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## Density and natural history of the Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia castaneiventris*) in the municipality of Soatá, Boyacá, Colombia

### Densidad e historia natural del Colibrí Vientricastaño (*Amazilia castaneiventris*) en el municipio de Soatá, Boyacá, Colombia

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Patterns of spatial distribution and population densities of species depend on their intrinsic properties, interactions with other species, and availability and distribution of resources. Patterns of space use and population densities of many hummingbirds, particularly montane species, are poorly documented. The Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia castaneiventris*) is considered rare in its restricted area of distribution in the dry Chicamocha-Sogamoso drainage of the Eastern Andes of Colombia and is classified as Critically Endangered. Between July and November 2007 I conducted monthly surveys along three transects, and made *ad libitum* observations to estimate population densities and obtain information on spatial distribution, breeding period and diet of this species over a 100-ha area. The area consists of open woodland, scrub and gallery woodland in

Soatá, Boyacá, a region where the species had been recorded in good numbers 40 yr ago. I estimated a total density of 2.1 ind/km<sup>2</sup>, but found the species to be concentrated mostly in gallery woodland, especially during the flowering period of the yátago tree (*Trichanthera gigantea*, Acanthaceae), when local densities were considerably higher and some birds defended feeding territories at these flowers. During the study period I found two nests, and did not observe fluctuations in abundance or evidence of altitudinal migration. The available information suggests that *A. castaneiventris* has low population densities and that its habitat has been dramatically reduced. These characteristics make this species prone to extinction. It remains to be seen whether this species is rare at larger spatial scales and throughout its limited range.