

Cinnamon Dove

Kaneelduifie

Aplopelia larvata

The Cinnamon Dove is widespread in the Afrotropical region but its distribution is restricted to forested areas and it consequently has a discontinuous range in southern Africa. Several races have been named but only one, the nominate race, described from a bird collected at Knysna (3423AA), occurs in the atlas region. This race extends northwards through eastern Africa to the southern Sudan (Keith *et al.* 1992). There are no close relatives of this species in southern Africa and although Urban *et al.* (1986) placed it in *Columba*, it has no ecological counterparts in that genus.

It is unobtrusive and spends most of its time on the ground, walking more often than flying. If flushed it flies up with a clatter of wings, but thereafter the flight is silent and seldom continues for more than 30 m before dropping to the ground again. It is usually solitary, but several individuals may gather at sites of good seed falls. It drinks regularly in the early morning and, more commonly, in the late afternoon. In its natural forest habitat, its arrivals at

and departures from favoured drinking sites at streams are always on foot, incoming fliers landing 20–30 m from the stream and walking the remaining distance (pers. obs.). The deep, upward-slurred 'coooo' call is a good guide to its presence in a forest, but tends to become part of the background noise and pass unnoticed unless specifically listened for. The map nevertheless portrays a fair picture of its southern African distribution.

Habitat: It is a bird of evergreen forests, found from sea-level to the upper limits of the Afromontane forest in southern Africa. It avoids areas of dense ferns or herbaceous growth, preferring leaf-strewn ground where it can walk unimpeded and find fallen seeds, such as those of the Cape Chestnut *Calodendrum capense*, which form the bulk of its diet (Rowan 1983). It has been observed in plantations of exotic trees in the southwestern Cape Province, but is unlikely to be resident in such monocultures which would provide it with little in the way of food or adequate shelter. It may frequent gardens with thick shrubberies in well-wooded suburbs.

Movements: The models do not indicate that there are any pronounced movements. According to Irwin (1981), 'very minor vertical seasonal movements' occur in the eastern highlands of Zimbabwe in those forests that are of sufficient altitudinal extent. Recaptures of birds ringed in the eastern Transvaal (1) and the KwaZulu-Natal midlands (6) indicate that local populations are resident.

Breeding: Data published by Irwin (1981) and Rowan (1983) show that egg-laying has been recorded in all months except May–June, with 53% of clutches started November–December.

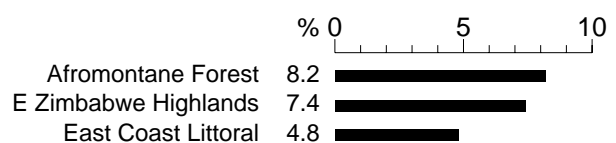
Interspecific relationships: It may sometimes be seen together with Tambourine Doves *Turtur tympanistria* when both are attracted to a good fall of seeds beneath a forest tree.

