



Greenspotted Dove Groenvlekduifie

Turtur chalcospilos

This smallish dove is found throughout Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana, northeastern South Africa and Swaziland (where there is an estimated population of 30 000 (Parker 1994)); it is quite widespread in northern KwaZulu-Natal, but further south and in the eastern Cape Province it is found mainly below 1000 m in coastal and adjacent areas, reaching the Knysna district (3423AA) in the west. It occurs in northern Botswana, mainly in the Okavango region, and along the Caprivi Strip into northern Namibia. It appears to be most abundant in the lowveld areas of the northern and eastern Transvaal and Swaziland, in the lower-lying parts (<1200 m) of Zimbabwe, and in the Okavango. Extralimitally, in the west it reaches Gabon, while in the east it extends into Mozambique and northwards to Ethiopia and Sudan (Urban *et al.* 1986).

Although usually seen only singly or in pairs, the Greenspotted Dove is generally fairly common and, under ideal conditions, very common. It was probably mainly detected through its call, which, while distinctive, can be confused with the other two *Turtur* species occurring in southern Africa. However, the Bluespotted Dove *T. afer* has a very restricted distribution, while the Tambourine

Dove *T. tympanistria* has different habitat requirements, so inaccuracies due to misidentifications were probably minimal. However, its call is at times confused with one of those of the Pied Barbet *Tricholaema leucomelas*. Gaps in its range in Zimbabwe tend to lie in thinly covered grid cells, and better coverage of northern Namibia would probably have revealed a wider, more uniform distribution.

Habitat: In southern Africa it is mainly found in various deciduous woodland types and moister thornveld, particularly in thickets or along drainage lines and in valleys where there is taller, denser growth (Skead 1967b; Irwin 1981; Rowan 1983; Tarboton *et al.* 1987b). It is not found in forest (Rowan 1983).

Movements: Through most of its range, the models indicate an increase in reporting rates through winter, reaching peaks in early to midsummer. This may be related to increased visibility during leaf-fall, but may also reflect increased calling prior to a summer breeding period. This pattern is not evident in Zimbabwe, but it breeds there throughout the year (Irwin 1981). Reports of seasonal variation in abundance in the eastern Cape Province and KwaZulu-Natal (Rowan 1983), and western Zimbabwe (Irwin 1981) probably reflect local movements, with its status elsewhere generally given as 'sedentary'. Evidence in northern and eastern Botswana indicates that the species rapidly expands into formerly drought-stricken arid woodlands after good rains (M. Herremans, A.J. Tree pers. comms).

Breeding: In Zimbabwe breeding was recorded in all months, which agrees with previously published data (Irwin 1981). In South Africa there appears to be an extended spring–summer season (Dean 1971; Tarboton *et al.* 1987b).

Interspecific relationships: In southern Africa this species overlaps most of the range of the Tambourine Dove, and all of that of the Bluespotted Dove, but it is ecologically separated from these two congeners (Irwin 1981).

Historical distribution and conservation: Extensive clearing of woodland and bushveld will have affected the Greenspotted Dove's distribution negatively in certain areas; this has been partly compensated for by its limited use of rural and suburban gardens, and certain orchards (Hall 1983; Ginn *et al.* 1989).

