

Mosque Swallow

Moskeeswael

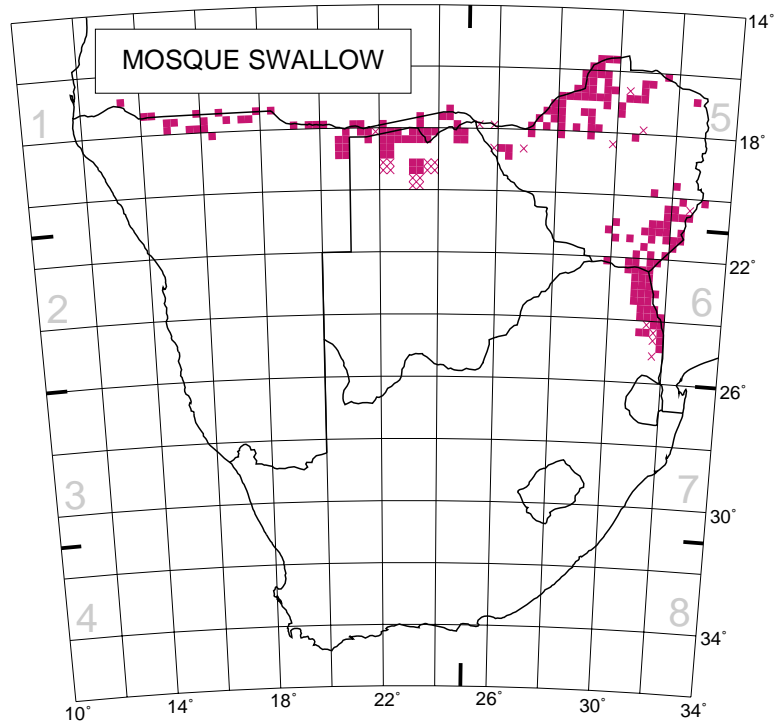
Hirundo senegalensis

The Mosque Swallow occurs in the Transvaal lowveld, particularly the Kruger National Park, the southeastern and northern Zimbabwean woodlands, and the tall-tree woodlands of northern Botswana, and the Caprivi Strip and Owambo in Namibia. Different races of this swallow occur over much of Africa south of the Sahara where it is usually patchily distributed. This species can be confused with the Redbreasted Swallow *H. semirufa* but the white underwing coverts and throat are distinctive and its habitat preference is different from that of the Redbreasted Swallow. These two similar species have centres of abundance within southern African woodlands.

Throughout much of its southern African range, it is associated with Mopane woodland, with scattered Baobab *Adansonia digitata* and Leadwood *Combretum imberbe* trees. It is uncommon to fairly common and localized in deciduous woodland and savanna with trees suitable for breeding, and also in riparian habitat with tall trees.

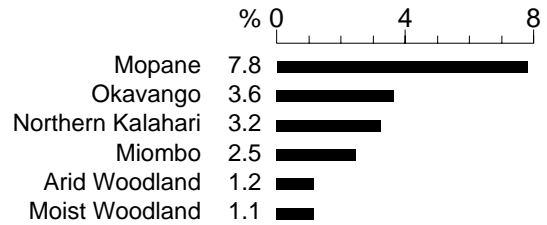
It is a resident species but the model for northern Namibia and Botswana (Zone 1) may suggest some winter movement out of this region. Breeding was noted in most months of the year in Zimbabwe and the Transvaal (Zones 5 and 6). Tarboton *et al.* (1987b) reported breeding in the Transvaal November–January and Irwin (1981) reported breeding August–September, December–February and in April in Zimbabwe. The possibility of a bimodal breeding season, with peaks in spring and autumn, requires investigation.

This species has extended its range recently and has been recorded further south in the Kruger National Park during the last two decades. Tarboton *et al.* (1987b) mentioned expansion of its range south to Tshokwane (2431DD) by 1987, while in 1992 it was recorded from just north of Skukuza (2431DC), where it is now a rare resident. A southward spread in Zimbabwe has also been noted (A.J. Tree pers. comm.).

