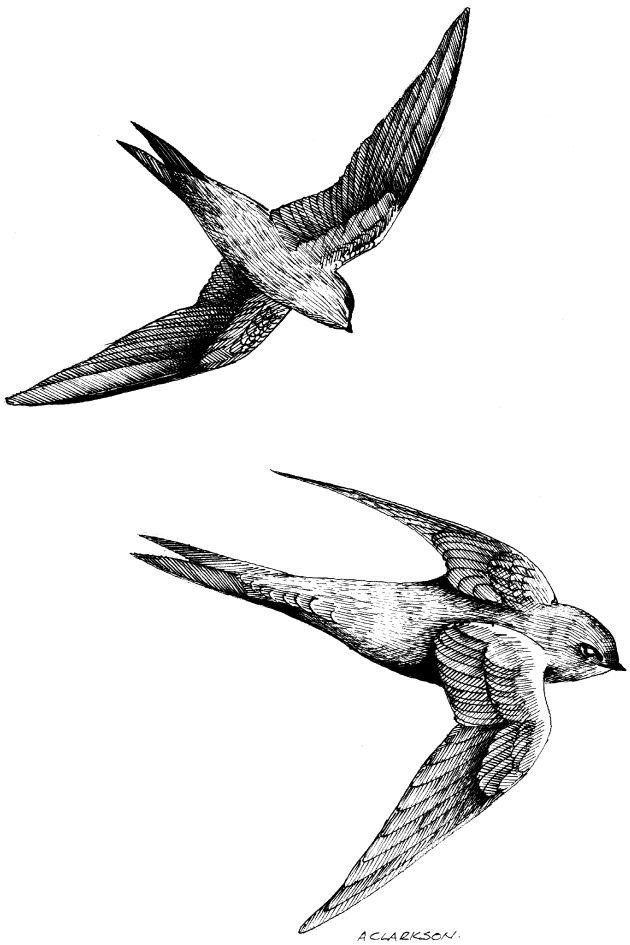


Habitat: Breeding normally takes place in dry horizontal cracks under overhangs of cliffs or in caves. However, it also breeds in old buildings, as at Kuruman (2723AD) (Brooke & Avery 1992), in old mine workings such as the Big Hole, Kimberley (2824DB) (Brooke 1984b), and among the dead fronds of the alien palm *Washingtonia robusta* (Ryan & Rose 1985; Brown 1989b). Foraging usually takes place over open country.

Movements: The atlas data reveal little evidence for seasonality and it appears to be resident throughout its range.

Breeding: Breeding may occur at any time of the year in Angola (Brooke 1971g) but may be largely confined to the summer months in Namibia and South Africa. Egglaying dates for 29 nest records in Namibia spanned October–April (Brown & Clinning in press). The atlas breeding records were from December, January, March and May.

Interspecific relationships: It sometimes joins mixed-species foraging flocks of which the European Swift is a principal constituent in summer. It appears largely to replace the Black Swift in the arid west of the region. (See text for Black Swift for discussion.)

Historical distribution and conservation: There is no reason to believe that the historical range in Namibia and southwestern Angola was different to the present range. Although the discovery of this species in South Africa was a recent event (Brooke 1970, 1984b), most nesting takes place in natural, apparently traditional, sites (Brooke & Avery 1992). It has probably extended its range eastwards and now breeds in the Big Hole since sometime in the 20th century: this is the most easterly breeding site known.

Its rocky nest sites are usually difficult of access, and there are only minimal threats in southern Africa. Bradfield's Swift's 'rare' conservation status in South Africa (Brooke 1984b) cannot be supported now, and a revised Red Data book for birds should omit it.

