

A virtually unknown small raptor of western Amazonian forest interior, this species has only been recorded from eastern Ecuador, north-east and south-central Peru, and in one area of western Brazil, although it seems likely to prove to be relatively widespread and secure.

DISTRIBUTION The Lesser Collared Forest-falcon is known from a few localities in Amazonian Ecuador, Peru and Brazil. It probably also occurs in south-east Amazonas, Colombia (Sibley and Monroe 1990). In the following account, records are given from north to south and unless otherwise stated coordinates and elevations are taken from Paynter and Traylor (1977) and Stephens and Traylor (1983).

Ecuador Records are based on specimens, all obtained before 1940, from: San José Nuevo (“San José de Sumaco”), 500-1,000 m, 0°26’S 77°20’W, in Napo, March 1923 (Traylor 1948; specimen in AMNH; see Remarks 1); río Suno, c.500 m, 0°42’S 77°08’W, in Napo (Traylor 1948); and Sarayacu (the type-locality), 700 m, 1°44’S 77°29’W, in Pastaza, February 1880 (Swann 1920, Traylor 1948); Cordillera de Cutucú, 1,800 m, November 1938 (two specimens in BMNH whose existence and identity were first indicated in Robbins *et al.* 1987; identity confirmed by P. R. Colston verbally 1992).

Peru Records are from: Orosa, 3°26’S 72°08’S, c.100 m on the río Amazonas in Loreto department, November 1936 (Amadon 1964; specimen in AMNH); near Kusú, 4°27’S 78°18’W, hilly lowlands on the río Comaina, Amazonas department, August 1978 (specimen in LSUMZ; see Remarks 2); near Huampami, unlocated, on the río Cenepa (4°35’S 78°12’W), c.210 m, Amazonas department, August 1977 (specimen in LSUMZ); Perico, 5°15’S 78°45’W, c.200 m on the río Chinchipe in Cajamarca department, July 1923 (Amadon 1964; specimen in AMNH); Yarinacocha, 8°15’S 74°43’S, c.100 m on the río Ucayali, Ucayali (but formerly in Loreto) department, July 1946 (Traylor 1948, 1958, O’Neill and Pearson 1974; specimen in FMNH); Boca Manu, untraced but c.11°50’S 71°20’W, 360 m, the airstrip at the confluence of ríos Manu and Alto Madre de Dios, Madre de Dios department, 21-22 July 1989 (B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1991, whence coordinates); Hacienda Villacarmen, 12°50’S 71°15’W, 600 m in south-eastern Cuzco department, July 1958 (Blake 1977; specimen in FMNH).

Brazil The species was discovered in March 1992 near Porongaba upriver on the rio Juruá from Mário Lobão (Porto Wálter) in Acre, two specimens being collected and a sight-record being made (C. A. Peres and A. Whittaker *in litt.* 1992).

POPULATION There is no information on numbers. Although the species has been described as “rare” (Amadon 1964, Blake 1977), birds of the genus *Micrastur* are very inconspicuous (Thiollay 1984) and this particular form is extremely similar to the Collared Forest-falcon *M. semitorquatus*, with which it is sympatric (Traylor 1948), so that lack of records need not be entirely attributable to rarity.

ECOLOGY The species's habitat is described as “lowland forest” (Blake 1977) but in the tropical and subtropical zones (Meyer de Schauensee 1966); the records from 1,800 m in Cordillera Cutucú are somewhat anomalous in this regard. At Yarinacocha the bird was described as irregular in the middle stratum of inundated primary forest on the east side of the lake there (O’Neill and Pearson 1974), but this may possibly have referred to the single record from this locality. The birds found on the rio Juruá were in both várzea and terra firme forest (C. A. Peres and A. Whittaker *in litt.* 1992). The bird located at Boca Manu in July 1989 was juvenile, and perched c.4 m above ground at the edge of the airstrip in 15-20 m tall *Cecropia*-dominated second growth, giving food-begging calls about once per minute; it had probably been out of the nest for less than a week (B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1991). The August 1978 specimen from Amazonas, Peru, had testes somewhat enlarged; that from August 1977 did not, though its skull was ossified, and its stomach contained one *Mesomys* (LSUMZ specimen label data). The shorter tarsus and smaller feet of this species (Traylor 1948) suggest an ecological adaptation for foraging in trees rather than for capturing or even pursuing prey on the ground (as recorded for the genus *Micrastur* by Willis *et al.* 1983).

THREATS The habitat in at least part of this bird's range is being cleared (J. P. O’Neill *in litt.* 1986);

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problems of deforestation in the Cordillera de Cutucú are outlined in Threats under White-necked Parakeet *Pyrrhura albipectus*.

MEASURES TAKEN None is known.

MEASURES PROPOSED The first requirement is to determine the species's true distribution, status and ecology, following which its management can be planned. However, on the basis of recent records it would seem fairly likely that this is not a serious candidate for attention, and that it can be conserved in many areas being managed or established for more obviously pressing cases.

REMARKS (1) San José Nuevo has apparently disappeared (Paynter and Traylor 1977). (2) The coordinates are as given on the label; in Stephens and Traylor (1983) they are 4°27'S 78°16'W.