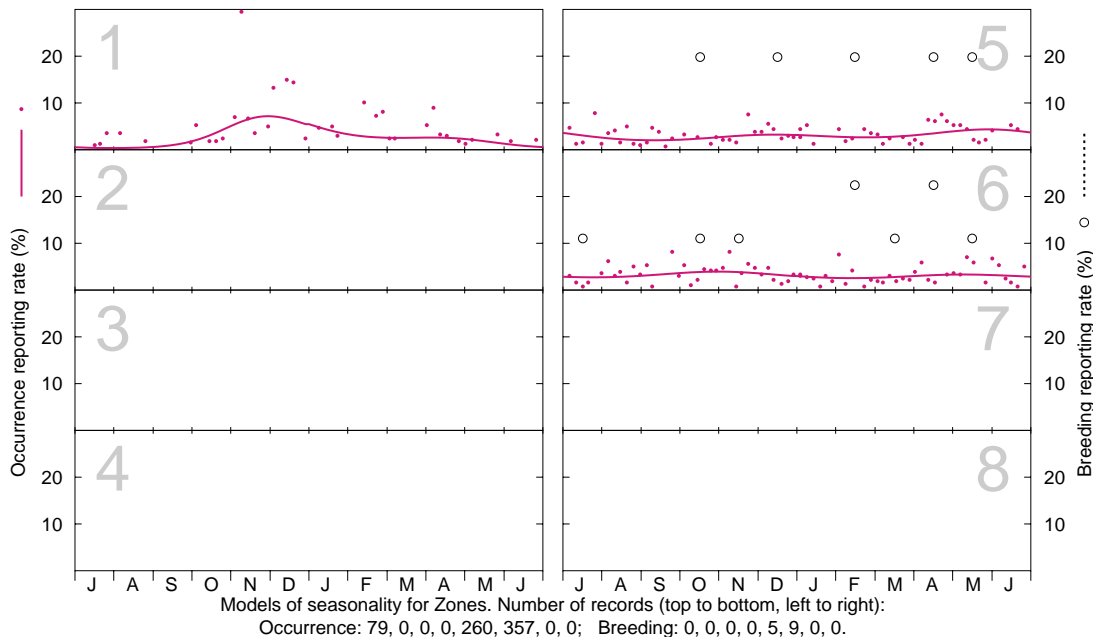


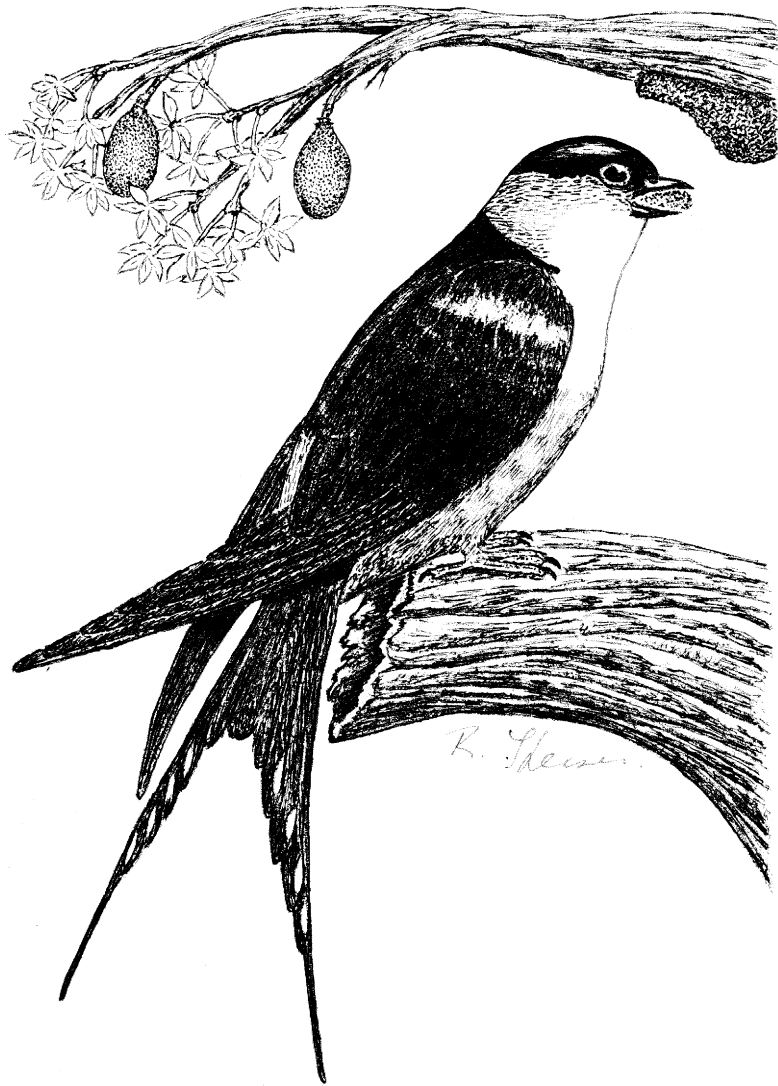
Recorded in 219 grid cells, 4.8%
 Total number of records: 1156
 Mean reporting rate for range: 12.8%

Reporting rates for vegetation types



R.A. Earlé





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