Cerro Tatamá (in suitable habitat at correct altitudes) during August 1987, concluding that the bird at best must be rare, and scarcer than the Black-and-gold Tanager *Buthraupis melanochlamys* with which it is sympatric but which may occur at slightly lower altitudes (F. G. Stiles *in litt.* 1992; see relevant account, also Ecology). However, at Alto de Pisones (c.40 km north of Cerro Tatamá, and near Mistrató) the species was found to be abundant, with numerous individuals seen daily between the end of May and beginning of June 1992: birds were seen in pairs and post-breeding family groups, and six were mist-netted with a further three (male, female and juvenile) collected (F. G. Stiles *in litt.* 1992).

**ECOLOGY** On Cerro Tatamá, this tanager has been recorded between 2,040 and 2,195 m (see Distribution), inhabiting humid, mossy cloud-forests (Hilty and Brown 1986; see also Chapman 1917a). At Alto de Pisones (from 28 May to 8 June 1992), the species was found to be numerous, but restricted to the ridges between 1,600 and 1,800 m (never occurring lower), in an area of dense cloud-forest extending from the ridge-tops (c.2,000 m) down to 1,400 m and lower, although the character of the forest changed to a more subtropical type below c.1,500 m (F. G. Stiles *in litt.* 1992). Birds were seen in pairs and post-breeding family groups, often associating with mixed-species flocks, and were seen feeding at *Clusia* and *Miconia* (F. G. Stiles *in litt.* 1992). Although the Black-and-gold Tanager was seen at the same site, these were generally found between 1,400 and 1,600 m (see equivalent section under that species), and were usually not associated with the same mixed flocks as the present species in the zone of overlap (at c.1,600 m) (F. G. Stiles *in litt.* 1992). The Gold-ringed Tanager had apparently just finished breeding by the beginning of June 1992 (no singing was heard; see Population); thus the breeding season seems to coincide with that of the Black-and-gold Tanager (F. G. Stiles *in litt.* 1992). The two birds taken in December 1911 (in AMNH) were not in breeding condition.

**THREATS** S. L. Hilty (*in litt.* 1986) cited deforestation, colonization and mining activities as potential threats to this species. In 1987, M. Pearman (*in litt.* 1990) found evidence of tree-felling inside the forest on the south-west slope of Cerro Tatamá (within the national park). The slopes of Cerro Tatamá are apparently much more deforested than the area around Alto de Pisones, where a significant tract of forest is almost virgin above 1,500 m, with small clearings along the river bottoms between 1,200 and 1,400 m (F. G. Stiles *in litt.* 1992), but this entire area appears otherwise to have suffered from widespread deforestation.

**MEASURES TAKEN** In 1987, the area surrounding the type-locality was declared the Tatamá National Park, 51,900 ha (Hernández-Camacho *et al.* undated; but see Threats).

**MEASURES PROPOSED** Surveys at Alto de Pisones and more generally in the Mistrató area are essential to determine the status of the bird and its habitat there: this area is apparently suitable for a reserve (being important for the Black-and-gold Tanager, and critical for the present species), and the Corporación Autónoma Regional de Risaralda (CARDER) has been informed to this effect (F. G. Stiles *in litt.* 1992). Protection of this seemingly significant tract of virgin forest must be of the highest priority. Systematic searches for both this species and Black-and-gold Tanager are urgently needed within the Tatamá National Park in order to determine the current status and ecological requirements of both birds there. It must also be a priority to prevent any deforestation from encroaching onto the lower (c.2,000 m) slopes of the park, as these areas are presumably the most important for this species. Extension of the park to provide an effective buffer-zone to the lowest areas of cloud-forest (above c.1,000 m) would also be advantageous to both Gold-ringed and Black-and-gold Tanagers. The threatened Multicoloured Tanager *Chlorochrysa nitidissima* and Red-bellied Grackle *Hypopyrrhus pyrohypogaster* have both been recorded in Tatamá National Park, and near to the Mistrató area (at Siató and Pueblorrico), and hence any conservation action in this region should also consider their needs (see relevant accounts).