

Only known from the type-locality (though probably also Manu National Park) in the lowlands of Peru, this icterid may be genuinely rare and, if a riverine species, possibly at some risk of habitat loss.

DISTRIBUTION The Selva Cacique is only known from the type-locality in the lowlands of south-east Peru, where two specimens were secured at Balta, c.10°08'S 71°13'W (coordinates in Lowery and O'Neill 1965), in the valley of río Curanja, Loreto, on 23 July 1963 (specimen in LSUMZ) and on 22 March 1965 (Lowery and O'Neill 1965), with a "possible sighting" from Manu National Park (c.12°00'S 71°30'W; coordinates here and below from Stephens and Traylor 1983), Madre de Dios (Ridgely and Tudor 1989); the source of this latter record is unclear but Terborgh *et al.* (1984) referred to an "almost certain" record from Cocha Cashu Biological Station, at c.11°51'S 71°19'W, Manu National Park, where a bird was repeatedly flushed on 26 September 1981, and M. Kessler *in litt.* (1988) also observed a possible bird at an old arm of the río Manu, just beyond Manu village (12°15'S 70°50'W) on 29 July 1983.

POPULATION The few records suggest that the species is very rare, although this need not necessarily be so. The type-specimen was collected from a group of six individuals (which is the largest number ever observed) (Ridgely and Tudor 1989).

ECOLOGY The Selva Cacique apparently inhabits humid low-lying forests, such as are found at the type-locality (Parker *et al.* 1982); probably it is an arboreal bird occurring mostly at forest borders (Ridgely and Tudor 1989), but it appears to be restricted to riverine habitats in the region (TAP). One of the birds observed at Manu was flushed from open secondary woods near water (M. Kessler *in litt.* 1988), and the other was on the ground under a dense stand of *Heliconia* and bamboo near a stream (Terborgh *et al.* 1984). The type-specimen was likewise on the ground (apparently bathing in a pool along a stream), its five companions retreating into a *Heliconia* thicket when it was shot (Ridgely and Tudor 1989).

THREATS None is known, but if it is a riverine species then it may face loss of habitat in the same manner as that feared for the Rufous-fronted Antthrush *Formicarius rufifrons* (see Threats in relevant account).

MEASURES TAKEN The species has been reported from Manu National Park.

MEASURES PROPOSED The first requirement must be to identify one or more general areas in which some reasonable population exists; these will then need study to determine the species's ecological needs, which can be used to develop and implement further measures, if deemed necessary. The importance of planned and existing protected areas in south-east Peru is outlined in Measures Proposed and Remarks under Rufous-fronted Antthrush.