

This moderately common (but possibly seasonal) furnariid inhabits the understorey of deciduous, semi-deciduous and moist evergreen forest (generally from 400 to 1,350 m) in a restricted area of south-west Ecuador and north-west Peru, where it is threatened by habitat destruction and disturbance.

DISTRIBUTION The Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner (see Remarks) is confined to forests at 400–1,750 m in Manabí, Loja and immediately adjacent El Oro provinces, south-west Ecuador, and Tumbes and Piura departments, north-west Peru. Two subspecies have been described, the nominate form in Ecuador and Tumbes National Forest, Peru, and *palamblae* in the rest of Peru, these together being known from very few areas at the following localities (coordinates from Paynter and Traylor 1977, Stephens and Traylor 1983, or read from IGM 1989):

Ecuador (Manabí) Cerro San Sebastián, 400–700 m, c.1°34'S 80°40'W, in Machalilla National Park (sightings in January and August 1991: TAP, R. S. Ridgely *in litt.* 1991); (*El Oro*) just south of Portovelo, 3°44'S 79°37'W (recent sighting: P. Greenfield *in litt.* 1989); (*Loja*) La Puente, 760 m, untraced, but south of Puyango and probably near Quebrada Cebolla at c.3°55'S 80°03'W (male in AMNH taken in October 1921); Quebrada Las Vegas, 1,250 m, 3°59'S 79°57'W, near Alamor (up to three birds seen at the end of August and in September 1991: Williams and Tobias 1991); Hacienda Yamana, 1,100 m, 4°01'S 79°40'W (Paynter 1972b: specimens in MCZ); Alamor, 1,390 m, 4°02'S 80°02'W (Chapman 1919, 1926); 6 km north-west of Catacocha (a few birds found in early March 1991: Best 1992); 2 km north-west of Catacocha, 1,550 m (at least eight birds, plus an active nest, found in April 1992: M. B. Robbins *in litt.* 1992); east and below Celica, 1,350–1,700 m, 4°07'S 79°59'W (one bird recorded in August 1989, and at least four birds calling territorially in April 1992: R. S. Ridgely *in litt.* 1989, M. B. Robbins *in litt.* 1992); El Empalme, 800 m, 4°08'S 79°49'W (one seen in February 1991: Best 1992); near Cruzpampa, 1,200 m, 4°10'S 80°01'W (one bird recorded in August 1989: R. S. Ridgely *in litt.* 1989); 10 km by road below Sabanilla, 500–550 m, 4°10'S 80°08'W (at least eight birds heard in April 1992: M. B. Robbins *in litt.* 1992); Paletillas, 470 m, 4°11'S 80°17'W (two females in AMNH taken in June 1919: Chapman 1926); Quebradas Suquinda and Yaguana, 1,550–1,750 m, at 4°18'S 79°48'W, where there were daily records, 8–12 June 1989 (Rahbek *et al.* 1989), 10 sightings in late August and September 1989 (Best and Clarke 1991), three sightings in August 1990 (R. Williams *in litt.* 1991), and several sightings in February 1991 (Best 1992); Quebrada Hueco Hondo, 600–800 m, Tambo Negro, c.5 km south-west of Sabiango, at 4°23'S 79°51'W (several sightings with birds heard constantly in February and March 1991, and a specimen in MECN collected during March 1991: Best 1992, NK);

Peru (Tumbes) El Caucho, 400 m, 3°50'S 80°16'W, and Campo Verde, 750 m, c.3°51'S 80°12'W, both in Tumbes National Forest (Wiedefeld *et al.* 1985); (*Piura*) Palambla, specimens (in AMNH and FMNH) labelled 1,190–1,980 m, at 5°23'S 79°37'W (also Chapman 1926); (*Lambayeque*) Quebrada Caballito, c.500 m, a side valley to Quebrada Tocto, at 5°48'S 79°40'W (one bird seen in February 1986: M. Kessler *in litt.* 1988); km 21 on the Olmos–Bagua road (one bird seen in June 1987: M. Pearman *in litt.* 1991); km 34 on the Olmos–Abra de Porculla highway, on the border with Piura, south-west of the pass at 5°51'S 79°31'W, altitude given as 1,275 m by Schulenberg and Parker (1981) but as 1,350 m by Krabbe (1984).

