

Yellowthroated Sandgrouse

Geelkeelsandpatrys

Pterocles gutturalis

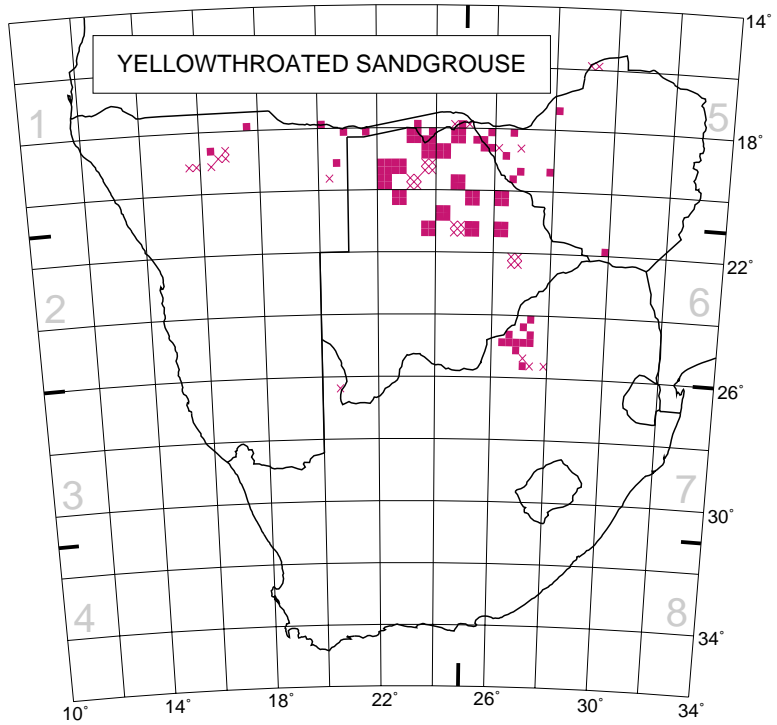
The Yellowthroated Sandgrouse is mainly confined to the western Transvaal (Blane & Tarboton 1990), northern Botswana and extreme western Zimbabwe. Beyond the atlas region it extends discontinuously through East Africa to northern Ethiopia (Maclean & Fry 1986). There are some records from the Etosha region, where there is also suitable habitat. Isolated southern African records during the atlas period came from the Kalahari Gemsbok Park (2520) and parts of Zimbabwe. In the Transvaal it is presently confined to the western savanna from Rustenburg (2527CA) to the Limpopo River (Tarboton *et al.* 1987b).

It inhabits short open grassland, fallow fields and recently burnt veld, especially on black clay soils, usually near water. Transvaal populations are apparently sedentary; in other parts of the region, resident populations are supplemented by migrants from Zambia, arriving in October and leaving usually April–May (Benson *et al.* 1971; Taylor 1979; Brewster 1991) although Brooke (1968a) gave January as the month of departure. In the summer wet season up to a few hundred of these presumed migrants occur in the Makgadikgadi region of Botswana, when fresh water is available (M. Herremans pers. comm.).

Three breeding records are April–October in the Transvaal (Tarboton *et al.* 1987b), while 36 breeding records from Botswana span March–August (Skinner 1996a). Breeding is May–September in Zambia, and probably in Zimbabwe (Maclean 1993b). It sometimes accompanies Burchell’s Sandgrouse *P. burchelli* to water in the mornings.

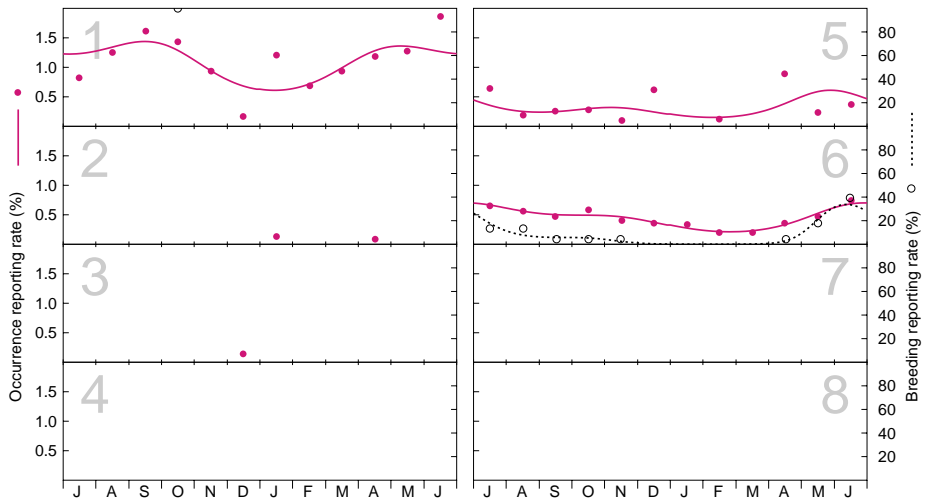
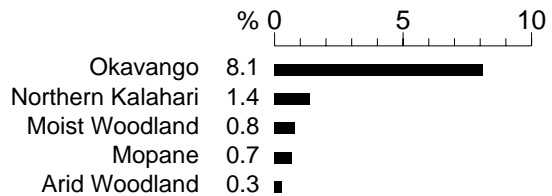
Its range has contracted markedly in the Transvaal since 1900 and it no longer occurs around Potchefstroom (2627CA), or Kuruman (2723AD) in the northern Cape Province (Stark & Sclater 1906). Smithers (1964) recorded it in Botswana over much the same area as it was reported during the atlas period. Listed as ‘indeterminate’ in South Africa by Brooke (1984b), a resident population of over 400 birds in farming areas of the western Transvaal (Blane & Tarboton 1990) seems to indicate that the Yellowthroated Sandgrouse is not in immediate danger, but requires monitoring. Populations in Botswana are probably less threatened than those in farming areas, but may be exposed to hunting during breeding if hunting were to continue in the dry season.

G.L. Maclean



Recorded in 127 grid cells, 2.8%
 Total number of records: 255
 Mean reporting rate for range: 5.3%

Reporting rates for vegetation types



Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):
 Occurrence: 104, 2, 1, 0, 36, 109, 0, 0; Breeding: 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 23, 0, 0.