

This retiring bird of regrowth in natural forest clearings in the subtropical Andes of Colombia and Ecuador remains known from only three general areas, and has suffered substantial habitat loss in at least one.

DISTRIBUTION The Bicoloured (Western) Antvireo (see Remarks 1) is known from two areas of Colombia (nominate race) and one in Ecuador (race *punctitectus*), with very recent records from each country following many decades of “absence”.

Colombia Nominate *occidentalis* is known from four localities, listed here from north to south, the first in Valle and last three in Cauca in the vicinity of Cerro Munchique (coordinates from Paynter and Traylor 1981): Finca Hato Viejo, 2,200 m, headwaters of río Pance, Farallones de Cali, 3°22'N 76°45'W, November 1990 (adult female collected: H. Alvarez-López and G. Kattan *in litt.* 1991); “río Munchique, El Tambo”, 900 m (one female collected: Bond and Meyer de Schauensee 1940, Whitney 1992; see Remarks 2); La Costa (not located, possibly 10 km north of Cerro Munchique), 1,100-1,200 m (two birds collected, one [in ANSP] in October 1939: Gyldenstolpe 1941, Whitney 1992); Cocal, 1,200 m, 2°31'N 77°00'W, June 1911 (type-specimen collected: Cory and Hellmayr 1924, Whitney 1992).

Ecuador The subspecies *punctitectus* is known from the east side of the Andes in Napo province, localities (north to south; see Remarks 3) being: below Oyacachi, 0°10'S 78°07'W (three birds collected: Chapman 1926, Whitney 1992, two of them in AMNH dated January 1923; coordinates from Paynter and Traylor 1977); Baeza, reportedly (specimen in BMNH: Whitney 1992); lower Volcán Sumaco (one male collected in December 1923: Chapman 1926, specimen in AMNH), specifically some 40 km by road west-north-west of Loreto village in January 1990 (Whitney 1992).

POPULATION From the fact that only up to three individuals were ever collected at one site (see above) the Bicoloured Antvireo would appear to be relatively uncommon where it occurs. However, its rediscovery in Ecuador, 1990, involved the use of playback, and resulted in the observation of a moderate number of birds, indicating reasonable densities in the appropriate habitat (as gauged from Whitney 1992).

ECOLOGY In Colombia, altitudes range from 900 to 2,200 m, with birds being known (in Valle) or assumed (in Cauca) to have been taken in forest (see Threats). In Ecuador, altitudes of 500-1,000 m (Hilty and Brown 1986) are presumably based on the apparently erroneous localities given in the same source (see Remarks 3), and Whitney (1992) considered all records in the country stem from above 1,500 m (this is consistent with elevations given in Paynter and Traylor [1977] for the three accepted localities in Distribution), his own being from no lower than 1,675 m. All birds located by Whitney (1992) were along a narrow ridge cloaked in primary subtropical forest, but were only found in places such as tree-falls, landslips or other “light-gaps” where greater-than-average amounts of sunlight penetrated the canopy, creating a locally dense understorey 2-10 m in height; such growth was often dominated by woody plants and herbs with stems under 2 cm in basal width, with a patchy growth of herbs and ferns at floor level on a dense, uniform leaf-litter, and bamboo sometimes conspicuous (although the bird did not appear to be directly associated with it). Birds were encountered in such habitat as solitary individuals or pairs, and at that time of year (January) were quiet and secretive, moving from perch to perch through the understorey and gleaning arthropod prey from leaves and twigs (one foraging movement made every c.30 seconds) always within 2 m of the ground, mostly within 1 m, and occasionally by flipping leaves on the ground, but also often sally-gleaning over short (usually less than 2 m) distances; prey items observed included two small caterpillars, a small adult moth, a 2 cm katydid or mantid and a 4 cm cricket (Whitney 1992). There are no breeding data.

THREATS Whether habitat loss has greatly affected this species in Colombia is unclear, given the consideration in Measures Taken; the recent record from near Cali occurred during work on the effect of fragmentation of woodlots on species number and composition (G. Kattan verbally 1991). In Ecuador, however, most of the type-locality of the race *punctitectus* and much of the suitable habitat elsewhere within its small known range, with the exception of Volcán Sumaco and portions of Huacamayo Ridge, has been cleared (Whitney 1992). Moreover, the local human population on Sumaco has been increasing

in recent decades, most families clearing forest to grow naranjilla as a cash-crop, and steadily moving upslope towards the level at which the Bicoloured Antvireo occurs (B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1991).

MEASURES TAKEN The headwaters of the río Pance appear to be just outside Los Farallones de Cali National Park (see map in Hernández Camacho *et al.* undated), although it seems likely that this largely (ornithologically) unexplored park holds a population of this species. The position of at least two of the localities in Cauca as indicated in Paynter and Traylor (1977) suggests that they lie within the current Munchique National Park (see map in Hernández Camacho *et al.* undated). Volcán Sumaco possesses 100,045 ha of “protected forest” (IUCN 1992) which seems likely to harbour some birds; however, B. M. Whitney (*in litt.* 1991) found no evidence of protection of forest on Sumaco during his work on the species.

MEASURES PROPOSED Now that the voice and habitat of this species has been determined (see Ecology and Whitney 1992), it should be relatively simple to undertake searches in both Colombia and Ecuador to determine its distribution and status, especially within existing protected areas, notably Munchique National Park and Sumaco Protected Forest. It is worth noting that, despite comments made under Threats, Volcán Sumaco is mostly still pristine, with an intact corridor of habitats from the lowlands to above the treeline, and stands in an area of great biological richness, so that its full conservation would represent a major achievement (B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1991); apart from the Bicoloured Antvireo, the Lesser Collared Forest-falcon *Micrastur buckleyi* has been recorded there (see relevant account) as well as such restricted-range species as Pink-throated Brilliant *Heliodoxa gularis*, Red-billed Tyrannulet *Zimmerius cinereicapillus* and Black-backed Bush-tanager *Urothraupis stolzmanni* (ICBP 1992, Crosby *et al.* in prep.). A number of other threatened species have been recorded in Los Farallones de Cali and Munchique National Parks: these species, and initiatives for their conservation, are presented in the equivalent section under Multicoloured Tanager *Chlorochrysa nitidissima*.

REMARKS (1) The taxonomic history and evidence that indicates this bird belongs to *Dysithamnus* and not *Thamnomanes* or *Thamnophilus* is provided in Whitney (1992). (2) While El Tambo is a well-known site to the east of Cerro Munchique, río Munchique is a Pacific slope stream at c.2°36'N 77°15'W; the qualifier “El Tambo” (ANSP label data) may therefore refer to a general district. (3) The localities “San José, Sarayacú, Zamora” mentioned by Hilty and Brown (1986) for Ecuador appear to be in error, as no source for them can be traced (Whitney 1992).