

This small flycatcher is known only from the type collected over 160 years ago at Borba, Amazonas, Brazil.

DISTRIBUTION The Buff-cheeked Tody-flycatcher (see Remarks) remains known from a single male collected at Borba on the right bank of the lower rio Madeira, eastern Amazonas state, Brazil, in June 1830 (von Pelzeln 1868-1871, Hellmayr 1910b).

POPULATION Nothing is known. It is difficult to draw conclusions from evidence over 160 years old, but the fact that J. Natterer collected only a single specimen during a stay of seven or more probably nine months, November 1829 to June or August 1830 (see von Pelzeln 1868-1871), suggests that the bird could not have been common in the region or was perhaps confined to a little explored habitat.

ECOLOGY Nothing is known. Its habitat is “probably humid forest” (Sibley and Monroe 1990), but this could be igapó (permanently flooded), várzea (seasonally flooded) or terra firme (upland) forest.

THREATS None is known. Deforestation generally in Amazonas remains as yet slight (Fearnside 1990), but whether the area around Borba has been particularly affected is unknown.

MEASURES TAKEN None is known.

MEASURES PROPOSED This bird (described in some detail in von Pelzeln 1868-1871, Hellmayr 1910b) should be illustrated as a means of providing a search-image to potential fieldworkers, and then looked for in the environs of Borba in as many types of habitat as are known to have existed there 160 years ago. A modern examination and redescription of the type-specimen would be welcome.

REMARKS Species based on single nineteenth-century specimens tend largely to be considered aberrant or hybrid; however, examination of the type led to the conclusion that this is “a very distinct species” (Cory and Hellmayr 1927).