

ORANGE-THROATED TANAGER *Wetmorethraupis sterrhopteron* V⁹

This tanager is only known from Zamora-Chinchipec province, Ecuador, and northern Amazonas department, Peru, where it inhabits mature humid forest in the upper tropical zone. It remains vulnerable owing to its small distribution at elevations where the forested slopes are not steep or wet, and are therefore ideal for cultivation.

DISTRIBUTION The Orange-throated Tanager (see Remarks) is known from the southern upper reaches of río Zamora in Zamora-Chinchipec province, Ecuador, and along the middle río Marañón valley in northern Amazonas department, Peru.

Ecuador In July and August 1990 this species was discovered in Zamora-Chinchipec province, at 1,000 m along the upper río Nangaritza at Shaime, c.04°20-25'S 78°40'W (M. Marin, R. Corado and J. M. Carrión verbally 1990; four specimens in MECN and WFVZ).

Peru The type-specimen was procured from Aguaruna Indians in July 1963 at Chávez Valdivia, 4°26'S 78°11'W, and had presumably been taken in the foothills of Cordillera del Condor to the west or north-west (Lowery and O'Neill 1964). In 1964 the species was found chiefly at elevations above 600 m (and 50 specimens were then collected) along the río Cenepa (at Tutinum and Suwa), río Comaina (at Kusú and an unspecified locality), and río Kangka (at Bashuim), all at 4°27-33'S 78°12-16'W; on the left bank of the río Marañón (at Chiangkus, Chicais, and Chipi), all at 4°39-48'S 78°12-18'W; and on the right bank of the río Marañón in the hills 3 km west of Urakusa, c.4°42'S 78°03'W, and at Nazaret, 5°09'S 78°19'W (O'Neill 1969), this latter locality being only some 86 km south of Chávez Valdivia.

The species was not found during 16 days of fieldwork in humid forest at 750 m, north-east of Tarapoto, San Martín department (Davis 1986), and may well be genuinely restricted to the hills bordering the middle río Marañón.

POPULATION O'Neill (1969) noted that the species "seems to be common", although it was given the status "uncommon" by Parker *et al.* (1982).

ECOLOGY The Orange-throated Tanager inhabits mature humid terra firme and montane forest, chiefly at elevations from 600 to 800 m (O'Neill 1969, Parker *et al.* 1982, Isler and Isler 1987). It travels in pairs or small groups of up to five individuals, sometimes joining mixed-species flocks, and forages in the canopy, seemingly over a large area (Isler and Isler 1987). Birds scan leaves and search mosses and small bromeliads on branches, and may also hover, presumably to pick hanging fruits from the tips of branches (O'Neill 1969, Isler and Isler 1987). One of a flock of three was collected in the mid-canopy of disturbed forest (specimen in MECN). One stomach contained seeds, fruit pulp and a beetle (Isler and Isler 1987), and another fruit remains and insects (MECN label data). There are no data on breeding, except that a bird (with an incompletely ossified skull) collected in August had small testes (specimen in MECN).

THREATS None is known, save the general widespread and increasing forest clearance (mainly along roads) within the bird's altitudinal range. The range of the species falls almost entirely within Aguaruna Indian territory, but the planned improvement and eastward extension of the road south of the río Marañón (Parker *et al.* 1982) will undoubtedly attract new settlers, and the lower hills along the road between ríos Nieva and Chiriaco (Imaza) may soon look like the lower foothills along the northern road between ríos Chiriaco and Utcubamba, which are being rapidly cleared (Parker *et al.* 1982, NK).

MEASURES TAKEN None is known.

MEASURES PROPOSED A protected area (perhaps within the Cordillera del Condor) with a wide altitudinal range, so as to hold both the present species and other threatened birds, such as Spot-winged Parrotlet *Touit stictoptera*, Royal Sunangel *Heliangelus regalis* and Cinnamon-breasted Tody-tyrant *Hemitriccus cinnamomeipectus*, should be created as a priority. A study to disclose the distributional

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status of this species should be undertaken in collaboration with work on these other species (see relevant accounts); such work should concentrate on finding areas of sympatry that would be suitable for protection.

REMARKS The Orange-throated Tanager is a distinctive bird, the only member of its genus.