

*This little known jacamar appears to be patchily distributed along the east slope of the Andes throughout Ecuador (one site in Colombia) in humid subtropical forest, a biome seriously at risk of clearance by farmers.*

**DISTRIBUTION** The Coppery-chested Jacamar is recorded from a single site in southernmost Colombia and through the eastern Andes slopes of Ecuador. A record from lowland Amazonian Brazil (see Remarks) is not accepted here, but the species may well eventually be found in northern Peru (TAP). Unless otherwise stated, coordinates below are from Paynter and Traylor (1977, 1981).

**Colombia** The only records are four specimens taken at El Carmen, 0°40'N 77°10'W (labels in FMNH say "pipeline"), Nariño department (on the border with Putumayo), at 1,525 m, 2-9 December 1970 (not 1971 as in Hilty and Brown 1986) (Fitzpatrick and Willard 1982).

**Ecuador** Records, roughly north to south but by province, are from: (*Napo*) km 109 on the Lago Agrio–Baeza road, 1,000 m, July 1976 (two specimens in DMNH); (*Tungurahua*) Ambato, 1°15'S 78°37'W, 1896 (specimen in AMNH); Machay, 1°24'S 78°16'W, on west bank of río Pastaza, and nearby at Hacienda Mapoto, mid-1880s (Taczanowski and von Berlepsch 1885); (*Morona-Santiago*) Macas, 2°19'S 78°07'W, 1,050 m, December 1939 (specimen in AMNH, with two undated others labelled "Macas region" and a fourth, also undated, labelled "Macas-Pitaloma, río Upano" at 1,000-1,200 m; also Chapman 1926); "Yapitya" on the Logroño–Yaupi trail, west slope of the Cordillera de Cutucú, 1,525 m, June 1984 (Robbins *et al.* 1987; specimen in ANSP); (*Zamora-Chinchipe*) Cumbaratza, 3°56'S 78°51'W, 950 m, August 1965 (two specimens in MCZ); Zamora, 610 m, October 1913 (specimens in AMNH, ANSP, MCZ); (*Loja*) the Loja–Sabanilla area by the Loja–Zamora road, 1,500-1,700 m, recently (Bloch *et al.* 1991); the río Bombuscara area, 4°08'S 78°58'W inside Podocarpus National Park and south-west of Zamora, 1,000 m, since the late 1980s (Bloch *et al.* 1991, whence coordinates).

**POPULATION** There are no details of numbers, but on the evidence under Distribution this species would appear to be rather thinly and patchily distributed, with a low overall population. However, at the one site at which it has been recorded inside Podocarpus National Park it is considered "fairly common", with "quite extensive patches of suitable habitat in the area" (Bloch *et al.* 1991).

**ECOLOGY** The elevation of records once suggested that this was a bird of the subtropical zone, the only one its family to be found beyond the tropical zone (Chapman 1926), and it certainly appears to have the highest range of any jacamar, with records from 610 to 1,700 m (see Distribution), although Hilty and Brown (1986) mentioned an upper range of 2,100 m and Paynter and Traylor (1977) described Ambato as in a warm valley of interandean tableland in the arid temperate zone at 2,600 m. The usual elevation seems to be rather narrow, at c.1,000-1,300 m (B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1992). Elsewhere, habitat has been given as upper cloud-forest (Fitzpatrick and Willard 1982) and humid lower montane forest (Hilty and Brown 1986). If there is indeed some patchiness in the species's distribution, it may be due to some specific habitat requirement, as yet unclear; however, it seems to prefer forest edge and second growth near forest, perching 1.5-4 m up, and darting out after flying prey like other members of the genus (B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1992). The June specimen from Cordillera de Cutucú (in ANSP) was perched 3 m up at the edge of a clearing in humid forest; its stomach held beetles and wasps, and its testes measured 5×2 mm. The July specimens from Napo province (in DMNH) had gonads 1 mm (female) and 4 mm (male). A nest with young was found at the Río Bombuscara Center, Podocarpus National Park, in December 1991, being a typical jacamar hole c.1.5 m up in a 2.5 m high earth bank created by the cutting of a trail through forest (C. Rahbek *in litt.* 1992).

**THREATS** The lower slopes of the eastern Andes, from 1,000 to about 2,500 m, are particularly seriously affected by peasant farmers in ever-increasing numbers, and by coffee and tea growers, and the forest of the region is disappearing at an alarming rate (TAP, B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1992).

**MEASURES TAKEN** Podocarpus National Park evidently protects a (possibly quite large) population of this species.

**MEASURES PROPOSED** The Coppery-chested Jacamar is one of several dozen bird species endemic to the lower montane (subtropical) zone in the Andes, and urgent measures are needed to establish major reserves within this zone in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia (TAP); any such reserve in Ecuador must seek to embrace a good population of this evidently uncommon species, and Podocarpus National Park merits further investigation to determine the number of individuals it harbours. Other species with similar ranges that need to be catered for in a reserve network include the threatened White-necked Parakeet *Pyrrhura albipectus* and Bicoloured Antvireo *Dysithamnus occidentalis* (see relevant accounts), plus Cinnamon Screech-owl *Otus petersoni*, Napo Sabrewing *Campylopterus villaviscensio*, Pink-throated Brilliant *Heliodoxa gularis*, Ecuadorian Piedtail *Phlogophilus hemileucurus*, Rufous-vented Whitetip *Urostitte ruficrissa*, Speckle-chested Piculet *Picumnus steindachneri*, Equatorial Greytail *Xenerpestes singularis*, Ecuadorian Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes gualaquizae* and Red-billed Tyrannulet *Zimmerius cinereicapillus* (ICBP 1992, Crosby *et al.* in prep.).

**REMARKS** The species has been listed from Arimã, rio Purus, Brazil (Peters 1948, Meyer de Schauensee 1966, 1982, Sibley and Monroe 1990), evidently based on a specimen (in CM) identified as *Galbula pastazae* and dated September 1922.