

This tanager is confined to the arid region at the headwaters of río Inambari in south-eastern Peru, where it inhabits forest edge, riverine scrub and gardens in the subtropical zone. Although its small known distribution renders it vulnerable, it does not appear to be immediately threatened.

DISTRIBUTION The Green-capped Tanager (see Remarks) is known from four specimens taken at two localities and sightings at a third, all at the head of río Inambari (a tributary of río Madre de Dios), in Sandia province, Puno department, south-eastern Peru. Records (with coordinates, unless otherwise stated, from Schulenberg and Binford 1985) are from: Azalay (14°14'S 69°17'W; at 1,750 m: Stephens and Traylor 1983), c.13 km north-north-east of Sandia, where a specimen was taken in November 1960 (Schulenberg and Binford 1985); 2 km north-east of Sandia, where at c.2,175 m two specimens were collected, and additional sightings made in November 1980 (Schulenberg and Binford 1985); Sandia (14°17'S 69°26'W; at 2,180 m), where a specimen was collected in November 1960 (Schulenberg and Binford 1985); west side of Abra de Maruncunca (c.14°14'S 69°17'W; at c.2,000 m), c.20 km east of Sandia, where sightings were made in November 1980 (Schulenberg and Binford 1985). It may be found at similar elevations in other arid valleys in south-eastern Peru, but does not occur at Pampas de Heath, Madre de Dios, the nearest lowland site with a similar habitat (Schulenberg and Binford 1985).

POPULATION The species was reported to be fairly common near Sandia and west of Abra de Maruncunca in early November 1980 (Schulenberg and Binford 1985). However, despite some searching during a two-day visit in late December 1983, none was seen in the riverine scrub at Sandia, although a few birds may have been present (NK).

ECOLOGY The Green-capped Tanager inhabits semi-arid regions, in which it frequents riparian scrub, garden trees and forest-edge (Schulenberg and Binford 1985). It has been recorded between 1,750 and 2,180 m (see Distribution), but its true elevational range may be similar to that of its close relative the Scrub Tanager *Tangara vitriolina*, which occurs from 1,100 to 2,400 m (occasionally as low as 500 m) in western Colombia and northern Ecuador (Schulenberg and Binford 1985).

It typically occurs singly or in pairs, and may frequent fruiting trees in gardens (Schulenberg and Binford 1985), and like the Scrub Tanager probably also regularly picks up fallen fruit from the ground (NK). The stomachs of two specimens contained fruit pulp and seeds as large as 8x4 mm (Schulenberg and Binford 1985). The four specimens collected in November showed no excessive feather wear or moult: gonads were slightly enlarged in the two specimens for which there is data, and although these data are not conclusive, the fact that several forest-inhabiting *Tangara*, e.g. Saffron-crowned *T. xanthocephala*, Blue-and-black *T. vassorii* and Silvery Tanager *T. viridicollis*, were breeding at Abra de Maruncunca in November 1980 supports the likelihood that the Green-capped Tanager was also breeding at this time (Schulenberg and Binford 1985).

THREATS Despite the small extent of its known range, Schulenberg and Binford (1985) doubted that the species is in any immediate danger of extinction, and pointed out that because it appears to inhabit semi-open rather than forested regions (including the edges of cleared areas), it may actually be favoured by continued forest clearance.

MEASURES TAKEN None is known.

MEASURES PROPOSED Further study of the species will establish whether any conservation efforts are needed. Such studies should especially concentrate on the population size, and the extent to which a viable population can be supported in areas degraded by forest clearance: any reliance on primary habitat would render this species threatened (see Schulenberg and Binford 1985).

REMARKS The Green-capped Tanager is very similar to the Burnished-buff Tanager *T. cayana* and the Scrub Tanager; while it comes closest to the former geographically, it resembles the latter more in habitat

and elevational distribution, but which of the two is its nearer relative remains open to debate (Schulenberg and Binford 1985).