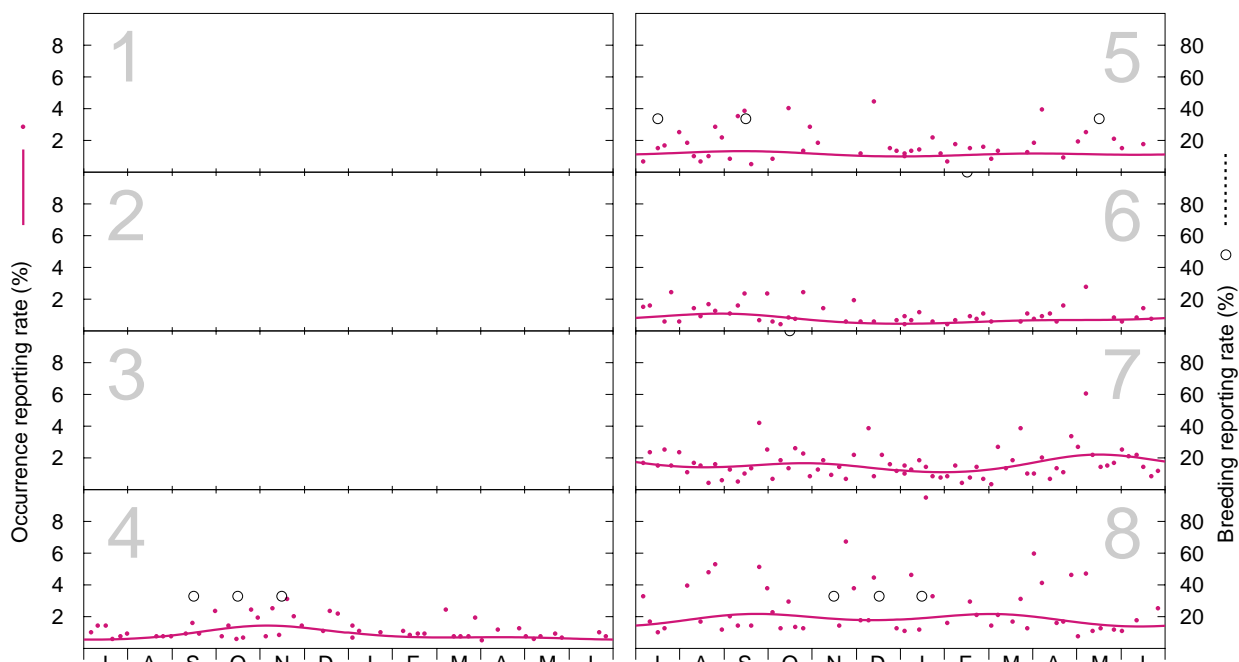
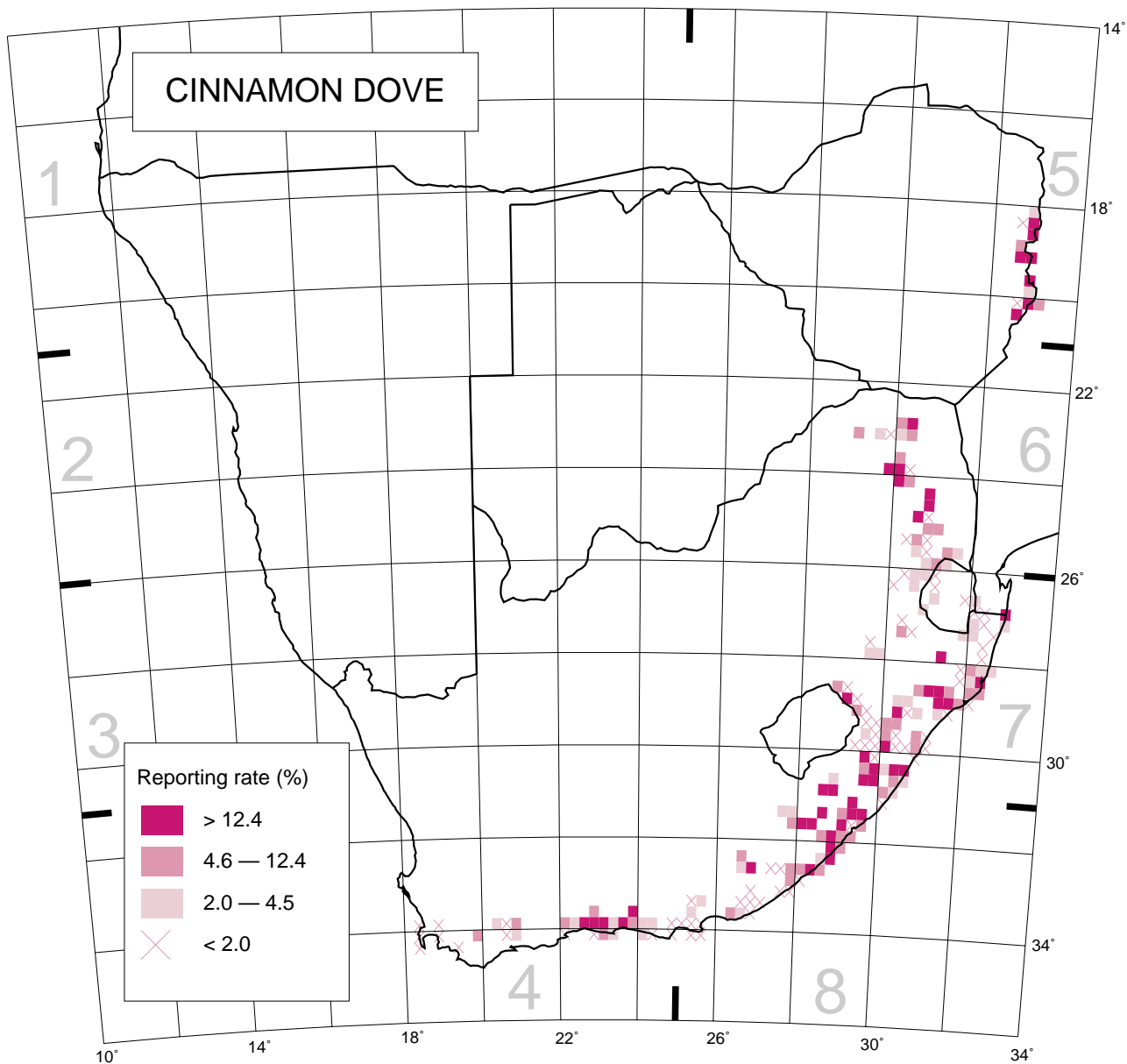
Historical distribution and conservation: Rowan (1983) mentioned an alleged decline in numbers over 15 years in the Kei Road (3227DA) area. There are no other data on record which indicate an historic change in any part of the range. The Cinnamon Dove's dependence on indigenous forest nevertheless poses the risk of increasing habitat loss throughout its range, although this threat is not yet severe enough to warrant its being listed as threatened, either by Brooke (1984b) or by Collar *et al.* (1994).

T.B. Oatley

Recorded in 215 grid cells, 4.7%
Total number of records: 1757
Mean reporting rate for range: 5.4%

Reporting rates for vegetation types





Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):
 Occurrence: 0, 0, 0, 75, 101, 82, 308, 102; Breeding: 0, 0, 0, 3, 3, 1, 1, 3.