

This cloud-forest antpitta is known from very few localities (most recently in two national parks) in the West, Central and East Andes of Colombia, and one area in south-westernmost Venezuela, where suitable habitat has been severely affected by agricultural encroachment and deforestation.

DISTRIBUTION The Hooded Antpitta has been recorded from very few localities on the West, Central and East Andes (Antioquia, Valle, Huila departments) of Colombia (nominated *cucullata*), and in extreme western Venezuela in Táchira and Apure states (race *venezuelana*). Coordinates below are taken from Paynter (1982), and Paynter and Traylor (1981).

Colombia Localities where this species has been collected are as follows: Santa Elena (6°13'N 75°30'W; 8 km east of Medellín, on the east slope of the Central Andes, Antioquia), where a male and female (in BMNH) were collected in September 1878 (also Sclater and Salvin 1879); Ríolima (untraced, but on the eastern slope of the West Andes near San Antonio, 3°30'N 76°38'W, and west of Cali, Valle), where a male (in AMNH) was collected in August 1898; La Candela (c.1°50'N 76°20'W; on the east slope of the Central Andes, 8 km south-south-west of San Agustín, Huila), where a male and female (in AMNH) were collected in May 1912 (also Chapman 1917a), two birds (in ANSP) in September 1942, and a male (in USNM) in May 1952, all between 1,980 and 2,135 m; and the Cueva de los Guácharos National Park (on the west slope of the southern East Andes, Huila), within which specimens (in ICN, IND) have apparently been taken at Acevedo (1°49'N 75°52'W) seemingly between 650 and 800 m (a male in July 1976 and a female in July 1978), above the Guácharos cave (a male at c.1,900 m in September 1975 and a female in June 1976), and 1.5 km south of the previous locality (one female in July 1976 and a male in December 1977) (also Gertler 1977).

Venezuela A second subspecies (*venezuelana*) has been recorded on the río Chiquito (= río Chiquita), apparently at Hacienda La Providencia (c.7°38'N 72°15'W; south-westernmost Táchira), at 1,800 m (Phelps and Phelps 1956, 1963, Meyer de Schauensee and Phelps 1978), which lies within El Tamá National Park (see Measures Taken); and there is a recent sighting from elsewhere in El Tamá National Park, within Apure state, near the border with Táchira (A. B. Altman *in litt.* 1988).

POPULATION Except for the population at the Cueva de los Guácharos National Park in Colombia, where the collection of six birds (and one seen) over a three-year period (Gertler 1977; see above) has led to the judgement that it is common there (Hilty and Brown 1986, Fjeldså and Krabbe 1990, J. I. Hernández Camacho verbally 1991), the Hooded Antpitta appears to be very local (Fjeldså and Krabbe 1990), and seemingly rare. West of Cali, the area around Cerro de San Antonio, where this species was recorded last century (see Distribution), is now highly fragmented, and recent (1990-1991) intensive surveys failed to reveal it even in large (300-400 ha) forest patches along ridge-tops: the bird in this area is now considered locally extinct, although it may well prove to be present within Los Farallones de Cali National Park (G. Kattan, H. Alvarez López and M. Giraldo *in litt.* 1992). The status of this bird in Venezuela is unknown, although it seems likely that El Tamá National Park holds a viable population (see Distribution).

ECOLOGY The Hooded Antpitta has mainly been recorded from 1,800 to 2,135 m, although the lower limit given for Ríolima is 1,500 m, and upper limit for Santa Elena is 2,750 m (Paynter and Traylor 1981), which presumably explains the range of 1,500 to 2,700 m given by Hilty and Brown (1986) and Fjeldså and Krabbe (1990). The records from between 650 and 800 m (see Distribution) appear to be in error, as this is outside the altitudinal range of the Cueva de los Guácharos National Park (Hernández Camacho *et al.* undated), and below the altitude (1,200 m) given for the locality by Paynter and Traylor (1981). Within the subtropical zone, this species inhabits the undergrowth in more open parts of otherwise dense cloud-forest (Meyer de Schauensee and Phelps 1978, Hilty and Brown 1986). Birds are usually seen alone, and hop from perch to perch in low bushes, from ground level to 1.5 m up (Gertler 1977, Meyer de Schauensee and Phelps 1978). At the Cueva de los Guácharos National Park four main habitats are recognized (Hernández Camacho *et al.* undated), of which the Hooded Antpitta inhabits the mixed subandean forest: this forest type has a high diversity of trees, amongst which the commonest are: species of Lauraceae, *Juglans neotropica*, *Cedrela* spp., *Cinchona pubescens*, *Podocarpus* spp., *Ocotea* spp., and *Nectandra* spp. (Hernández-Camacho *et al.* undated). Above c.2,000 m, this forest mingles with moist

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subandean cloud-forest dominated by oaks such as *Quercus humboldtii* and *Trigonobalanus excelsa* (Hernández Camacho *et al.* undated).

A female bird collected at Santa Elena had been feeding on insects; this same bird (in BMNH), collected in September 1878, was found to contain eggs (Sclater and Salvin 1879). Another female (in AMNH), taken in May, was coming into breeding condition, and a bird (in ICN) taken in July contained an undeveloped egg.

THREATS The bird's habitat (mixed subandean forest) is seriously threatened in Colombia. At the type-locality (Santa Elena, Antioquia), the original forest cover has been cleared since the beginning of this century (Chapman 1917a), and in the Ríolima area (Valle del Cauca) there are only minor tracts of (mostly disturbed) cloud-forest remaining outside of protected areas (Hilty and Brown 1986, M. G. Kelsey verbally 1992). Forest in the western Venezuelan Andes is being destroyed so rapidly that El Támara National Park is one of the most threatened protected areas in Venezuela (Desenne and Strahl 1991: see equivalent section under Rusty-faced Parrot *Hapalopsittaca amazonina*).

MEASURES TAKEN In Colombia, the Cueva de los Guácharos National Park covers 9,000 ha (CNPPA 1982). Also, the Hooded Antpitta may occur at Los Farallones de Cali National Park, a 150,000 ha protected area (CNPPA 1982) largely unexplored by ornithologists (LGN). In Venezuela, El Tamá National Park, 139,000 ha (CNPPA 1982), covers the two localities at which the species has been recorded (see Distribution and Threats).

MEASURES PROPOSED The priority for this species is to ensure the integrity of suitable forest within the Cueva de los Guácharos National Park, and to assess its population size (and hence viability) at this site. Surveys in other likely areas, including Los Farallones de Cali National Park, are needed to determine the overall status of the bird, and with the aim of facilitating the protection of other areas. In Venezuela, the status of the Hooded Antpitta in El Tamá National Park is in urgent need of assessment, as is the state of available habitat there. Conservation initiatives in that area should be integrated with those undertaken for the Rusty-faced Parrot and Táchira Antpitta *Grallaria chthonia* (see relevant accounts, but also equivalent section under Táchira Emerald *Amazilia distans*).