

This endemic to Colombia has a very restricted and fragmented distribution in all three Andean ranges, and may be declining further in response to continuing forest clearance.

DISTRIBUTION The Turquoise Dacnis is known from a small number of localities on the western and eastern slopes of the West Andes, and the western slopes of the Central and East Andes, Colombia. Coordinates here are from Paynter and Traylor (1981), and localities are treated from approximately west to east.

Valle Records are from the Pacific slope of the West Andes as follows: near Cisneros (3°47'N 76°46'W; at c.300 m on the right bank of the río Dagua) (Carriker 1955a); Juntas (3°46'N 76°45'W; on the left bank of the río Dagua), where a male (in AMNH) was collected at 365 m during 1904 (Meyer de Schauensee 1948-1952); Jiménez (c.3°45'N 76°45'W; evidently adjacent to the previous locality), where a male (in BMNH) was collected at 885 m in October 1907; Pavas (3°41'N 76°35'W; at 1,350 m), near the headwaters of the río Dagua, where a male was collected in July 1918 (Carriker 1955a, Hilty and Brown 1986); La Cumbre (3°39'N 76°33'W; at 1,580 m), also near the headwaters of the río Dagua, whence come a male and female (in CM) taken in July 1918 (Carriker 1955a); and, on the eastern slope of the West Andes, Bosque de Yotoco (3°52'N 76°33'W; 1,400-1,600 m on the western side of the upper río Cauca valley: Orejuela *et al.* 1979), where a male was seen during August 1979 (Hilty and Brown 1986).

Quindío The sole record is from the western slope of the middle Central Andes at Hacienda Pital (untraced, but apparently in the municipality of Calarcá at c.4°31'N 75°38'W), where a female (in ICN) was taken in August 1969.

Cundinamarca This dacnis has been recorded on the western side of the middle East Andes, where localities are as follows: near Bojacá, recently (F. G. Stiles *in litt.* 1992); Laguna de Pedropalo (c.4°45'N 74°24'W; at 2,010 m), recently (Hilty and Brown 1986, P. Kaestner *in litt.* 1992), and no more than 3 km from which birds were seen between 1975 and 1977 (LGN); near Tena (4°40'N 74°24'W; at 1,385 m), recently (P. Kaestner *in litt.* 1992); San Antonio de Tequendama (= San Antonio de Tena, 4°37'N 74°21'W), recently (F. G. Stiles *in litt.* 1992); Finca Rancho Grande (4°36'N 74°20'W: Munves 1975), where birds were observed between 1,700 and 2,200 m during 1972-1973 (Munves 1975); and El Baldío (= Cordillera de Baldío, 4°19'N 73°45'W), where a specimen (in AMNH) was taken in December 1912.

POPULATION Recent (post-1980) records are all from Cundinamarca, and even so the species is considered very rare and local (Hilty and Brown 1986, Ridgely and Tudor 1989). At Finca Rancho Grande, Munves (1975) noted that the species was scarce (i.e. "not seen every day and rarely more than three at once") at 1,700 m and was present in unknown abundance at 2,200 m: however, close by at Laguna de Pedropalo, it was found to be common (P. Kaestner *in litt.* 1992, L. M. Renjifo *in litt.* 1992; also LGN), with 1-5 birds recorded there on all visits by F. G. Stiles (*in litt.* 1992).

ECOLOGY Most records of this bird come from between 1,350 and 2,200 m, although there are three records from the río Dagua, Valle, at c.300 to 885 m (see Distribution). This species inhabits humid and lower montane forests, forest borders, and clearings with scattered trees and groves (Munves 1975, Ridgely and Tudor 1989), although it has also been recorded in coffee groves with shade-trees (LGN). The forest at Laguna de Pedropalo has been described as wetter than the surrounding patches of oak forest, but not mossy (P. Kaestner *in litt.* 1992), whereas the male seen at Bosque de Yotoco was seen on mossy branches and at bromeliads (Hilty and Brown 1986). The Turquoise Dacnis is a bird of the canopy and subcanopy, where it has been observed following a mixed tanager-honeycreeper feeding flock (Hilty and Brown 1986, P. Kaestner *in litt.* 1992), and (at Laguna de Pedropalo) has frequently been recorded visiting isolated fruiting trees in pasture near to forest (L. M. Renjifo *in litt.* 1992). The stomach contents of one individual was found to consist of fruit, and a male in breeding condition was taken in early August in Cundinamarca (Hilty and Brown 1986).

THREATS The Turquoise Dacnis has become very rare and local due to the great extent of deforestation on the lower slopes of the Andes within its range (Ridgely and Tudor 1989). In the río Bogotá valley, almost the entire area, on both sides of the river, was formerly covered with humid forest, but this has now been converted into fincas for livestock and coffee, with numerous small towns and weekend cottages being built (Munves 1975). On hillsides too steep for human exploitation there are remnant stands of humid forest, and in the area separating the ríos Bogotá and Subía considerable stands of thick secondary humid forest now exist (this area has been cultivated for at least 100 years) (Munves 1975). Although recorded from secondary habitats (see Ecology), it is unknown whether the species can sustain viable populations in such areas.

MEASURES TAKEN The Turquoise Dacnis has been recorded within the 600 ha Bosque de Yotoco Reserve (Areas Protegidas 1989), but is not known to occur in any other protected area. However, localities along the río Dagua are just north of Los Farallones de Cali National Park (150,000 ha) (CNPPA 1982; Hernández Camacho *et al.* undated), and the species may well occur there.

MEASURES PROPOSED The precise ecological requirements, especially the extent to which primary forest areas are required to maintain viable populations, are essentially unknown for this species, and urgently need assessment. However, the priority must be the protection of Laguna de Pedropalo and adjacent oak forests, where the Turquoise Dacnis is sympatric with a number of other threatened species (see equivalent section under Black Inca *Coeligena prunellei* for details), and which has already been the subject of a recent initiative from some environmental groups in Bogotá (LGN). Surveys are needed within the Los Farallones de Cali National Park to discover whether this species is present; in Bosque de Yotoco Reserve and the Laguna de Pedropalo area to determine its status there; and in surrounding areas where suitable remnant forest patches still remain. The two protected areas (mentioned above) are important for up to seven other threatened species, the details of which (including other proposals), are given in the equivalent section under Multicoloured Tanager *Chlorochrysa nitidissima*.