

*This antpitta is endemic to the west slope of the Central Andes, Colombia, where it is known from just 10 specimens taken from two cloud-forest areas. The species was last recorded in 1942, and as most of the original habitat within its range has now been destroyed, it must be considered severely threatened.*

**DISTRIBUTION** The Brown-banded Antpitta is known from the west slope of the Central Andes in Caldas and Quindío departments, Colombia, with localities (coordinates from Paynter and Traylor 1981) as follows: Laguneta (4°35'N 75°30'W, on the trail between Salento and Ibaqué), where the type-series of six specimens (in AMNH, ANSP, BMNH, MCZ) was collected at 3,140 m in August and September 1911 (also Chapman 1912), with two males (in ANSP) also taken there at 2,745 m during April 1942; above Salento (4°38'N 75°34'W), where a male (in AMNH) was taken at 2,745 m in November 1911 (Chapman 1917a referred to specimens collected in 1911 as taken from "at and near Laguneta"); and Sancudo (= El Zancudo; c.5°05'N 75°30'W, at c.2,400 m and 3 km east of Manizales), where an immature female (in CM) was taken in August 1918.

**POPULATION** This species was last recorded in 1942 when two specimens were collected at the type-locality, in the vicinity of which seven specimens had been collected in 1911: at that time the species was evidently not uncommon. Subsequently, despite intensive surveys both near Manizales (Uribe 1986) and Alto Quindío Acaime Natural Reserve (Renjifo 1988, 1991), the bird has not been observed: however, L. M. Renjifo (*in litt.* 1992) has suggested that there is adequate forest at suitable altitudes for the Brown-banded Antpitta, which almost certainly still survives there.

**ECOLOGY** Nothing is known of the natural history of this antpitta, but judging from Chapman (1917a), and the current plant cover above Salento and at Alto Quindío, its habitat must be humid montane forest or cloud-forest (with abundant epiphytes) where it presumably inhabits the undergrowth and forest floor (Hilty and Brown 1986, Renjifo 1991, LGN). It has been recorded from the temperate zone, at altitudes between 2,745 and 3,140 m (Paynter and Traylor 1981 gave the altitude of El Zancudo as 2,400 m, so it is possible that the bird occurred as low as this). Four birds taken at Laguneta in August and September (Chapman 1912), and the one from El Zancudo in August, were all immatures: specimens (in the museums noted above) taken between August and November were not in breeding condition.

**THREATS** The forest around Laguneta, the source of all but one of the specimens, is now mostly destroyed (Fjeldså and Krabbe 1990) apart from that in the Alto Quindío protected areas (see below) and, more generally, widespread deforestation in the Central Andes has caused the removal of much potentially suitable habitat (King 1978-1979, Hilty and Brown 1986: see equivalent section under Moustached Antpitta *Grallaria alleni*).

**MEASURES TAKEN** Several tracts of apparently suitable habitat for this species still remain in the Central Andes, and are protected within the boundaries of Los Nevados National Park (38,000 ha: CNPPA 1982; but see Threats under Rufous-fronted Parakeet *Bolborhynchus ferrugineifrons*) or smaller reserves such as Ucumarí Regional Park (Risaralda) and Alto Quindío Acaime Natural Reserve (Quindío), which in turn is surrounded by Cañon del Quindío reserve, both of which effectively protect part of the forest in this watershed (Renjifo 1991, L. M. Renjifo *in litt.* 1992, LGN: see equivalent section under Bicoloured Antpitta *G. rufocinerea*).

**MEASURES PROPOSED** The montane forest in this area is important for a number of threatened bird species, and the conservation of any remaining tracts of forest is of the highest priority. Surveys are urgently needed to determine exactly where such forest exists, especially around Salento, Quindío, which has previously supported seven other threatened species, for details of which see the equivalent section under Moustached Antpitta). A proposal to increase the protection of the Alto Quindío area has been put forward by ICBP and Fundación Herencia Verde, the details of which (including other threatened species found in this area) are given in the equivalent section under Bicoloured Antpitta, and any conservation plan should take into account the needs of all the sympatric threatened species. Meanwhile, a systematic search for this species should be instigated, aiming at its rediscovery and an assessment of its basic ecological requirements.