

This mysterious bird is known from the nineteenth-century type from south-east Minas Gerais, Brazil, and a 1941 sighting from adjacent Espírito Santo, and is likely to be extinct given the deforestation and the high level of ornithological coverage at the forested sites in the region.

DISTRIBUTION The Cherry-throated Tanager (see Remarks 1) is known only from the type-specimen, collected around the mid-nineteenth century at Muriaé, Minas Gerais (see Remarks 2), and from a flock of eight seen in the region of Jatiboca (Jatibocas, 20°05'S 40°55'W in Paynter and Traylor 1991), Espírito Santo, 900 m (see Remarks 3), on 8 August 1941 (Sick 1979d).

POPULATION The type-specimen was sent to C. Euler by J. de Roure, and Euler reported that in 30 years of collecting birds de Roure had no previous knowledge of the species, (Euler) adding that it was also unknown around Cantagalo in Rio de Janeiro (Cabanis 1870); in other words it was clearly recognized (in part simply because it is so distinctive and memorable a form, as expressed by Cabanis 1870) to be a rarity in Brazil even then. Apparently unrecorded for more than a century since it was described, the species was presumed extinct or at best probably close to extinction (King 1978-1979, Scott and Brooke 1985) at the very time that its rediscovery in 1941 (Sick 1979d) first came to light; however, another fifty-year period has passed since that second record and, by CITES criteria, the species could be considered extinct. If it survives, it can only be in very small numbers.

ECOLOGY The only available information is that the August 1941 sighting referred to a flock of eight birds in the canopy of montane forest, 900-1,000 m, and that they were not associated with other birds (Sick 1979d, 1985).

THREATS The whole of Rio de Janeiro state north-west of the rio Paraíba do Sul and adjacent parts of Minas Gerais have been extensively deforested, so that very few areas now exist that could still harbour a population of this species in its known range (LPG; see Measures Taken). The region in Espírito Santo where birds were seen once is now also deforested (Sick and Teixeira 1979; but see Measures Taken).

MEASURES TAKEN The Caparaó National Park lies between the two localities where the species was recorded and is the main conservation unit in the whole region, but forest there had already been disturbed by human activities before the park was created in 1961, so that almost all of it is secondary vegetation (IBAMA 1989). The small but well protected Augusto Ruschi (Nova Lombardia) Biological Reserve, lying much closer, approximately 30 km east of Jatiboca near Santa Teresa in Espírito Santo, has been frequently visited by observers since the 1970s, but the absence of records there suggests that it harbours no population of the species. The only other significant reserve close by the bird's known range is the Desengano State Park near Santa Maria Madalena, south of the rio Paraíba do Sul: the ornithological survey of this park is in progress (J. F. Pacheco *in litt.* 1987, 1991). The species is protected under Brazilian law (Bernardes *et al.* 1990).

MEASURES PROPOSED Fieldwork is needed to rediscover the bird and to provide information on its ecology and status. Any general ornithological work in the north of Rio de Janeiro, east of Minas Gerais and on the serras of Espírito Santo, including the only nature reserves in the region (see Measures Taken) and other areas where the species might be expected, should be extended to include searches to locate it as a matter of priority. Further collection of specimens should not be countenanced.

REMARKS (1) Cabanis (1870) placed *rourei* in *Nemosia* with confidence tempered by the view that it would have been “easier” to place it in a genus of its own, and it is clearly time that the type was re-examined to confirm or otherwise determine its true affinities. It was, however, seen by Hellmayr (1936), who called it “a very distinct species” and a “remarkable bird”, but who retained it in *Nemosia*. It was also seen by Stresemann (1954) and H. Sick (see notes below). It is remarkable that the species was not treated in Pinto (1944) nor in Meyer de Schauensee (1970; included in Appendix in 1982), and consequently it

was also absent from Dunning (1982). Its absence from Pinto (1952) is possibly a consequence of the confusion about the type-locality. (2) The attribution of the type-locality to Rio de Janeiro state by Hellmayr (1936), and hence Meyer de Schauensee (1966) and King (1978-1979), derives from the way the locality “Muriahie” was described to Cabanis (1870) as “a still little settled area on the left, therefore north, bank of the rio Paraíba do Sul”, no state being indicated: more exactly, however, Muriaé is situated on a left-bank affluent (the rio Muriaé) of the Paraíba do Sul, in south-east Minas Gerais; it is not itself on the Paraíba do Sul (*contra* Sick 1979d, 1985, Isler and Isler 1991). The words on the label of the type-specimen (in Berlin Museum) – “Brasilien Dr C. H. Euler S. Muriahe [Muriahie?], Nordufer der Rio Paraiba do Sul *Journ. Orn.* 18, 1870 459” – are in E. Stresemann's writing, the label certainly not being the original (H. Sick verbally 1986). The “S.” after Euler presumably stands for “Senior”. (3) According to Schubart *et al.* (1965: 97), Jatiboca lies on the margin of the rio Limoeiro, a tributary of the rio Santa Joana, near Itarana in the municipality of Itaguaçu. Sick (1985) called the place “Limoeiro-Jatiboca”, at 900-1,000 m. The two known localities are just over a degree apart in both longitude and latitude, and both positions are misplaced on the map in Isler and Isler (1987), giving the impression of a much wider separation of the sites than is the case.