

*This rare parrot is confined to the upper montane forests on the eastern Andean slopes at 2,500-3,500 m in the southern half of Ecuador and immediately adjacent Peru, and is threatened by habitat destruction.*

**DISTRIBUTION** The Red-faced Parrot (see Remarks 1) is only known from a few records and a few localities in central and southern Ecuador and immediately adjacent Peru (Parker *et al.* 1985).

**Ecuador** Traceable records (see Remarks 2) in the country (north to south, most coordinates from Paynter and Traylor 1977) are from three provinces, as follows:

(*Morona-Santiago*) 2-4 birds seen on three occasions, October 1976, at Planchas and El Placer (a few kilometres upstream from Planchas) at 2,800-2,900 m in the upper río Palora valley, both on the east slope of the Andes in the new Sangay National Park (Ridgely 1980);

(*Azuay*) two birds in June 1978 near Laguna Llaviuco, Cajas National Recreation Area (Ridgely 1980), and 1-5 birds seen on 10 occasions in August/September 1987 at Río Mazan, adjacent to Cajas National Recreation Area, 2°52'S 79°08'W at 3,150-3,500 m, most at 3,200 m (King 1989; coordinates read from LANDSAT 1987 and IGM 1981); Gima at the headwaters of río Palmar, c.22 km east of Girón, and c.35 km south of Cuenca, 3°12'S 78°57'W, 1877 (in one case March) (two specimens in AMNH, BMNH; also Chapman 1926); four birds in July 1978 at "Pongo", 2,900 m, south-west of Girón (Ridgely 1980);

(*Loja*) small groups feeding on 9 and 10 May, and a flock of 16 roosting 10-11 May 1989 at 2,850-3,000 m between Selva Alegre and Manu, Chilla mountains, at 3°31'S and 79°22'W (Bloch *et al.* 1991), with 18 at Selva Alegre on 14 April 1992 (Toyne *et al.* in prep.); San Lucas, which is at 2,490 m in the pass between the Cordoncillo and Chilla mountains, 3°45'S 79°15'W, 1876 (Salvin 1876; specimen in BMNH); Acanama near San Lucas, Cordillera Cordoncillo, at 3°42'S 79°13'W, where local reports were confirmed when a group of c.20 were seen at 3,200 m in September 1991 (R. Williams verbally 1991; coordinates from Bloch *et al.* 1991); Cajanuma, Podocarpus National Park, at 4°05'S 79°10'W, where a pair was seen in February and the species heard in May 1989, at c.2,850 m (Bloch *et al.* 1991).

**Peru** Pairs were recorded in October 1977 and June 1978 on Cerro Chinguela at 2,530-2,960 m, Piura department, Peru (Parker *et al.* 1985), 5°07'S 79°23'W (Stephens and Traylor 1983), with a single bird there in August 1989 (B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1991).

**POPULATION** In Ecuador the species is very uncommon and local, all but two sightings being of 1-5 birds (see Distribution), while in Peru it is very rare, with only single pairs observed at the one locality known (Parker *et al.* 1985).

**ECOLOGY** The Red-faced Parrot inhabits very wet upper montane cloud-forest and low, open forest and shrubbier growth near the páramos at 2,500-3,500 m (Ridgely 1980, 1981a, Parker *et al.* 1985, J. R. King verbally 1988, Bloch *et al.* 1991). It typically flies 30-50 m above the forest (J. R. King verbally 1988, Bloch *et al.* 1991) in singles, pairs, or groups of four to five, rarely more (Ridgely 1980, 1981a, Parker *et al.* 1985, J. R. King *in litt.* 1988, Bloch *et al.* 1991).

The Black-winged Parrot *Hapalopsittaca melanotis*, observed in the yungas of Cochabamba, Bolivia, in October 1991, proved to be particularly fond of fruits of cloud-forest mistletoes of the genus *Gaiadendron*, with flocks of up to 50 individuals apparently wandering in search of areas with an abundance of these plants (J. Fjeldså verbally 1991); it may well be that the Red-faced Parrot has a similar preference. At Río Mazan, Ecuador, Red-faced Parrots perched conspicuously atop trees (*Podocarpus* aff. *sprucei*) (J. R. King verbally 1988). In the Chilla mountains in May the species was observed in forest 20-22 m tall, and foraged secretively 12-20 m up within dense canopy, once down to the undergrowth some 6 m up; the trees used for feeding were not identified, but were never *Podocarpus*, which is frequent in the area (Bloch *et al.* 1991). However, a study of birds between March and May 1992 revealed their use of the fruits of a *Miconia* sp., berries of a *Viburnum* sp., shoots, flowers and seeds of two *Weinmannia* spp. trees, the flowers and pods of a *Clethra* sp. (all these being mature trees some 25 m tall), and parts (not

specified) of two ericaceous trees, *Cavendishia bracteata* and *Disterigma alaternoides* (Toyne *et al.* in prep.).

At Río Mazan a pair was recorded on three occasions, 28-30 August 1987; over 9-16 September single birds were seen four times, and on 26 September a flock of five birds was seen (what was presumably the same flock was briefly glimpsed or heard on 25 and 27 September); despite intensive fieldwork by observers familiar with the call, no birds were recorded there from 28 September to 9 October (J. R. King *in litt.* 1988). These observations suggest that a pair bred there from August through the first three weeks of September and, after rearing three young, left the valley at the end of September (J. R. King *in litt.* 1988; also King 1989).

**THREATS** The Red-faced Parrot has declined seriously owing to widespread forest destruction (Ridgely 1981a). In the Chilla Mountains, where it has been found most numerous, forest clearance is severe at the elevations it inhabits, and what may be one of the last suitable forests there, a 4 km<sup>2</sup> patch, will, at the present rate of burning and felling, have disappeared in a few years (Bloch *et al.* 1991). The problems facing Podocarpus National Park are outlined in Threats under Bearded Guan *Penelope barbata*.

**MEASURES TAKEN** Sangay National Park, Cajas National Recreation Area and Podocarpus National Park, Ecuador, all hold small numbers of the species, at least seasonally (Ridgely 1980, J. R. King *in litt.* 1988, Bloch *et al.* 1991). At least at Cajas, remnant forest patches were constantly being whittled away in 1978 (Ridgely 1981a), but the adjacent Río Mazan area, where this parrot is also found, is now apparently effectively protected (see equivalent section under Violet-throated Metaltail *Metallura baroni*).

**MEASURES PROPOSED** An effort to protect the forest patch between Selva Alegre and Manu in the Chilla mountains should be made, to protect not only the present species and the Bearded Guan, which also has an especially dense population there (see relevant account), but also an unusually high diversity of other birds (Bloch *et al.* 1991). The need to assure the survival of this area, Podocarpus National Park and Cerro Chinguela is indicated in the equivalent section under Bearded Guan.

**REMARKS** (1) Although formerly considered to be a full species, *Hapalopsittaca pyrrhops* was treated as a race of the Rusty-faced Parrot *H. amazonina* by Peters (1937). We here restore it as a full species, a treatment advocated by Ridgely (1981a) and Graves and Uribe Restrepo (1989). (2) A young bird from the “upper Napo” (Ménégaux 1908) was considered likely to refer to this form (Chapman 1926); if correct, this record would extend the species's range into north-central Ecuador. The other problematic record

concerns the type-locality, Santa Rita (Salvin 1876), which could not be located by Paynter and Traylor (1977); there are two skins, collected by C. Buckley in 1880, in BMNH.