

Whitetailed Flycatcher

Witstertvlieëvanger

Trochocercus albonotatus

South of the Zambezi River, the Whitetailed Flycatcher is found only in the montane forests along the eastern border of Zimbabwe, from Nyanga (1832BA) to Mount Selinda (2032BC). Beyond the atlas region, it occurs further north to Kenya and Uganda (Maclean 1993b). It inhabits the canopy and mid-stratum of forest, mainly above an altitude of 1200 m, but down to 900 m at Mount Selinda (Irwin 1981). It may be found in any patch of forest, even quite small ones, and may occur in adjacent scrub (Maclean 1993b). It is replaced at lower levels by the larger Bluemantled Flycatcher *T. cyanomelas*, at least during the breeding season when the former occupies its summer range at higher altitude. Where they occur together, e.g. at Chirinda Forest (2032BA), they remain segregated, with Bluemantled Flycatcher occupying fringing thicket (Irwin 1981).

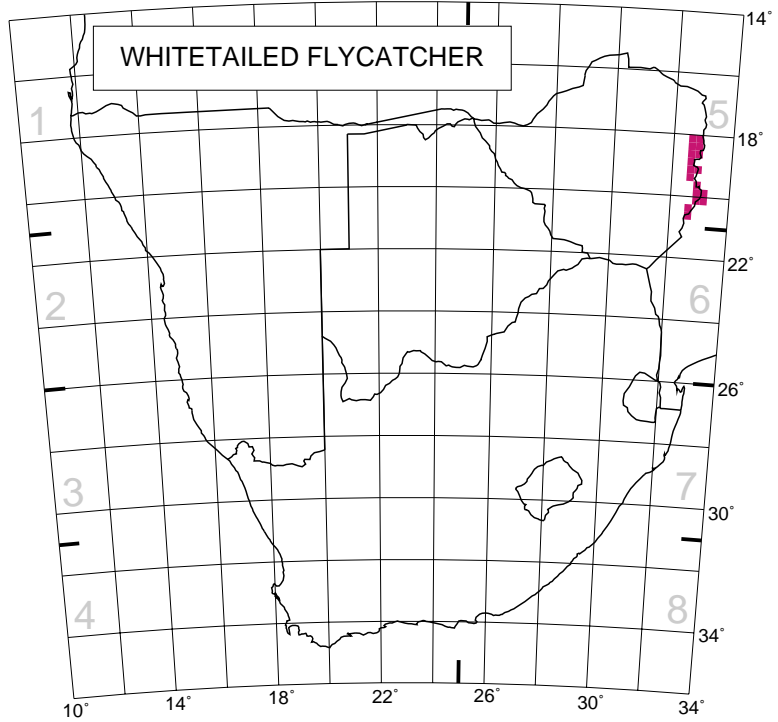
It is not difficult to see, fairly common and rather tame and confiding. The crown is black, becoming dark grey on the back, while the underparts are white, becoming grey on the flanks. The tail feathers, except for the central pair, are mainly white. The data are reliable.

Although generally resident, some movement to lower levels takes place during the colder months, when it occurs in the Honde Valley (1832DB) and down to 350 m in the Haroni–Rusitu area (2033AA) (Irwin 1981).

Breeding has been recorded October–January (Irwin 1981) and the few atlas records concur with this pattern of summer breeding. It makes a typical neat flycatcher nest, usually quite low down (1–4 m).

The Whitetailed Flycatcher has a restricted range, but is not under particular threat provided its montane forest habitat is conserved.

R.M. Harwin



Recorded in 17 grid cells, 0.4%
 Total number of records: 195
 Mean reporting rate for range: 20.1%

