

This tanager appears to be confined to humid forest in Cerros del Sira, in east-central Peru. Although apparently safe at present, it is vulnerable owing to its small distribution.

DISTRIBUTION The Sira Tanager is known from several sightings and four specimens taken in July 1969, all on the slopes of Cerros del Sira (9°26'S 74°45'W), a series of isolated peaks (connected by a low-elevation ridge to the eastern Andes) in Huánuco department, east-central Peru (Graves and Weske 1987).

POPULATION The species is apparently fairly common within its restricted range (Graves and Weske 1987).

ECOLOGY The Sira Tanager inhabits the canopy of humid cloud-forest at elevations ranging from 1,300 to 1,570 m (the Cerros del Sira reach a maximum of 2,450 m). It is usually found 11-25 m above the ground, although three specimens were taken in a mist-net near the ground; it is a fairly common member of mixed-species canopy flocks, and has been seen with Rufous-rumped Foliage-gleaner *Philydor erythrocerus*, Black-and-white Becard *Pachyramphus albogriseus*, Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster*, Orange-eared Tanager *Chlorochrysa calliparaea*, Golden Tanager *Tangara arthus*, Blue-browed Tanager *T. cyanotis*, Beryl-spangled Tanager *T. nigroviridis*, Saffron-crowned Tanager *T. xanthocephala*, Blue-winged Mountain-tanager *Anisognathus flavinuchus*, Vermilion Tanager *Calochaetes coccineus*, White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera* and Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus*; no obvious behavioural features differentiated it from the other four species of *Tangara* with which it was observed (Graves and Weske 1987). None of the four specimens taken in July had active gonads (Graves and Weske 1987).

THREATS None is known.

MEASURES TAKEN None is known.

MEASURES PROPOSED Although apparently not immediately threatened, some consideration should be given to protecting the forested Cerros del Sira, the only known locality for this recently discovered tanager, and also important as the prime (and possibly only) locality for a subspecies of the threatened Southern Helmeted Curassow *Pauxi unicornis koepckeae* (see relevant account).

REMARKS The Sira Tanager is very closely related to the Black-capped Tanager *T. heinei* of Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador, and in the narrow sense they constitute a superspecies (Graves and Weske 1987).