

This uncommon gamebird is known from two small areas of humid forest separated by almost 2,000 km, the northern subspecies *hershkovitzi* in the East Andes of Colombia chiefly at 1,400-1,500 m (status unknown), the nominate form only on the eastern Andean slope in Cuzco department, south-east Peru, at 600-1,400 m (where a sizeable population may be safe within Manu National Park).

**DISTRIBUTION** The Black Tinamou is represented by two subspecies confined to two widely disjunct areas (2,000 km apart), on the western slope of the East Andes at the head of the Magdalena valley, Huila department, Colombia, and at five localities along a 100 km stretch of the eastern Andean slope of Cuzco department, Peru. The few known sites (coordinates from Paynter and Traylor 1981, Stephens and Traylor 1983) are as follows:

**Colombia** (race *hershkovitzi*) near San Adolfo (1°37'N 75°59'W) on the río Aguas Claras (a tributary of the río Suaza), where three specimens (in FMNH) were taken at 1,400 and 1,500 m in June 1951 (also Blake 1953); and nearby in Cueva de los Guácharos National Park (c.1°35'N 76°00'W), where one was seen at 2,100 m in 1976 (Hilty and Brown 1986);

**Peru** (nominate *osgoodi*) Cordillera del Pantiacolla (c.12°35'S 71°15'W), where birds were recorded at 900-1,350 m in August, September and November 1985 (D. F. Stotz *in litt.* 1989); Tono (c.13°03'S 71°10'W), where one was heard in December 1985 (D. F. Stotz *in litt.* 1989); Consuelo (c.13°08'S 71°15'W), where birds were recorded almost daily in October and November 1981 between 1,100 and 1,400 m (D. F. Stotz *in litt.* 1989; also specimen in FMNH taken in November 1981); c.15 km east of Quincemil (13°16'S 70°38'W), an area of low ridges at 800-900 m in the Marcapata valley, where a bird was seen in December 1974 (TAP); and Cadena (formerly Hacienda Cadena at 13°24'S 70°43'W), in the Marcapata valley, where specimens (in AMNH, FMNH, LSUMZ, USNM and YPM) were collected between 600 and 1,200 m from 1949 to 1951 and in 1958 (also Conover 1949, Traylor 1952).

This species undoubtedly occurs in Manu National Park, as all three first-mentioned localities lie within 5 km of its boundary (D. F. Stotz *in litt.* 1989), on ridges that extend into the park (TAP). Undiscovered populations may exist locally in poorly known parts of the eastern Andean slope.

**POPULATION** Near San Adolfo, Colombia, this tinamou was perhaps not rare in June 1951 (T. S. Schulenberg *in litt.* 1989), although there is no available information on the present state of its habitat there. With only one recent record from Colombia, the species was considered "very rare" by Hilty and Brown (1986). In Peru, the bird was common at Cadena at least until 1958 (Traylor 1952: also seven specimens in LSUMZ and YPM, all collected in 1958), and at Consuelo near Manu National Park it was fairly common (recorded more or less daily) in 1981; however, it was found to be uncommon in the Cordillera del Pantiacolla in 1985 (D. F. Stotz *in litt.* 1989). Most habitat destruction in the species's Peruvian range occurs below 900 m, thus giving little reason to suggest that the population has declined (D. F. Stotz *in litt.* 1989).

**ECOLOGY** The Black Tinamou inhabits humid forest in the foothill tropical and upper tropical zones at 600 to 1,500 m, possibly higher in Colombia, from where there is a sight record at 2,100 m (Blake 1953, Parker *et al.* 1982, Hilty and Brown 1986; see also Distribution). At Consuelo, Peru, one was taken near a mossy ridge-top at 1,390 m; it responded to playback of its own voice, and had its stomach and crop full of nuts (FMNH label data). On a steep-sided ridge east of Quincemil, an individual was flushed from the ground in epiphyte-laden forest confined to the upper slopes and ravines of a semi-isolated, low mountain (TAP). Nothing further is known of its habits, although birds with active gonads have been taken in Peru in March, June and November (three specimens in FMNH and YPM), with a quarter-grown chick in February (specimen in FMNH). No date is given for the "clutch" of two eggs reported by Traylor (1952).

**THREATS** The species is almost certainly threatened by habitat destruction in Colombia, where most foothill forest on the western slope of the East Andes has been logged for agriculture (see Threats under

Moustached Antpitta *Grallaria alleni* and Red-bellied Grackle *Hypopyrrhus pyrohypogaster*). In Peru there is some habitat destruction in the part of its range outside Manu National Park, particularly below 900 m and along roads, but most of the forest is still intact (D. F. Stotz *in litt.* 1989), and there is extensive, undisturbed habitat to the north and south (TAP). The species is apparently hunted for food (Traylor 1952).

**MEASURES TAKEN** Although the Black Tinamou apparently occurs in Cueva de los Guácharos National Park in Huila, Colombia (9,000 ha, from 1,700 m up) (Hilty and Brown 1986, Hernández Camacho *et al.* undated), there is no evidence that it holds a viable population (for other threatened species known to occur in this park, see equivalent section under Moustached Antpitta). In Peru, such a population undoubtedly occurs in the large Manu National Park (1,530,000 ha) (D. F. Stotz *in litt.* 1989, IUCN 1992), and the species may well occur to the south in the recently established Tambopata-Condambo Reserve (1,480,000 ha: IUCN 1992).

**MEASURES PROPOSED** Satellite images of the foothill tropical and upper tropical zones along the entire Amazonian slope of the Andes should be analysed to assess the present extent of suitable natural habitat before any effective initiatives to protect this and the 100 (and more) other species of bird restricted to these zones can be proposed. A special effort to investigate the state of the habitat at the type-locality of the Colombian race should be undertaken, and protection of suitable remaining habitat must be encouraged (see also equivalent section for Moustached Antpitta). Increased protection for existing reserves in south-eastern Peru is essential, as is establishment of additional protected areas to the north and south. The recently proposed Alto Madidi National Park in northern La Paz, Bolivia (TAP), would encompass extensive areas of lower montane forest on outlying Andean ridges, the habitat of this and many additional species with very narrow elevational ranges (TAP). In addition to the biological importance of these forests, their value as watershed catchments is inestimable.