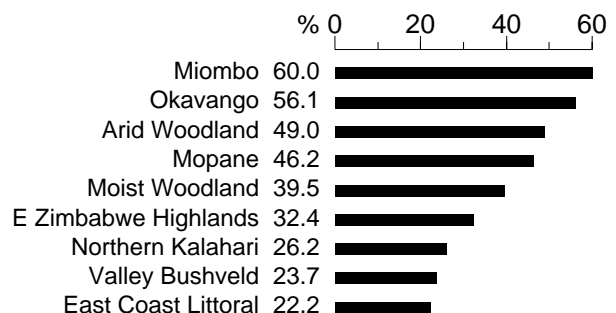
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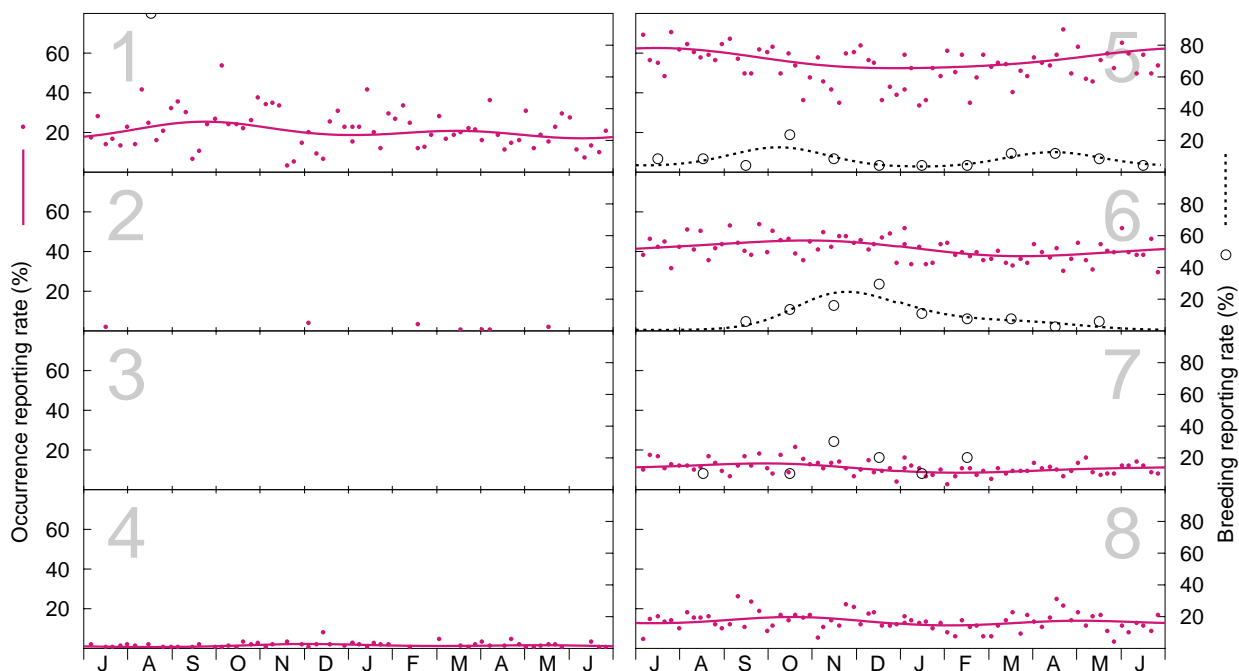
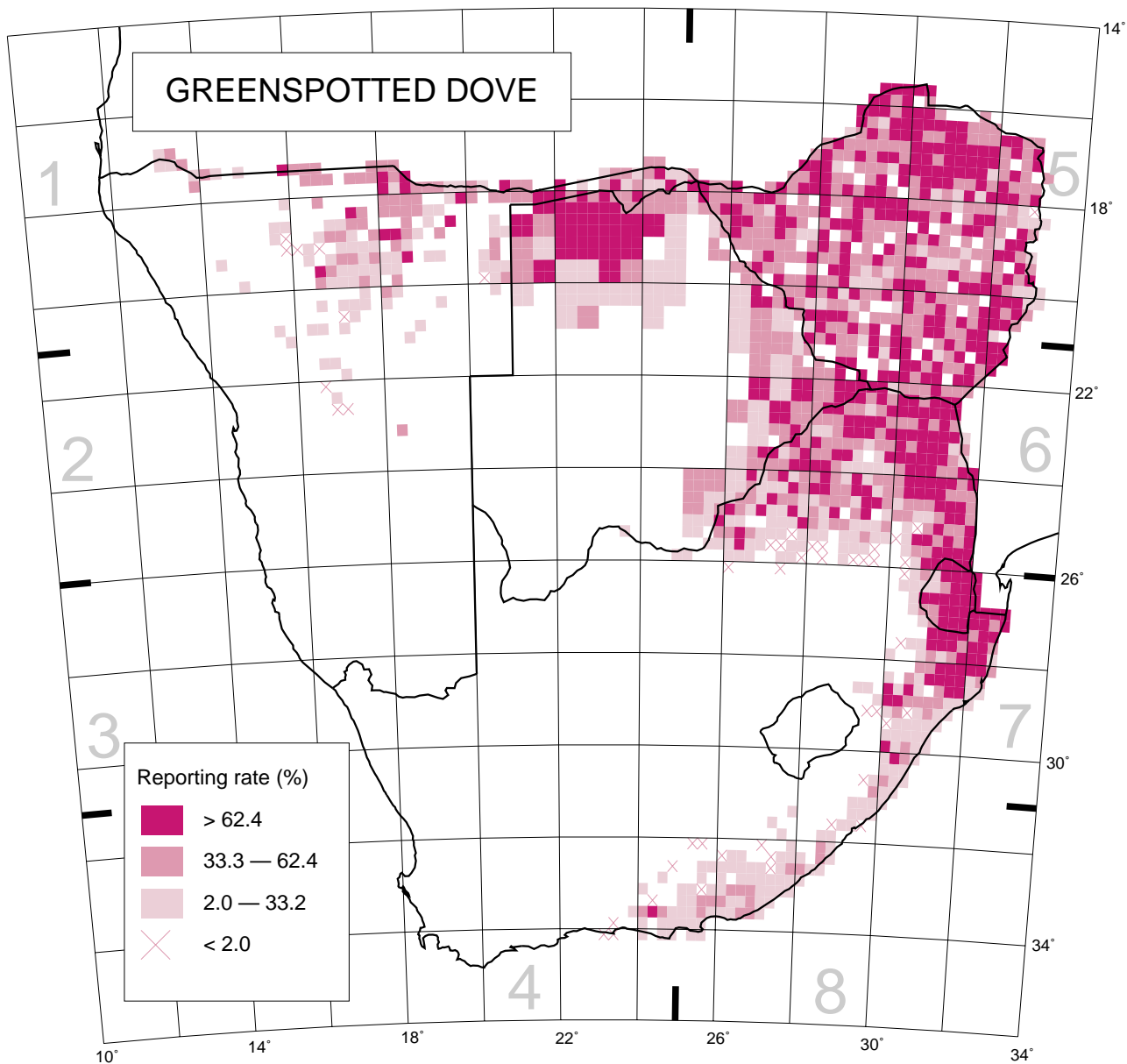
Recorded in 1530 grid cells, 33.7%

Total number of records: 26 460

Mean reporting rate for range: 37.9%

Reporting rates for vegetation types





Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):
 Occurrence: 682, 8, 0, 120, 4982, 4747, 2115, 746; Breeding: 1, 0, 0, 0, 25, 37, 10, 0.