

Mashona Hyliota

Mashonahyliota

Hyliota australis

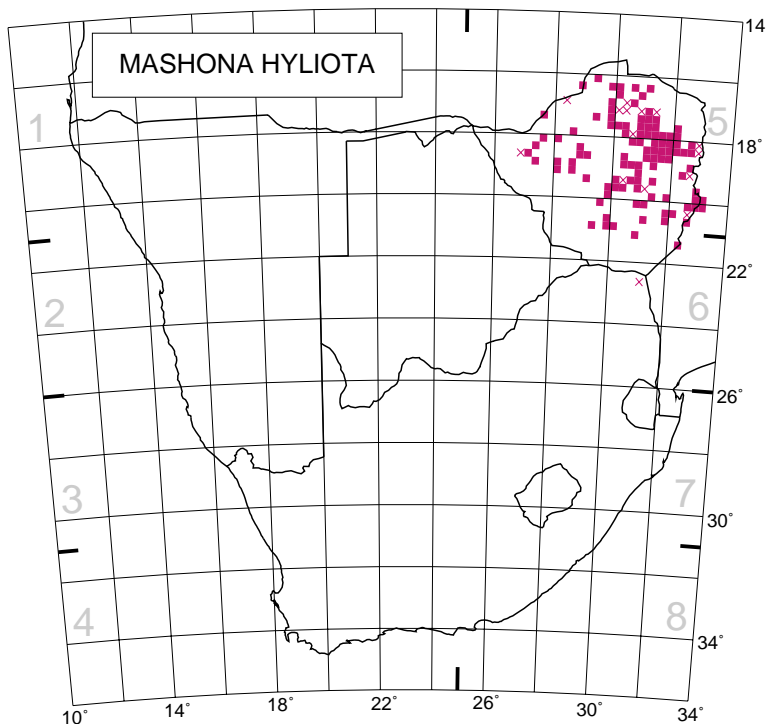
This rather uncommon resident occurs from Zimbabwe and Mozambique northwards to Uganda with occasional records in the Punda Maria area (2231CA) of the extreme north-eastern Transvaal (Tarboton *et al.* 1987b).

The Mashona Hyliota occurs in the canopy of mature miombo woodland. The best remaining tracts of unspoilt woodland are found in hillier country unsuitable for arable farming, especially where there are substantial stands of the Mountain Acacia *Brachystegia glaucescens*. This is indicated in the vegetation analysis where the highest reporting rates are in Miombo and Eastern Zimbabwe Highlands.

Southeastern lowveld records during the winter, when from alluvial *Acacia*, are almost certainly of short-distance altitudinal migrants (Irwin 1981). The higher reporting rates during winter and early summer are most likely an artefact of seasonal leaf loss increasing conspicuousness.

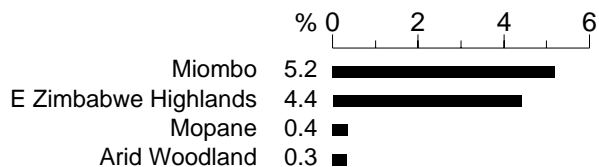
Egg-laying takes place August–January with the large majority of records in September and lesser numbers in October and November (Irwin 1981). The family group may remain together well into the following winter when they may be found in association with mixed bird parties.

The Mashona Hyliota tends to have a rather patchy distribution following the widespread destruction of mature miombo woodland for agriculture over the past 50 years. The droughts of the 1980s appear to have had an adverse effect because the periods over which trees of the miombo woodlands remained leafless were longer than normal in some years; as a result, local extinctions occurred, with several years elapsing before patches of woodland were recolonized (Tree 1991a).



Recorded in 118 grid cells, 2.6%
 Total number of records: 415
 Mean reporting rate for range: 7.6%

Reporting rates for vegetation types



A.J. Tree

