

Confined to dry forest patches in one very small area of Minas Gerais in east-central Brazil, this small flycatcher faces extinction from the rapid loss of its semi-deciduous woodland habitat.

DISTRIBUTION The Minas Gerais Tyrannulet is known only from the vicinity of Januária (Brejo-Januária, now Brejo do Amparo: de Andrade *et al.* 1986), left bank of the rio São Francisco, northern Minas Gerais, central Brazil, where the type-specimen was collected on 3 July 1926 (Snethlage 1928a,b). No other specimen is known to have been collected subsequently (see Meyer de Schauensee 1966, Traylor 1979). The species was present in woodlots near the type-locality in 1977 (E. O. Willis *in litt.* 1986), occurring on both sides of the rio São Francisco in September (Willis and Oniki *in press*).

POPULATION Numbers are unknown, but the species must currently be at best rare in the region of the type-locality, having been missed there by fieldworkers in 1985, 1986 (M. A. de Andrade verbally 1986) and 1987 (J. M. C. da Silva verbally 1988).

ECOLOGY The type-specimen (female), in MNRJ, is labelled as having been collected in caatinga near hills ("serra"), and the stomach contained insects (Gonzaga 1989). In the original descriptions, however, caatinga is not mentioned and forest ("mata", "Bergwald") is indicated instead as the species's habitat (Snethlage 1928a,b). Both caatinga and dry forest (mesophytic deciduous forest) occur in the region of the type-locality around serras and limestone outcrops (de Azevedo 1966, Rizzini 1979, Eiten 1983, M. A. de Andrade *in litt.* 1986). It was in the latter vegetation type that birds were observed in September 1977, when most of the trees were leafless and the species was almost always in pairs, 10-20 m up in the few green trees and bushes; sometimes they descended to the green cotton bushes *Gossypium* of a plantation, always looking for insects on green leaves, hopping constantly and sallying short distances for prey (Willis and Oniki *in press*).

THREATS The known distribution of the species is very restricted, and its habitat, the (semi-deciduous forest, is possibly the most threatened of all in central Brazil owing to its valuable aroeira *Astronium urundeuva* wood and relatively fertile soils (R. B. Cavalcanti *in litt.* 1987). Charcoal-burners were in full activity in 1985-1986 around the type-locality, where forest cutting for pasture and agricultural development were also rife (M. A. de Andrade *in litt.* 1986, G. T. de Mattos *in litt.* 1987).

MEASURES TAKEN The Minas Gerais Tyrannulet is protected under Brazilian law (Bernardes *et al.* 1990).

MEASURES PROPOSED Further fieldwork is needed to determine the species's status and to provide additional information on its ecology and distribution. The creation of a protected area in the Januária region, which has been under consideration by governmental organizations (de Andrade *et al.* 1988) and by the non-governmental Fundação Pró-Natureza (J. M. C. da Silva *in litt.* 1988) is an urgent need (G. T. de Mattos *in litt.* 1987, J. M. C. da Silva *in litt.* 1988). However, as regulation of reserves is often poorly implemented, a programme of environmental awareness is also needed and should be directed at landowners, local communities and schools (de Andrade *et al.* 1988).

REMARKS Brejo-Januária is also the type-locality of Snethlage's Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes franciscanus*, here treated as a race of the threatened Moustached Woodcreeper *X. falcirostris* (see relevant account and, in particular, Remarks 3), and one of the few recorded localities for the Caatinga (White-winged) Black-tyrant *Knipolegus (aterrimus) franciscanus* (da Silva 1989, Willis and Oniki *in press*).