

The restricted range (chiefly the upper Marañón valley of northern Peru) and restricted habitat (chiefly riparian woodland, under great pressure) conspire to render this already fairly uncommon pigeon vulnerable; it needs to be surveyed and studied.

DISTRIBUTION The Peruvian Pigeon is endemic to a small area of north-central Peru almost entirely within the upper Marañón valley in the departments of Cajamarca and Amazonas, with one record (the first in the following list) from Piura and two (the last) from La Libertad. Records (coordinates from Stephens and Traylor 1983) are from: km 21 on the Olmos–Bagua road, one bird in June 1987 (M. Pearman *in litt.* 1989); San Felipe, 5°46'S 79°19'W, October 1924 (two specimens in AMNH); Perico, near Bellavista, 5°15'S 78°45'W, September 1916 (Bangs and Noble 1918, Hellmayr and Conover 1942) and July/August 1923 (five specimens in AMNH); Bellavista, 5°37'S 78°39'W, 1950s (Dorst 1957a); Hacienda Morerilla, c.5°38'S 78°23'W, April 1955 (Dorst 1957a,b); Bagua, 5°40'S 78°31'W, 1950s (Dorst 1957a); from Abra de Porculla east to 5 km before Jaen on the Olmos–Marañón road, c.5°51'S 79°31'W, 1970s (Krabbe 1979); between Pedro Ruíz and Chachapoyas, 6°10'S 77°54'W, 1970s (Krabbe 1984, from whom coordinates are derived); Hacienda Limón, 6°50'S 78°05'W, October 1933 (Bond 1955; specimen in ANSP); Balsas, 6°50'S 78°01'W, undated (Hellmayr and Conover 1942); Malca, 7°35'S 78°09'W, April 1894 (Salvin 1895, Baron 1897; specimen in AMNH; see Remarks 1); Chagual, 7°50'S 77°38'W, 1,050 m, August 1979 (two specimens in LSUMZ); Viña (= Viñas), Huamachuco, 7°57'S 77°38'W, March 1894 and February/March 1895 (Salvin 1895, Godman 1899).

POPULATION The first judgement of the status of this pigeon was by Bangs and Noble (1918) who, following an expedition within its range in 1916, considered it “apparently rare in northwestern Peru, as only one or two small flocks were seen”. Dorst (1957b) judged it uncommon in the “humid forests” of the region. Parker *et al.* (1982) classified it as “fairly common” within its range, but this referred to a relatively small, inaccessible portion of the upper río Marañón around Balsas and in the valley bottom east of Huamachuco (TAP). The species is now quite scarce in the heavily populated northern part of its range, as around Jaen and Bagua (Chica and Grande); at Balsas small groups (3–6) and singles were seen in riparian woods and nearby trees around small ranches in 1975 (TAP).

ECOLOGY The habitat of the Peruvian Pigeon is riparian forest and adjacent (probably seasonally) dry forest on the steep slopes of the upper río Marañón valley (TAP; see Remarks 2). At Balsas, this species was observed primarily in tall trees (especially large willows *Salix humboldtiana* and pepper trees *Schinus molle*) along the riverbanks, the open forest of the slopes above being dominated by a *Ceiba* sp. and a variety of smaller leguminous trees such as *Acacia* and probably *Prosopis* (TAP). Similarly, birds encountered in 1916 “frequented the banks of a deep river valley” (Bangs and Noble 1918). Baron (1897) described Hacienda Malca as having low brushwood and cacti on the hills, and willow and pepperwood in the canyons; presumably, from the two foregoing sentences, the pigeon was found in the trees of the canyon. Elevations for the species include 850 m (at Balsas: Stephens and Traylor 1983), 1,700 m (at Viñas), 1,800 m (at San Felipe), 2,000 m (at Hacienda Limón) and 2,400 m (at Malca) (sources as in Distribution). Little has been recorded about food, save that three of four skins in BMNH are labelled (by O. T. Baron) “Food: coca seeds” (see Remarks 3), or breeding, save that a bird collected in April was juvenile (Dorst 1957b).

THREATS The gradual degradation and loss of riparian and dry forest habitats in the upper Marañón valley must represent a serious threat to a species confined to such a small geographic area (TAP). Whether this species suffers from hunting is not known, but the fact that birds in 1916 were “very shy” (Bangs and Noble 1918) suggests it then did.

MEASURES TAKEN None is known.

MEASURES PROPOSED This species urgently requires a full survey with a careful evaluation of the extent of and threats to its habitat, and any other pressures it may be experiencing, such as hunting. Some of this work could be part of a broader investigation of the status and ecology of the threatened endemic birds of the upper Marañón valley, such as Yellow-faced Parrotlet *Forpus xanthops*, Marvellous

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Spatuletail *Loddigesia mirabilis* and Grey-winged Inca-finch *Incaspiza ortizi*, the threatened non-endemic Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner *Hylocryptus erythrocephalus*, Slaty Becard *Pachyramphus spodiurus* and Grey-breasted Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus griseipectus* (see relevant accounts) plus endemics or near-endemics such as Chestnut-backed Thornbird *Phacellodomus dorsalis*, Great Spinetail *Siptornopsis hypochondriacus* (near-threatened), Marañón Spinetail *Synallaxis maranonica*, Marañón Crescent-chest *Melanopareia maranonica*, Marañón Thrush *Turdus maranonicus*, Little Inca-finch *Incaspiza watkinsi*, Buff-bridled Inca-finch *I. laeta* and Buff-bellied Tanager *Thlypopsis inornata* (ICBP 1992, Crosby *et al.* in prep., TAP; see Remarks 4).

REMARKS (1) Salvin (1895) incorrectly wrote Malea for Malca; and while he understood that Baron (1897) intended by “Malca, Cajabamba” to qualify the position of the first by reference to the second, Peters (1937) mistook them for two separate localities for the species. (2) Dorst (1957b) treated the pigeon as a bird of “humid forest”, which he characterized as denser, taller and at lower elevations than dry forest in the same region. (3) At Viña, Baron (1897) reported a large pigeon feeding on the ripe seeds of the coca plant, gorging itself to such an extent as to burst its crop when falling from a tree after being shot, but that the crops were always empty in birds shot before 08h00. Given what he recorded on the BMNH labels of the Peruvian Pigeon, it seems likely this was the species intended in this passage. (4) Current insurgency renders the region in question problematic; however, researchers should be poised to conduct biological inventories and investigations as soon as peace is restored.