

The Yellow-rumped Antwren inhabits entirely unprotected humid forest at a few sites between 1,100 and 1,650 m in the yungas of Bolivia and immediately adjacent Peru. Its habitat is being rapidly cleared for cultivation, mainly of coca and coffee.

DISTRIBUTION The Yellow-rumped Antwren is known from four specimens taken at three different localities, and from sightings at two additional localities, all between 1,100 and 1,650 m in Puno department, south-east Peru, and La Paz and Cochabamba departments, Bolivia. Localities (coordinates from Stephens and Traylor 1983 and Paynter *et al.* 1975) are:

Peru Inca Mine (1,690 m), Santo Domingo, Limbani–Astillero road, Puno, at 13°51'S 69°41'W (Chapman 1901);

Bolivia Serranía Bellavista, 1,650 m, 35 km by road north of Caranavi, Caranavi being at 15°46'S 67°36'W, La Paz (two specimens in LSUMZ from June 1979: Remsen *et al.* 1982); Serranía Bellavista, 1,350 m, 47 km by road north of Caranavi (four sightings of pairs in July 1980: Remsen *et al.* 1982); Quebrada Onda (presumably Q. Honda), east Yungas, Cochabamba, not located (type-specimen collected in July 1892: von Berlepsch 1901); Chaparé, 1,100 m, Cochabamba, at c.16°30'S 65°30'W (male sighted in October 1979: Remsen *et al.* 1982).

POPULATION The paucity of museum specimens may indicate that the species is uncommon, but could also reflect that it is difficult to collect. At 1,650 m in Serranía Bellavista it was noted daily in small numbers from 10 June to 2 July 1979 (Remsen *et al.* 1982); at least four pairs or families were involved in these sightings, which were made along c.2 km of road through tall forest (TAP). Data are unavailable from other localities, but the species presumably survives in small to moderate numbers wherever there is suitable habitat.

ECOLOGY The Yellow-rumped Antwren inhabits humid upper tropical zone forest (see Remarks) at 1,100 to 1,650 m (Remsen *et al.* 1982). While the Ashy Antwren *Myrmotherula grisea* was found at 1,650 m, but not in the wetter forest at 1,350 m in Serranía Bellavista, the Yellow-rumped Antwren was found at both sites (Remsen *et al.* 1982). It is usually found in pairs, in mixed-species flocks of insectivorous birds in the canopy, the most frequent flock associates being Marble-faced Bristle-tyrant *Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus*, Streaked Xenops *Xenops rutilans*, Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus* and Buff-banded Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus hellmayri* (Remsen *et al.* 1982).

Most foraging is in areas of very dense foliage 10–20 m above ground and almost always within 1 m of the outer edge of the canopy; of eight observations in which the target substrate could clearly be distinguished, seven were uppersides and one the underside of leaves, from as small as 10x5 cm to as large as 25x15 cm; the species moves very rapidly through the foliage, making frequent lunging and darting movements; twice individuals were seen hanging down from twigs to reach the upper surfaces of leaves below, a behaviour also noted in another member of the genus (Remsen *et al.* 1982). Indeed, the foraging behaviour and vocalizations of the species are very like those of three congeneric antwrens, Rufous-rumped *Terenura callinota*, Chestnut-shouldered *T. humeralis* and Ash-winged *T. spodioptila*, all of which are frequently overlooked owing to their size and habitual use of the uppermost canopy (TAP).

A male collected on 29 June had slightly enlarged testes and a female-plumaged bird collected on 25 June may have been a recently fledged young (Remsen *et al.* 1982). Song was given frequently in June and early July (Remsen *et al.* 1982), but this may not be an indication of breeding.

THREATS The extensive and accelerating clearance of forest in the upper tropical zone along the Amazonian slope of the Andes for cultivation of coffee, coca, tea, citrus fruit, etc., poses a serious threat to the many species of birds (72 in Bolivia) confined to this zone (Remsen and Quintela unpublished). Although the Yellow-rumped Antwren itself occurs at the upper edge of this zone and thus above the preferred elevation for the cultivation of coca and tea, much of its tall forest habitat grows on relatively rich soils suitable for small-scale agriculture, and a recent surge of colonists into the yungas from the altiplano threatens eventually to result in the clearance of most forest on the interior ridges below 2,500 m (TAP: see also Threats under Ashy Antwren *Myrmotherula grisea*).

MEASURES TAKEN Albeit yet to be reported, the species probably occurs in the north-western portion of Amboró National Park in Santa Cruz, and it may do also in Carrasco National Park in Cochabamba, but the forest within the Pilon-Lajas reserve west of San Borja, Beni, is apparently too low for it (TAP: see equivalent section under Bolivian Recurvebill *Simoxenops striatus*).

MEASURES PROPOSED Suggestions that would accommodate the conservation of this species are made in the equivalent section under Bolivian Recurvebill.

REMARKS The song and behaviour of this species is very similar to that of Rufous-rumped Antwren *Terenura callinota*, and the song also to that of Chestnut-shouldered Antwren *T. humeralis*, and they are all probably best considered members of a single superspecies (Remsen *et al.* 1982). Remsen and Quintela (unpublished) gave the limits of the upper tropical zone forest in the yungas of Bolivia as c.1,100 to c.1,700 m, high enough to receive sufficient rainfall to be classified as true montane forest, and more fertile than what they called foothill tropical forest at c.500 to c.1,100 m.