

This cloud-forest understorey species is known from just two specimens (representing two subspecies) from the western slopes of the Central and East Andes, Colombia, where it has undoubtedly suffered from widespread deforestation, and is obviously extremely rare.

DISTRIBUTION The Moustached Antpitta (see Remarks) is known only from the type-localities of its two subspecies: the nominate form was described from a single adult female taken in October 1911 at 2,135 m near Salento (in the Boquía valley, c.4°39'N 75°36'W: Paynter and Traylor 1981), on the western slope of the Central Andes (Quindío mountains), Quindío department (Chapman 1912, 1917a, Meyer de Schauensee 1948-1952); and a male (subspecies *andaquiensis*) was collected between c.2,000 and 2,100 m during October 1971 in the vicinity of Cueva de los Guácharos (within the national park at 1°37'N 76°00'W), near the headwaters of the río Suaza, on the western slope of the southern East Andes, Huila department (record and coordinates from Hernández Camacho and Rodríguez 1979).

POPULATION Despite recent ornithological surveys around both known localities, there have been no additional records (Hernández Camacho and Rodríguez 1979), and this antpitta must be regarded as extremely rare.

ECOLOGY Both localities where the species has been collected were originally humid montane forest (low cloud-forest), where it inhabits the undergrowth (Hilty and Brown 1986) and probably stands of bamboo *Chusquea* sp. (LGN).

THREATS Almost all of the cloud-forest (at elevations suitable for this species) along both slopes of the Central Andes, and the western slope of the East Andes, have been logged and replaced by agriculture and settlements (LGN). Extensive clearance of forest in the vicinity of Salento (and Laguneta) was already advanced in 1911 (Chapman 1917a), and is now widespread and thorough (Ridgely 1981a: 339). Such extensive destruction of suitable habitat has undoubtedly caused a decline in the population of this bird.

MEASURES TAKEN There are no protected areas within the elevational range (formerly) occupied by the nominate form of this species within the Central Andes, unless the bird occurs in the lower parts of Ucumari Regional Park in Risaralda (LGN), or Alto Quindío Acaime Natural Reserve (see equivalent sections under Multicoloured Tanager *Chlorochrysa nitidissima* and Bicoloured Antpitta *Grallaria rufocinerea* respectively). The other subspecies, *andaquiensis*, was described from the Cueva de los Guácharos National Park (9,000 ha: CNPPA 1982, also Distribution).

MEASURES PROPOSED Montane forests (especially those below 2,300 m) in this area of Colombia are in urgent need of protection for both this and a number of other threatened birds. An inventory of remaining forest in each of the areas from which the Moustached Antpitta is known is of the highest priority, and would facilitate effective fieldwork and conservation action. In the vicinity of Salento, Quindío, seven other threatened species have previously been recorded (above c.2,000 m), namely Cauca Guan *Penelope perspicax*, Fuertes's Parrot *Hapalopsittaca fuertesi*, Black Inca *Coeligena prunellei*, Bicoloured Antpitta, Brown-banded Antpitta *Grallaria milleri*, Multicoloured Tanager, and Red-bellied Grackle *Hypopyrrhus pyrohypogaster* (see relevant accounts): searches in any remnant forest in this area should be the highest priority for the present species (which probably occurs too low to survive in the Alto Quindío Acaime Natural Reserve, for details of which see equivalent section under Bicoloured Antpitta). Further south, in the Cueva de los Guácharos National Park, Huila, the Moustached Antpitta apparently co-exists with four other threatened species, namely Black Tinamou *Tinamus osgoodi*, Rusty-faced Parrot *Hapalopsittaca amazonina* (possibly), Yellow-eared Parrot *Ognorhynchus icterotis* and Red-bellied Grackle (see relevant accounts): as one of very few localities from which this antpitta and the Black Tinamou are known, it is essential that the state of suitable habitat in this area is investigated and that the forest is surveyed for the presence of these species and effectively protected wherever possible. Ucumari Regional Park also merits investigation, and requires more effective protection and expansion at lower altitudes: Cauca Guan, Multicoloured Tanager and Red-bellied Grackle have all been recorded in this park, but for details see equivalent section under Multicoloured Tanager.

Threatened birds of the Americas

REMARKS Hernández Camacho and Rodríguez (1979) suggested that the Moustached Antpitta could be conspecific with Scaled Antpitta *G. guatemalensis* and Variegated Antpitta *G. varia*, owing to the similarity of their plumages and their allopatric distributions.