

Eastern Sawwing Swallow

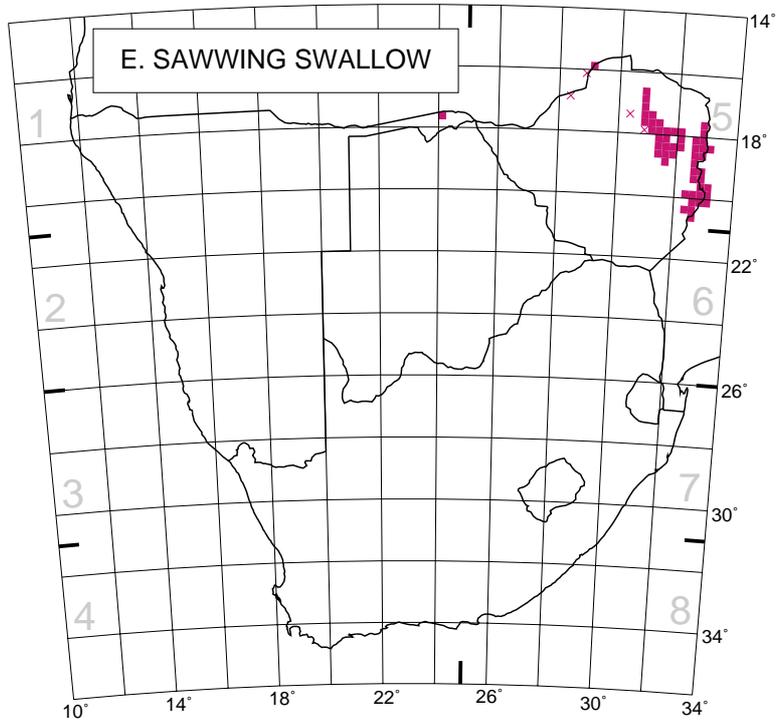
Tropiese Saagvlerkswael

Psalidoprocne orientalis

The Eastern Sawwing Swallow occurs in eastern and northeastern Zimbabwe where it is locally common, with high reporting rates at specific localities. It is reported as far south as the Chipingwe district (2032BC) in eastern Zimbabwe. It is the subspecies *P. o. percivali* that occurs in northeastern Zimbabwe, while the western race *P. o. reichnowi* has been recorded from the Caprivi Strip (Clancey 1980b). North of southern Africa, this species occurs widely in the moister parts of sub-Saharan Africa. Juvenile Eastern Sawwing Swallows can be confused with Black Sawwing Swallows *P. holomelas* and they may overlap occasionally in the extreme southern parts of the former's range.

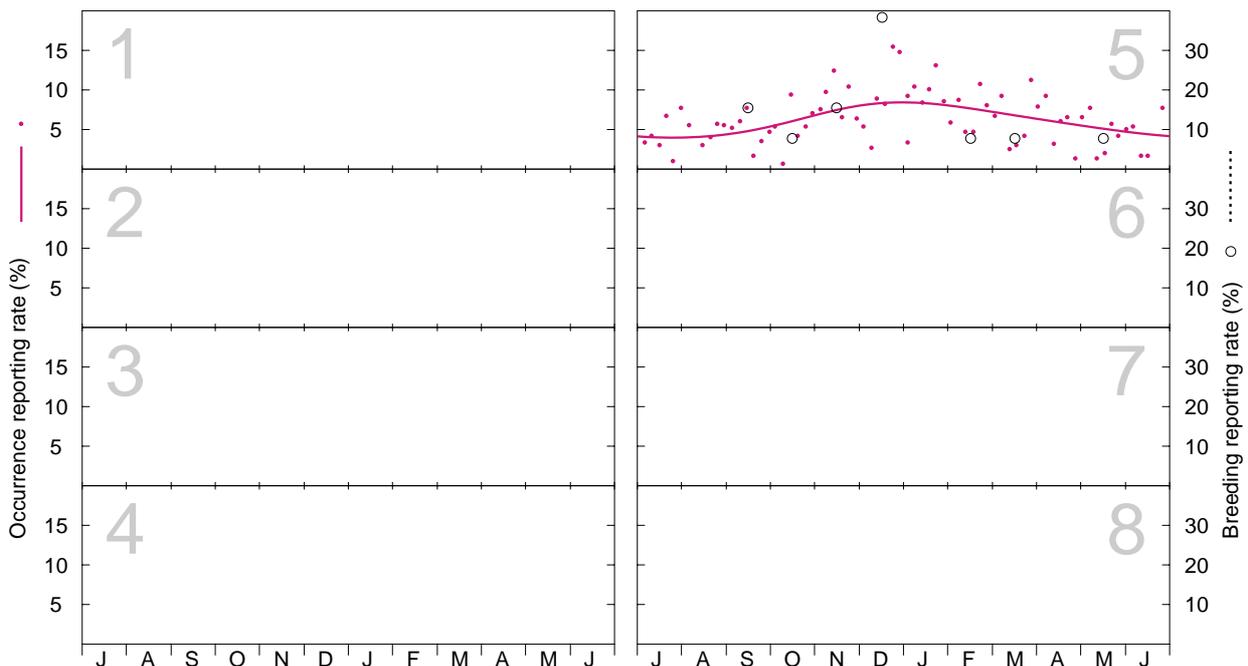
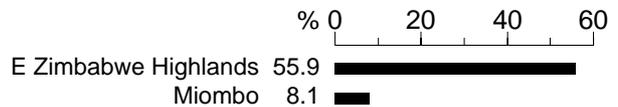
It occurs in clearings and along the edges of evergreen forests and miombo woodland, especially along drainage lines, but seldom in completely open areas such as grassland. Reporting rates are higher during the summer, indicating winter movement out of Zimbabwe, although wintering populations have been documented (Tree 1991c, 1992d). Its wintering grounds are generally unknown and may be to the east in Mozambique or to the north (Irwin 1981). In Zambia and Malawi it is also migratory (Benson *et al.* 1971; Benson & Benson 1977). Breeding was recorded mostly during the spring and summer months (September–March), with a peak in December. Irwin (1981) recorded egg-laying July–April, with an October–December peak.

R.A. Earlé



Recorded in 56 grid cells, 1.2%
 Total number of records: 806
 Mean reporting rate for range: 24.4%

Reporting rates for vegetation types



Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):
 Occurrence: 0, 0, 0, 0, 524, 0, 0, 0; Breeding: 0, 0, 0, 0, 13, 0, 0, 0.