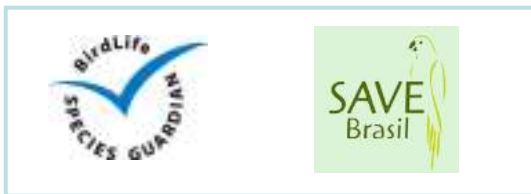


PREVENTING EXTINCTIONS

Stresemann's Bristlefront
Merulaxis stresemanni



Digital artwork of Stresemann's Bristlefoot (© Tomasz Cofta/www.rarebirdyearbook.com).

Background

Stresemann's Bristlefront was known until recently from just two specimens, the last of which was collected in 1945. However, it was rediscovered in the wild in 1995 when a male was observed and tape-recorded at Fazenda Jueirana, near Una Biological Reserve, Bahia. Subsequent searches there have failed to produce further records, although the species was subsequently found in the Jequitinhonha valley, Minas Gerais, near the border with Bahia. Here, too, the future of the species seems to hang in the balance: it lives in a strip of humid valley-floor forest, much of which has recently been cleared to make room for agriculture and pasture. At least four birds were found in a 100 ha area, but it was thought unlikely that this density could be extrapolated for the whole 5,000 ha patch of forest, hence the current population size is unknown.

Actions being implemented

- 1. Surveys** are being carried out to assess the population size of the species. As of January 2010, five females have been found in the Macarani/Bandeira forest area.
- 2. A park guard** is set to be hired, improving protection for the forest in Macarina and Bandeira municipalities

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