This foliage-gleaner was not recorded between Canchaque and Cruz Blanca during extensive surveys in 1974, 1975 and 1980 (Parker *et al.* 1985) and the immediate vicinity of Palambla is devoid of forest (Stephens and Traylor 1983), but some unexplored forest can be seen away from the road (T. S. Schulenberg *in litt.* 1988). The White-winged Guan *Penelope albipennis*, inhabiting fairly similar vegetation, has been found in eight different valley systems between Palambla and Abra de Porculla (see relevant account), and although the Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner has only been recorded from one of these (Quebrada Tocto), it probably occurs in all those that hold sufficiently green, humid patches of vegetation (NK).

POPULATION In Ecuador, at Cerro San Sebastián in Machalilla National Park, the species was found to be rare during six days of fieldwork in January 1991 (TAP), but an ANSP expedition found eight individuals in two valleys on the same mountain over 3–9 August 1991, and speculated that the population might be fairly large (R. S. Ridgely *in litt.* 1991). Between Sozoranga and Nueva Fátima 8–10 were heard and seen daily along 500 m of trail in mid-June 1989 (Rahbek *et al.* 1989), whilst in August and

September the species was never heard calling and was found to be rather uncommon there (seen on one out of three or four days) (Best and Clarke 1991). These differences in recorded numbers may possibly be explained by seasonal movements (B. J. Best *in litt.* 1992). In the Celica area it was scarce in August 1989, and only two birds were recorded: one near Cruzpampa at 1,200 m, and one east of Celica at 1,350 m (R. S. Ridgely *in litt.* 1989). In this same general area (between Catacocha and Sabanilla), the species was found to be common in April 1992, with a minimum of eight birds at two sites (including a breeding pair with two young in the nest) and at least four individuals at a third locality (M. B. Robbins *in litt.* 1992); but this was an El Niño year when bird population numbers may increase in otherwise drier scrubby areas (NK, B. J. Best *in litt.* 1992: see Ecology under Little Woodstar *Acestura bombus*), and this appears to have been the case in 1992, with considerable amounts of rain received beginning in mid-March (M. B. Robbins *in litt.* 1992).

There are too few distributional data to give a realistic estimate for Peru. In spite of procuring 12 specimens between 14 June and 5 July 1979, Wiedenfeld *et al.* (1985) stated it to be “uncommon” in Tumbes National Forest, but M. Kessler (*in litt.* 1988) found it to be fairly common there in late February and early March 1986, with up to 10 recorded per morning, along the Campo Verde–El Caucho trail and around El Caucho; and in late July 1988, 12 were found in two hours along c.1 km of trail between Campo Verde and nearby Cotrina (Parker *et al.* ms). Only scattered patches of forest, few if any larger than 10 km² (other than Tumbes National Forest), remain within the Peruvian range of this and other species endemic to the region, and what is almost surely the largest remaining population of this species occurs in the Tumbes National Forest, on forested ridges between río Tumbes and the Ecuador border (Parker *et al.* ms).

