

This pigeon is endemic to the eastern slope of the Central Andes of Colombia, where it has been recorded at only a few localities in one of the most disturbed montane forest areas of this region.

DISTRIBUTION The Tolima Dove is apparently known from just three areas on the eastern slope of the Central Andes in Tolima and Huila departments, Colombia (coordinates are from Paynter and Traylor 1981). (*Tolima*) The bird was originally described from Toche (4°32'N 75°25'W, near Ibagué), on the southern slope of Nevado del Tolima, where specimens (in AMNH, ANSP, FMNH) were taken between 2,075 and 2,255 m during April and May 1942 (also Bond and Meyer de Schauensee 1943), with others (a male and female in IND) between 2,000 and 2,200 m during June 1985. More recently (between 1988 and 1990), birds have been recorded at Juntas (untraced), c.30 km north-north-west of Ibagué; and 7 km east of Tapias at km 27, west of Ibagué (both by P. Kaestner *in litt.* 1992). (*Huila*) Other records of this species come from near the headwaters of the río Magdalena in Huila department, localities being as follows: El Isno (= Isnos, c.1°55'N 76°15'W, 10 km north-east of San Agustín), where three females and a male (in ANSP, FMNH, ICN) were collected at 1,600 m in July 1942; San Agustín (1°53'N 76°16'W), a locality mentioned by Meyer de Schauensee (1948-1952) but which probably refers to birds collected at Isnos; near San Agustín, where two individuals were seen in March 1990 (A. J. Negret *in litt.* 1991); and Belén (1°26'N 76°05'W, 45 km south-west of La Plata), where a male and female (in USNM) were taken at 2,135 m in March and April 1952.

POPULATION Numbers are unknown, but on the evidence above they must be low. Fjeldså and Krabbe (1990) considered the species to be very local, and some searches in the upper Magdalena valley have been unsuccessful in finding the bird (King 1978-1979, also P. Kaestner *in litt.* 1992), although two were recorded near San Agustín in March 1990 (A. J. Negret *in litt.* 1991). Observations by P. Kaestner (*in litt.* 1992) between 1988 and 1990 confirmed that the species survives north and west of Ibagué, Tolima, with birds being seen (flushed from the road) just once near Juntas, and on two (of six) occasions near Tapias.

ECOLOGY Specimens of this bird (see Distribution) come from between 1,600 and 2,255 m, although Hilty and Brown (1986) gave an altitudinal range of between 1,800 and 2,500 m. The Tolima Dove has been recorded from humid forest and bushy forest borders in the subtropical (and possibly the lower limit of the temperate) zone (Hilty and Brown 1986, Fjeldså and Krabbe 1990): at the type-locality, one bird was obtained in forest and the others in second growth. In the vicinity of Ibagué, P. Kaestner (*in litt.* 1992) found the species beside a road at the bottom of a steep valley which was covered in secondary forest and coffee. Birds collected at Belén during March and April were in breeding condition, as were those taken in June at Toche (see Distribution).

THREATS When the type-series was collected, the head of the valley near Toche was heavily forested (Bond and Meyer de Schauensee 1943), but now much of this habitat within the species's known range has been destroyed (Hilty and Brown 1986). However, records from coffee groves and secondary growth suggest that like most members of this genus it may be able to survive in degraded habitat (but see Measures Proposed).

MEASURES TAKEN None of the protected areas along the Central Andes includes localities where the Tolima Dove has been recorded.

MEASURES PROPOSED Surveys need to be undertaken to determine the current range and ecological requirements of this species. In particular, studies are needed on populations that exist in secondary habitats in order to decide whether they are viable, and consequently to assess the true extent and nature of the threats that the species faces. Patches of remaining primary habitat in the foothill areas on the eastern slope of the Central Andes, in both Tolima and Huila, need protected area status to ensure that this and other bird species (see below) are conserved. It may also prove to be of equal importance to focus an education programme on the value of maintaining secondary habitats, to the benefit not only of conservation (of both this species, and perhaps the Yellow-headed Brush-finch *Atlapetes flaviceps*: see below), but also of water quality and erosion control (F. G. Stiles *in litt.* 1992). Obviously, any fieldwork

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or conservation initiatives should take into account proposals for the Yellow-headed Brush-finch (see relevant account), which is sympatric with the Tolima Dove between Toche and Ibagué, and has also been observed in secondary habitats. Other threatened species known to occur in this area include Yellow-eared Parrot *Ognorhynchus icterotis*, Bicoloured Antpitta *Grallaria rufocinerea* and Red-bellied Grackle *Hypopyrrhus pyrohypogaster* (see relevant accounts). The endemic wax palm *Ceroxylum quindiuense* forests in the vicinity of Toche (between 2,000 and 2,800 m) have recently been the subject of a broad integrated conservation programme developed by Fundación Herencia Verde and ICBP (and supported by CORTOLIMA, the Corporación Autónoma Regional del Tolima), and it is hoped that this will benefit a number of the threatened species mentioned above (M. G. Kelsey and L. M. Renjifo *in litt.* 1991).