R.K. Brooke

Bradfield's Swift

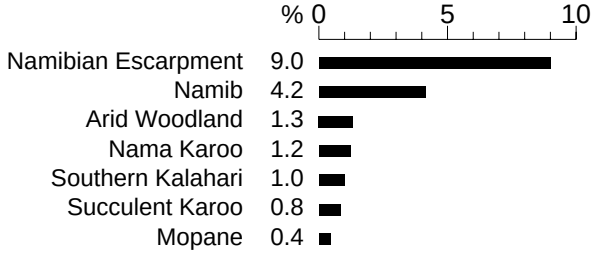
Muiskleurwindswael

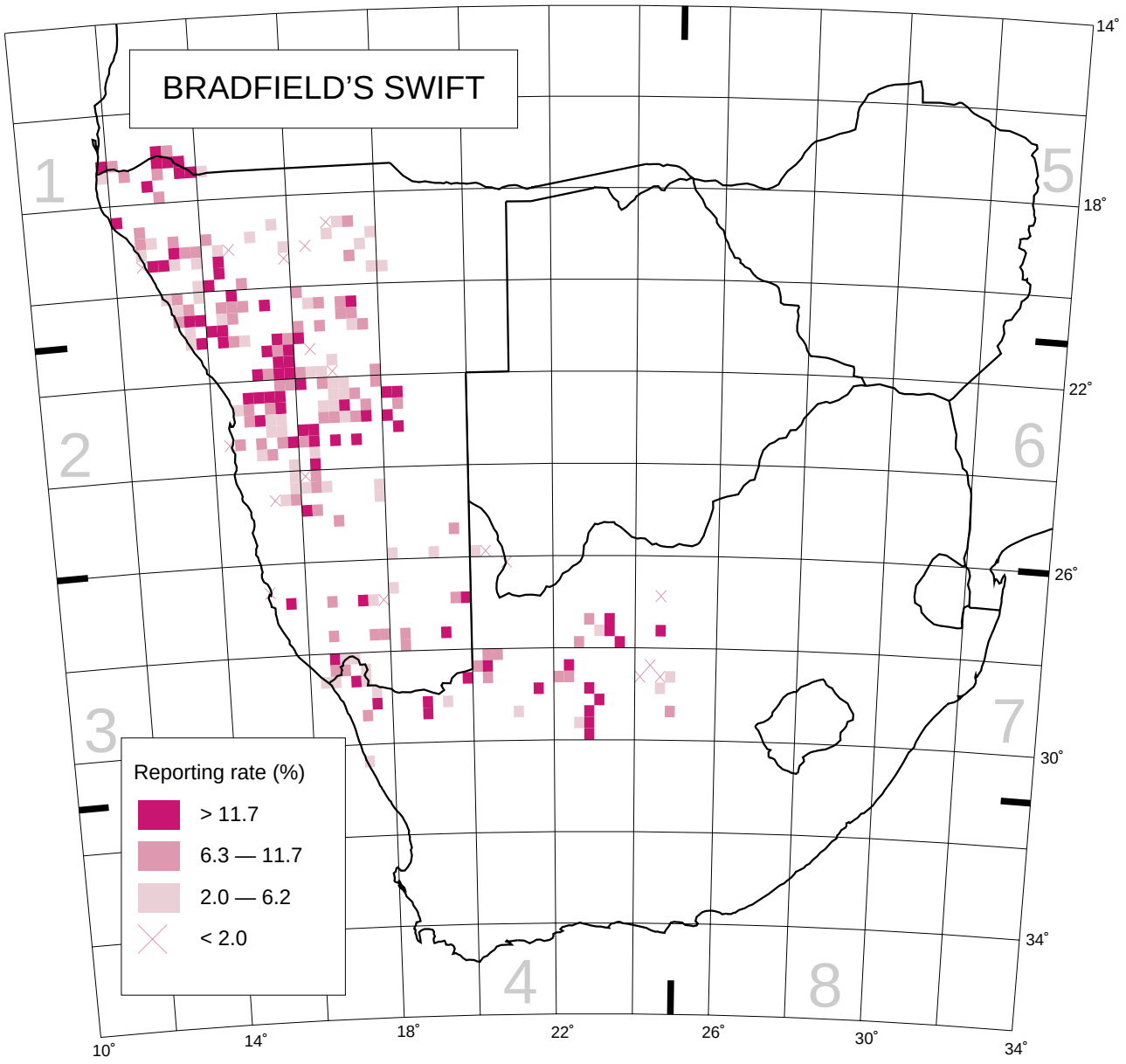
Apus bradfieldi

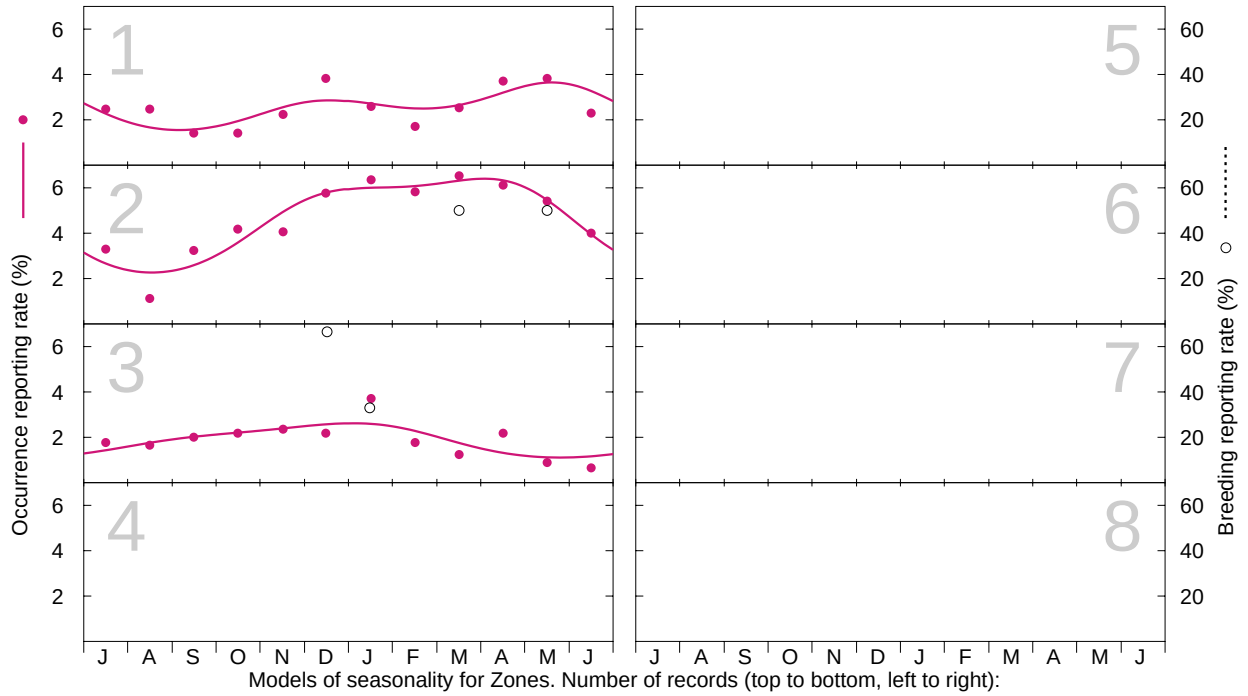
Bradfield's Swift is substantially endemic to southern Africa but also breeds in southwestern Angola (Brooke 1970, 1971g), as well as in Namibia and the northern Cape Province (Brooke & Avery 1992; Anderson, M.D. 1994b). The atlas data are unreliable in that, while all claimed records of Bradfield's Swift are probably valid, many records from the northern Cape Province and Namibia claimed for other plain dark species, particularly the Black Swift *A. barbatus*, probably belong here. However, such erroneous records do not seem likely to extend the known range of Bradfield's Swift by much. For discussion of confusion with other plain dark swifts, see the text for the European Swift *A. apus*.

Recorded in 242 grid cells, 5.3%
Total number of records: 906
Mean reporting rate for range: 8.1%

Reporting rates for vegetation types







Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):
Occurrence: 234, 494, 174, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0; Breeding: 0, 2, 3, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0.