

This rare furnariid is known from just six specimens and one observation along four different rivers in northern Roraima, Brazil, where almost nothing is known of its ecology, and where until two birds were seen in August 1992 the last known record was in 1956.

DISTRIBUTION The Hoary-throated Spinetail is known only from northern Roraima in northernmost Brazil. There are just four records of the species as follows (coordinates from Paynter and Traylor 1991): rio Cotingo (a left-bank affluent of the rio Surumu), a locality mentioned by Vaurie (1980), whence there is apparently a specimen; rio Surumu (a right-bank tributary of the lower rio Tacutu), whence comes a specimen taken in July 1956 (Pinto 1966); Conceição do Maú, on the banks of the rio Tacutu (c.2 km from the Guyana border), where a pair of birds was seen in August 1992 (B. C. Forrester *in litt.* 1992); and Fortaleza de São Joaquim (3°01'N 60°28'W: c.28 km north of Boa Vista on the upper rio Branco), where the type-series of four birds was taken in 1831-1832 (von Pelzeln 1868-1871, Sclater 1874, Cory and Hellmayr 1925).

POPULATION The species is apparently known from just six specimens taken during or before 1956, suggesting that it is unlikely to be very common wherever it occurs. It was not seen in 1988 when Rio Branco Antbirds *Cercomacra carbonaria* were found to be relatively common in this area (the upper rio Branco); historically, it was found in lesser numbers than the antbird (see relevant account). Just two birds (apparently a pair) were seen (after several days of searching) on the rio Tacutu during August 1992 (B. C. Forrester *in litt.* 1992), although this still gives little indication of the population density.

ECOLOGY Nothing has been noted of records prior to August 1992, when a pair of birds were located in seasonally flooded riverine forest with an understorey of dense thickets and vines (B. C. Forrester *in litt.* 1992).

THREATS Forest along the rivers in the range of this spinetail is at present relatively untouched and does not appear to be under much pressure (D. F. Stotz *in litt.* 1988); however, with so little known about its limited distribution or ecological requirements the potential exists for threats to take a toll before they are recognized.

MEASURES TAKEN None is known.

MEASURES PROPOSED The priority for this species is to discover the extent of its current distribution, determine its ecological requirements and implement suitable protective measures: such initiatives should be undertaken in conjunction with those outlined for the Rio Branco Antbird.