

### White-eared Barbet

Witoorhoutkapper

*Stactolaema leucotis*

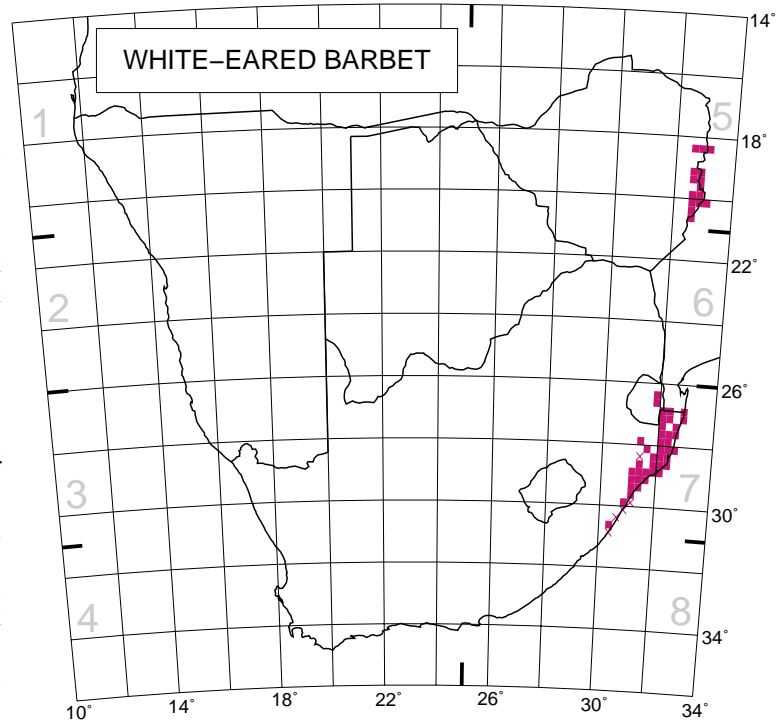
The White-eared Barbet is locally common in riverine and lowland evergreen forest and secondary growth in KwaZulu-Natal, eastern Swaziland, Mozambique and eastern Zimbabwe. The vegetation analysis shows that it is most abundant in East Coast Littoral in KwaZulu-Natal, and somewhat less abundant in the Eastern Zimbabwe Highlands. It occurs up to 1400 m altitude in eastern Zimbabwe, and in moist *Brachystegia* and *Uapaca* woodlands, and is common at the confluence of the Haroni–Rusitu rivers (2033AA) at 350 m (Irwin 1981). It occupies the mid-stratum and canopy of forests and is vocal and conspicuous.

Numbers may vary locally because it gathers in groups at fruiting trees, particularly wild figs *Ficus* spp. It is recorded more frequently in winter in KwaZulu-Natal; this is almost certainly not a result of arrival of migrants from the north because local migrations of other species involve northward movements in winter (Berruti *et al.* 1994a). Possibly birds move to the coast or to larger forests in protected areas where coverage is better. However, there is a slight decrease in winter reporting rates in Zimbabwe which may reflect real decreases in numbers because Irwin (1981) reported altitudinal seasonal movement, with Zimbabwean birds moving to lower altitudes.

Evidence of breeding activity was recorded August–April, extending the egg-laying period of October–January given by Irwin (1981). Most breeding records from KwaZulu-Natal were November–January. The White-eared Barbet is a host of the Lesser *Indicator minor* and Eastern *Indicator meliphilus* Honeyguides (Maclean 1993b).

Clancey (1964b) recorded it as regular from the Tugela River mouth (2931AB) northwards. Cyrus and Robson (1980) and this atlas show that it occurs as far south as Durban (2931CC); it may have extended its range southwards. The White-eared Barbet is not threatened, but listed as requiring monitoring (Brooke 1984b) because clearing of forests reduces its habitat.

A. Berruti



Recorded in 60 grid cells, 1.3%  
 Total number of records: 1977  
 Mean reporting rate for range: 21.0%

#### Reporting rates for vegetation types

