

PREVENTING EXTINCTIONS

Colourful Puffleg
Eriocnemis mirabilis



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Background

The Colourful Puffleg is now known from four locations but has an extremely small and decreasing range in which habitat fragmentation is severe owing to small-scale logging and cultivation. It was until recently only known from the Cerro Charguayaco, north-east of Cerro Munchique on the Pacific slope of the west Andes in Cauca, south-west Colombia. Recently, it has been found elsewhere in Munchique National Park, the Serrania del Pinche and at El Planchón in the Cordillera Occidental, Cauca Department. Other areas of suitable habitat do exist in less accessible areas of the west Andes. Preliminary studies suggest that it favours the understorey to mid-levels of lower montane, wet forest, feeding in the forest interior and edges. It has now been recorded from 2,200 to at least 3,000 m.

Actions being implemented

1. -Under the program Colombian Neotropical Migratory Bird Monitoring, ProAves have been banding this species in Munchique with the aim of **monitoring the population** and implementing conservation strategies.

Recommendations

1. -Surveys in other areas of suitable habitat in Cauca should be conducted to **research its status** and annual ecological requirements at the type-locality.
2. -**Support the establishment and expansion** of the newly formed reserve to begin conservation plans for the species.
3. -**Designate additional areas of suitable habitat as reserves** to contribute the conservation habitat of the Colourful Puffleg.

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