

Restricted to a small area in western Mexico, this poorly known hummingbird has a patchy distribution in which it may well be threatened owing to habitat destruction.

DISTRIBUTION The Mexican Woodnymph (see Remarks) is only known from the foothills of western Mexico, in Nayarit, Jalisco and Colima states. Field surveys in suitable habitat in central and southern Mexico have not furnished records of the species, and its restricted range seems real and not the result of incomplete knowledge (Escalante-Pliego and Peterson 1992). The relatively few records are as follows:

Nayarit La Bajada, south of San Blas, where the species was recently seen (S. N. G. Howell *in litt.* 1992); Palapita (18 km south of Jalcocotán), where specimens were taken in June and October 1981, and March and June 1982 (Navarro *et al.* 1991, also Escalante-Pliego and Peterson 1992); 10 km from Ejido Las Mesillas (south of the above locality), whence comes a recent specimen (Escalante-Pliego and Peterson 1992);

Jalisco 2.5 km north-east of Puerto Vallarta (1.5 km east of Guapinole) (Escalante-Pliego and Peterson 1992); San Sebastián, where the type-specimen was taken in March 1897 (Nelson 1900); El Refugio, Zuchitlán (1.5 km north of the Chimo road), source of two specimens (Escalante-Pliego and Peterson 1992); La Cumbre (14 km south-south-west of Autlán), source of four (Escalante-Pliego and Peterson 1992); Puerto Los Mazos, Sierra de Manatlán, where five males and two females (in FMNH) were taken in April 1989 (Escalante-Pliego and Peterson 1992), and where there was a recent sighting (S. N. G. Howell *in litt.* 1992);

Colima La Media Luna (north of Puerto Juárez), where two males and a female were taken in February 1959 (Schaldach 1963); Zacatosa, source of one specimen (Escalante-Pliego and Peterson 1992).

POPULATION This species, like most woodnymphs, is seemingly “locally common” within appropriate habitat (Escalante-Pliego and Peterson 1992): however, the bird apparently went unrecorded between 1897 and the 1950s, and was then not seen again until the 1980s (Nelson 1900, Schaldach 1963, Navarro *et al.* 1991, Escalante-Pliego and Peterson 1992), this presumably being attributable at least in part to its local distribution.

ECOLOGY Despite recent attention, almost nothing has been recorded of this species's ecological requirements. Nelson (1900) noted that the type came from an “island” of humid tropical forest on the arid tropical Pacific slope of Jalisco. When the species was next recorded (in Colima), birds were found in a “watered barranca at the upper margin of the tropical deciduous forest on the north slope of La Media Luna” (Schaldach 1963). Schaldach (1963) also reported that A. R. Phillips previously collected this species (at an undisclosed locality) in western Jalisco, apparently “only in the restricted habitat wherein the Green Jay *Cyanocorax yncas* is most abundant”: this habitat in Colima consists of dry, wooded barrancas just below oak-dominated woodland, the bird not being found in the higher altitude humid tropical forests. Escalante-Pliego and Peterson (1992) only mentioned that this woodnymph inhabits humid canyons and foothills.

THREATS Escalante-Pliego and Peterson (1992) considered the status of this and other Central American woodnymphs of moderate concern, in the case of Mexican Woodnymph owing to its restricted distribution in an area where suitable habitat has been reduced in recent decades; however, they also mentioned that its habitat is still fairly extensive and that the bird is relatively common. The main problem appears to be ignorance of its patchy distribution, and also its precise ecological requirements: whilst these are undocumented, it remains difficult to assess the impact of habitat loss in the region.

MEASURES TAKEN None is known.

MEASURES PROPOSED A clearer definition of this hummingbird's distributional and ecological limits must be achieved so as to determine the nature of the threats it faces; however, it is clear that protective measures are needed in this area to preserve at least some of the existing habitat within its limited range.

REMARKS Originally described as a full species (Nelson 1900), the Mexican Woodnymph was later merged with the South American Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata* (from which, however, it is geographically very disjunct) and maintained as a subspecies until very recently (see Escalante-Pliego and Peterson 1992).