

This species is known only from the montane forests of the Paria Peninsula, north-eastern Venezuela, where although not uncommon on one mountain, the total population must be very small, and threatened by habitat disturbance.

DISTRIBUTION The Paria (or Yellow-faced) Redstart is endemic to the mountains of the Paria Peninsula, Sucre state, north-eastern Venezuela, an area which it shares with four other threatened species (see Threats under White-tailed Sabrewing *Campylopterus ensipennis*).

Records of this bird come from two main areas on the peninsula, the localities (coordinates from Paynter 1982) being as follows: Cerro Humo (c.10°40'N 62°30'W), whence come the majority of records, with 12 specimens (in AMNH, BMNH, CM, COP, USNM) taken between 800 and 1,150 m on both the north slope and approaching from the south (Irapa), and with recent records from the villages of Manacal and Las Melenas (Gardner and Brisley 1989, Goodwin 1990); Cerro "El Olvido" (on the ridge between Cerros Patao to the west and Azul c.2.5 km to the east), where just one bird was recorded at 685 m during surveys from June to September 1988 (Bond *et al.* 1989); Cerro Azul (c.10°40'N 61°56'W), where a male (in FMNH) was taken at 920 m (above Macuro, 10°39'N 61°56'W) in May 1948. G. Medina-Cuervo (*in litt.* 1986) also mentioned Cerro Patao (c.10 km west of Cerro Azul) as a locality, but on what evidence is unknown.

POPULATION The Paria Redstart has been found to be "fairly" to "very" common on Cerro Humo (G. Medina-Cuervo *in litt.* 1986, M. Pearman *in litt.* 1991), 4-6 birds regularly being recorded on one day in the field, e.g. 5-6 on one day in 1979 (G. Medina-Cuervo *in litt.* 1986), four on 4 March 1984 (B. Swift *in litt.* 1986), and five on 5 January 1989 (Gardner and Brisley 1989). However, further east there are very few records: one specimen from Cerro Azul (in 1948) appears to represent the only record from this mountain (see above), and the observation of just one bird on Cerro El Olvido during extensive surveys from June to September 1988 led to the conclusion that the bird was "clearly very rare" on this mountain (Bond *et al.* 1989); hence possibly also on the Cerros Patao–Azul ridge. If this is the case, and with the area of suitable habitat on Cerro Humo perhaps no more than 1,500 ha (G. Medina-Cuervo *in litt.* 1986), the total population of this redstart could be extremely small.

ECOLOGY On Cerro Humo, the Paria Redstart has been recorded from between 800 and 1,150 m, although further east (where the mountains are no higher than 920 m), records come from 685 m on Cerro El Olvido and 920 m on Cerro Azul (see Distribution). Almost nothing has been published concerning the ecology of this species: birds have been found in upper tropical and subtropical cloud-forest (lower and upper montane rainforest) within open coffee groves (under the forest canopy) and especially at the forest edge (Phelps and Phelps 1950, Meyer de Schauensee and Phelps 1978, Goodwin 1990; also B. Swift *in litt.* 1986, M. Pearman *in litt.* 1991). The species is not shy, and birds have been observed foraging (alone or in pairs) for insects at 1-5 m up in coffee groves and lower second growth (G. Medina-Cuervo *in litt.* 1986, B. Swift *in litt.* 1986). From the scant information available, the assumption made by Meyer de Schauensee and Phelps (1978) (also Ridgely and Tudor 1989) that its habits are similar to Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus* or other congeners (i.e. occurring in pairs or groups, foraging from medium heights to the tree-tops, and joining mixed feeding flocks) remains unsubstantiated.

THREATS The Paria Redstart has had its entire range "protected" since 1978 within the Paria Peninsula National Park, but despite this the available habitat is now very restricted: Cerro Humo, which seemingly harbours the main population of the species, may have no more than 1,500 ha of suitable habitat remaining, this area being very accessible by road, and subjected to much human disturbance (G. Medina-Cuervo *in litt.* 1986). Unfortunately, the population in the easternmost part of the park appears to be very small (see above); further details of habitat destruction and threats within the Paria Peninsula National Park are in the equivalent section under White-tailed Sabrewing. In 1979, G. Medina-Cuervo (*in litt.* 1986) noted that this species was being caught for sale as an exotic cage-bird, and although the scale of this trade is unknown any collecting must be regarded as detrimental and unacceptable.

MEASURES TAKEN The Paria Redstart has only been recorded from areas now within the Paria Peninsula National Park (37,500 ha), which covers almost all montane areas between Cerro Humo and

Cerro Azul (Bond *et al.* 1989: see corresponding section under White-tailed Sabrewing).

MEASURES PROPOSED For the Paria Redstart, the priority has to be the guaranteed protection of the forest on Cerro Humo, the south slopes of which are not currently within the boundaries of the park (see equivalent section under White-tailed Sabrewing), and to a lesser extent the forests further east around Cerros Patao and Azul. Little is known of this bird's ecological requirements or indeed its current population, and therefore a study concentrating on these points is desirable. That this species has been and possibly still is being traded (see Threats), regardless of the scale, is of concern: the current situation should be investigated and any continuing exploitation stopped at once. All studies and initiatives should integrate with work on all five threatened species in this area (see Threats under White-tailed Sabrewing).