CLASSIFICATION

Class: Aves  
Order: Passeriformes  
Family: Thraupidae  

3 subspecies recognized

Identification: The species can reach 14 cm in length for a weight of 35 g. Unmistakable. According to subspecies male can be turquoise or greenish-blue with black mask and faint black stripes on flanks, white belly. Female is dull green.

Range: The species occurs in South America, from Colombia to South Venezuela and Guianas, south to Southern Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay.

Habitat: Most kinds of forests, woodlands, forest edges and plantations, to 2100 m.

Behavior: The species lives in loose groups and mixed-species flocks. Feeds on fruits and arthropods. Nest is a shallow cup in tree hole, cliff hole or artificial structure.

Status in the wild: The species remains safe so far and can withstand slight habitat changes. Some parts of the species’ range are at risk from deforestation.

In captivity: This species is very rare in captivity in Europe these days. It used to be kept in a few zoos but is now only known from 3 public collections. Uncommon in American zoos. Subspecies occidentalis commonest. Bred in captivity since 1982.