

This poorly known tinamou is endemic to forested foothills in the border region in Darién province, Panama, and Chocó department, Colombia, where it has been recorded on just a small number of occasions. Although the species may be safe within the Darién National Park, Panama, suitable forest in Colombia is disappearing.

DISTRIBUTION The Chocó Tinamou is known from just two areas, one in easternmost Darién on the border of Panama and Colombia, the other in central Chocó department, north-west Colombia.

Panama Records of this species are restricted to the slopes of Cerros de Quía (7°35'N 77°27'W), which form the central part of the border between Colombia and Panama, at the southern end of Cerro Pirre (Haffer 1975, Wetmore *et al.* 1984). Two specimens (male and female) were collected in February and March 1970 on Cerros de Quía near a trail leading down to the río Mono: the bird was also found more generally on the steep slopes of the higher ridges in this area (Wetmore *et al.* 1984). More recently, the species was believed heard on the slopes of Cerro Pirre, above Cana, although this has not been confirmed with specimens or sightings (Ridgely and Gwynne 1989).

Colombia The type and one other specimen were taken during June–July 1912 at Baudó: Baudó (= Pizarro, 4°48'N 77°22'W) is at sea level, and the specimens were taken at 450 m, apparently on the río Baudó in the Serranía de Baudó (c.6°00'N 77°05'W) (Chapman 1917a, Paynter and Traylor 1981, Hilty and Brown 1986; coordinates from Paynter and Traylor 1981). There have apparently been no further records from Colombia.

POPULATION Nothing is known about the population of the Chocó Tinamou in Colombia: however, in Cerros de Quía, Panama, Wetmore *et al.* (1984) found it fairly common on the steep slopes of the higher ridges, noting that birds were heard regularly but seen only occasionally (usually as they rose in rapid flight). Ridgely and Gwynne (1989) suggested that the species is “apparently uncommon to rare”.

ECOLOGY This tinamou is apparently one of humid primary forest (in the tropical zone) on foothill slopes, records coming from 300 to 760 m (Wetmore *et al.* 1984, Blake 1977). Wetmore *et al.* (1984) heard birds regularly during February and March, and the type-specimen (a female), collected in June–July, is apparently an immature, both facts suggesting that like many species in this region breeding occurs between March and June (Haffer 1975).

THREATS The forest in Darién, on the border of Panama and Colombia (including Cerros Pirre and de Quía) is seemingly mostly unaffected by agricultural or logging activities (CNPPA 1982), and in the Serranía de Baudó there are still large expanses of forest (A. J. Negret *in litt.* 1987). However, both the Colombian side of the border and the Serranía de Baudó (especially around Ensenada Utría) have been identified as the having the highest conservation priority (within the Colombian Chocó) owing to the incursion of roads encouraging settlement, and by timber companies causing further deforestation (IUCN TFP 1988a).

MEASURES TAKEN In Panama, the Darién National Park (597,000 ha), covers about 80% of the border area with Colombia and includes the Cerro Tacarcuna massif (CNPPA 1982, Ridgely and Gwynne 1989). In Colombia, Los Katíos National Park (72,000 ha) covers areas along the border (CNPPA 1982), although the bird has not been recorded there; and Ensenada Utría National Park (c.50,000 ha) protects some areas of the Serranía de Baudó (IUCN TFP 1988a), although again it is unknown whether the Chocó Tinamou occurs in the immediate area (for further details see equivalent section under Speckled Antshrike *Xenornis setifrons*).

MEASURES PROPOSED Where possible, efforts on behalf of this species should seek to address the needs of the other threatened birds in this area, namely Speckled Antshrike and Baudó Oropendola

Threatened birds of the Americas

Psarocolius cassini (details concerning the conservation of the threatened and endemic birds in this area are in the equivalent section under Speckled Antshrike).