ECOLOGY In Peru the Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner is only known from relatively undisturbed evergreen moist and semi-deciduous forests (Parker *et al.* ms), but at Portovelo and in the Sozoranga region, Ecuador, it has also been found in degraded patches of second-growth woodland and small areas of forest in ravines: north-west and south-east of Sozoranga the species was mostly restricted to dense, tangled forests that were inaccessible to cattle and donkeys, and at Quebrada Hueco Hondo (Tambo Negro) it occurred in *Ceiba*-dominated deciduous forest (P. Greenfield *in litt.* 1989, Rahbek *et al.* 1989, Best and Clarke 1991, Best 1992). Most records range from 400 to 1,350 m, but at Quebradas Suquinda and Yaguana it was only found at 1,550 to 1,750 m (see Distribution). Palambra specimens were collected in September and October 1922 and were each labelled 1,190-1,980 m (specimens in AMNH and FMNH); as all H. Watkins's Palambra specimens examined, regardless of species, were labelled thus (specimens in AMNH), the exact elevation is not certain. At Abra de Porculla the species has been seen in streamside vegetation with tall, large-leaved deciduous trees and scattered evergreen undergrowth; the adjacent slopes have been cleared and are now covered with shrubbery, weeds and scattered small trees (TAP; also Schulenberg and Parker 1981, NK). At Hacienda Yamana in Loja province, Ecuador, the species was found in “dense scrub near a brook” which had thick vegetation, while the valley otherwise was “arid and sparsely vegetated, possibly a result of man's activities” (Paynter 1972b). Near Alamor, also in Loja, birds were seen (in August and September 1991) in small areas with woodland, hedges and mixed banana and coffee plantations (Williams and Tobias 1991), and near Celica and Catacocha, birds were found breeding in recently burnt areas with little vegetation other than small clumps of thorny scrub and dense (c.2-3 m high) second growth restricted to ravines (M. B. Robbins *in litt.* 1992). At El Caucho in Tumbes, Peru, there is deciduous and semi-deciduous forest with a stream that dries out during the dry season (June–December), and the topography is hilly with narrow canyons and steep slopes: the lower part of the forest is composed primarily of large *Ceiba trichistandra*, often reaching 20 m in height, but a variety of smaller trees are also found in the more open, level areas; higher up, where the foliage-gleaner is commonest, *Ceiba* is absent, and the forest is generally more humid; arboreal epiphytes, especially *Tillandsia* spp., are common, the forest understorey is relatively open, but in the narrow canyons vine tangles are common (Wiedenfeld *et al.* 1985, J. W. Eley *in litt.* 1989).

The Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner is found alone or in pairs, rarely up to four individuals together, and forages on or within 1 m of the ground (Paynter 1972b, Schulenberg and Parker 1981, Wiedenfeld *et al.* 1985, Rahbek *et al.* 1989, Best and Clarke 1991, NK). In the Cordillera Larga, Tumbes, the species occurs alone or with either Stripe-headed Brush-finch *Atlapetes torquatus*, Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantiirostris* or Black-capped Sparrow *A. abeillei* (Parker *et al.* ms); it sometimes loosely associates with mixed-species flocks, one such including Streak-headed Woodcreeper

Lepidocolaptes souleyetii, Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia lanirostris*, Variable Seedeater *Sporophila americana* and Black-capped Sparrow, and another with Fasciated Wren *Campylorhynchus fasciatus*, Speckle-breasted Wren *Thryothorus (maculipectus) sclateri*, Variable Seedeater and Black-capped Sparrow (J. W. Eley *in litt.* 1989). At Sozoranga in mid-June and from August to September 1989 it readily joined mixed-species flocks for shorter periods, following last in close association with White-winged Brush-finch *Atlapetes leucopterus*, other flock members being Ecuadorian Piculet *Picumnus sclateri*, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Azara's Spinetail *Synallaxis azarae*, Great Antshrike *Taraba major* and Three-banded Warbler *Basileuterus trifasciatus* (C. Rahbek *in litt.* 1989, Best and Clarke 1991). It often rummages about on the ground, rustling through and tossing dead leaves and twigs into the air, and probes leaf-clusters, low in vine tangles (Wiedenfeld *et al.* 1985, C. Rahbek *in litt.* 1989, Best and Clarke 1991, Best 1992). Stomachs of 14 specimens contained insect parts, one of them also terrestrial isopods, one a large caterpillar and a 1 cm beetle (Wiedenfeld *et al.* 1985: specimens in ANSP and MECN). Although a bird of undergrowth, it may be somewhat dependent on a dense ground cover of fallen leaves from large trees (NK).

On 27 January 1991 three birds were seen violently chasing and attacking each other up to 2 m from the ground, making short flights from branch to branch and calling very loudly in a territorial dispute; during the same week single birds were seen perched 2-3 m up in low trees calling repeatedly (Best 1992).

