

This seemingly very rare guan occupies a broad but poorly defined area of central Brazil, inhabiting patches and galleries of semi-deciduous forest in drier areas. It could prove to have a low population, and has been recorded from only one protected area.

DISTRIBUTION The Chestnut-bellied Guan is known from some scattered localities in central Brazil, from Goiás to western Minas Gerais and southern Mato Grosso. It possibly occurs also in adjacent Bolivia, where appropriate habitat is extensive (C. Yamashita *in litt.* 1987). In the following account localities are arranged from north to south, with coordinates taken from Paynter and Traylor (1991).

Tocantins There is a record from Macaúba, Ilha do Bananal, May 1962 (specimen in MNRJ), this being within the confines of the Araguaia National Park, according to TAW (1986); and there are sight records of small numbers in the park from the late 1970s and early 1980s (R. S. Ridgely verbally 1986).

Goiás There are two localities: the middle rio Paranã, near Monte Alegre de Goiás (mouth of the rio São Domingos), 1932/1933 (Pinto 1938, 1964; two specimens in MCZ), and Leopoldina (now Aruanã), rio Araguaia, July 1906 (Hellmayr 1908).

Mato Grosso Records are from São Domingos, 13°30'S 51°23'W, September 1949 (Pinto and de Camargo 1952); Pindaíba, August 1949 (Pinto and de Camargo 1952); "Engenho do Pari" near Cuiabá, June 1825 (von Pelzeln 1868-1871); Flechas, 16°02'S 57°15'W, July 1825 (von Pelzeln 1868-1871); near Cáceres, 1909 (specimen in MNRJ); Poconé, on the northern border of the Pantanal, currently (C. Yamashita *in litt.* 1987, A. Whittaker *in litt.* 1991); near Descalvados, 1825 and 1916 (von Pelzeln 1868-1871, Naumburg 1930); around (but not within) the Pantanal National Park at the confluence of the rios Paraguai and Cuiabá at four localities, namely Fazenda Sara (17°42'S 57°04'W), Fazenda Belice (17°46'S 57°14'W), Rita Velha (17°49'S 57°14'W) and Morro Campo (17°54'S 57°22'W), early 1992 (R. B. Pineschi *in litt.* 1992, whence coordinates); and at Porto Jofre across the river from Mato Grosso do Sul, August 1991 (TAP).

Mato Grosso do Sul There is a single record from the northernmost part of the state along the rio Piquiri, 1909 (specimen in MNRJ); but the record from Porto Jofre above suggests it must occur in adjacent areas south of the rio Cuiabá.

Minas Gerais A series collected at Pirapora, right bank of the rio São Francisco, in 1912 and 1913 (Pinto 1938, 1952), represents the only known record of this species in Minas Gerais, and a report of its recent occurrence in this area (de Mattos *et al.* 1984) is in error (G. T. de Mattos verbally 1987).

POPULATION Numbers are not known. The Chestnut-bellied Guan has been considered "a rare species, at least in collections" (Delacour and Amadon 1973) and "certainly rare" (C. Yamashita *in litt.* 1986), although another view is that it is "uncommon, but not particularly threatened" (J. Vielliard *in litt.* 1986). The extraordinary paucity of records, both specimen and sight, suggests that the bird is at least either highly localized or highly secretive. The commonest source of records is Poconé, and there at least it appears to be moderately common and enjoys relatively light hunting pressure (A. Whittaker *in litt.* 1991).

ECOLOGY Virtually nothing has been reported of the habits of this guan, which is said probably to occur in the better-timbered areas along rivers or in swamps (Delacour and Amadon 1973) and to inhabit forest interspersed with campo (Sick 1985). On both occasions J. Natterer encountered the species it was by the side of a stream, in one case the birds (a pair) being perched in trees (von Pelzeln 1868-1871). Its preferred habitat at Poconé has been given as "cordilheiras" of semi-deciduous gallery forest (C. Yamashita *in litt.* 1987), which grow on higher terrain that is rarely flooded (Alho and Rondon 1987), with, e.g., guatambu *Aspidosperma* sp., goncaleiro *Astronium urundeuva*, louro *Ocotea* sp., laranja *Sebastiania* sp., tarumarana *Vitex* sp. and paratudo *Tabebuia* sp.; in the dry season, July-October, the ground under this vegetation is full of fallen leaves (C. Yamashita *in litt.* 1987). This was also the habitat of birds found in the same area in early 1992 (R. B. Pineschi *in litt.* 1992). At Porto Jofre two were in seasonal swamp forest with numerous fruiting figs *Ficus* and other 15-20 m high trees, notably *Vochysia divergens*, *Inga* sp., *Triplaris* sp. and *Pithecellobium multiflorum* (TAP).

The species has been observed feeding on flowers of a tree *Tabebuia* together with Bare-faced Curassow *Crax fasciolata*, Blue-throated Piping-guan *Pipile cumanensis* and Chaco Chachalaca *Ortalis canicollis*; it is sympatric at Poconé also with Rusty-margined Guan *Penelope superciliaris*, and is the

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rarest of the cracids in the semi-deciduous forest in the Pantanal (C. Yamashita *in litt.* 1986, 1987). There are no breeding data; three birds collected in June and July were not in moult (von Pelzeln 1868-1871).

THREATS None is known, but the species is presumably hunted for food like most large cracids in South America. It is difficult to pronounce on the extent or even existence of habitat loss, given the general uncertainty over the species's preferences, but it is to be noted that much agricultural development is occurring within its range (see, e.g., Threats under Blue-eyed Ground-dove *Columbina cyanopsis* and Hyacinth Macaw *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*).

MEASURES TAKEN The species is protected under Brazilian law (Bernardes *et al.* 1990). It has been recorded at least around the periphery of the Pantanal National Park (R. B. Pineschi *in litt.* 1992); however, the record from a site within the present Araguaia National Park is the only certain evidence of its occurrence within a protected area.

MEASURES PROPOSED Surveys are needed to delimit the Chestnut-bellied Guan's current range and assess its status more accurately. Pantanal and Araguaia National Parks merit particular attention. Work at Poconé, the only site at which the species can be found with relative ease (C. Yamashita *in litt.* 1987), should be undertaken to determine its ecology there, with a view to applying the insights in a general evaluation of its likely distribution and situation.

REMARKS The Chestnut-bellied Guan forms a superspecies with two near-threatened cracids, the White-browed Guan *Penelope jacucaca* and White-crested Guan *P. pileata* (e.g. Vaurie 1968, Delacour and Amadon 1973, Sick 1985). It is locally known in Poconé as "jacucaca" (C. Yamashita *in litt.* 1987).