The nest is placed at the end of a c.1 m long burrow in a bank or disturbed slope (M. Kessler *in litt.* 1988, M. B. Robbins *in litt.* 1992). A nest with young was found at El Caucho on 3 March 1986, and at Catacocha on 3 April 1992 (M. Kessler *in litt.* 1988, M. B. Robbins *in litt.* 1992): birds in breeding condition have been taken at Tambo Negro on 10 March, Catacocha on 3 April and Sabanilla on 9 April, and birds with inactive gonads have been collected in June, July and September to November (Paynter 1972b, Wiedenfeld *et al.* 1985; specimens in AMNH, ANSP and FMNH), with immatures taken in June–July (Chapman 1919, Wiedenfeld *et al.* 1985). The behaviour observed near Sozoranga in late January and February 1991 suggests that the birds were nesting (see above). Most species of bird in this region probably breed during the wet season (Marchant 1958), from January to May (Brown 1941).

THREATS Habitat destruction appears to be an immediate threat to species with limited altitudinal and geographical ranges in south-west Ecuador and north-west Peru (Parker *et al.* 1985). Below Cruz Blanca, Peru, forest is being cleared from above and below: with only scattered patches now existing below 2,150 m, and none left at Palambla, this foliage-gleaner has presumably declined dramatically in the region (Parker *et al.* 1985; also Stephens and Traylor 1983). Paynter (1972b) believed man to be a major cause of the aridity in Casanga valley, Loja, Ecuador, a view not shared by R. S. Ridgely (*in litt.* 1989). However, forest clearance and degradation, especially trampling of the undergrowth by cattle and donkeys, is a serious threat to this largely terrestrial species (Best and Clarke 1991, Best 1992), although its occurrence in second-growth scrub and sparsely vegetated areas (during breeding and post-breeding periods: see above) gives some hope for the longer-term survival of the bird (see Measures Proposed). The Machalilla National Park suffers from the activities of numerous families living within its boundaries (TAP, R. S. Ridgely *in litt.* 1991). There is little other than its remoteness to protect the Tumbes National Forest (M. Kessler verbally 1991).

MEASURES TAKEN The major stronghold of this species may be the Tumbes National Forest (75,100 ha: IUCN 1992) in the Cordillera Larga, Peru, which receives some amount of protection by the military authorities, but is far from secure (TAP). The species also occurs in Machalilla National Park (55,000 ha: IUCN 1992) (but see Threats).

MEASURES PROPOSED It is imperative that effective protection of the two large forest reserves where it occurs be ensured. Initiatives specific to Machalilla National Park are outlined in the equivalent section under Grey-backed Hawk *Leucopternis occidentalis*. Efforts should be made to locate additional populations of this foliage-gleaner, and more of its habitat should be protected in some way, especially farther south on the Pacific Andean slope in Piura and Lambayeque (it is of particular interest to determine what populations can be secured through efforts to protect the known habitat of the White-winged Guan). A more precise definition of its ecological requirements is needed, especially the extent to which it can sustain viable populations in second growth or degraded habitats, and the degree to which the population varies in size and habitat preferences during El Niño years. Details on the other threatened species, and

additional comments on the conservation status of forests west of the Andes in south-west Ecuador and north-west Peru, are in Measures Proposed under Grey-backed Hawk.

REMARKS Chapman (1919) created the genus *Hylocryptus* for the species; Hellmayr (Cory and Hellmayr 1925) suggested that it was closely related to the (near-threatened) Chestnut-capped Foliage-gleaner *Automolus rectirostris* of south-eastern and central Brazil. Zimmer (1936) agreed with this, and shifted *rectirostris* to *Hylocryptus*. Vaurie (1971) agreed that *rectirostris* is the closest relative of *erythrocephalus*, but merged *Hylocryptus* in *Automolus*, a treatment supported by Paynter (1972b), unopposed by Schulenberg and Parker (1981) and Wiedenfeld *et al.* (1985), but resisted by Parker *et al.* (ms). Vocally, *erythrocephalus* seems fairly different from species of *Automolus (sensu stricto)* (R. S. Ridgely *in litt.* 1989).