



Orangebreasted Bush Shrike

Oranjeborsboslaksman

Telophorus sulfureopectus

The Orangebreasted Bush Shrike occurs over much of sub-Saharan Africa. Within the atlas region it is largely restricted to the moister eastern parts and occurs in northeastern Namibia, northern and eastern Botswana, Zimbabwe, the Transvaal, Swaziland, KwaZulu-Natal, Transkei and the eastern Cape Province. It does not occur where the average annual rainfall is below *c.* 400 mm nor at altitudes above *c.* 1500 m. In the Transvaal it is absent from the top of the escarpment, though this is not apparent on the map because the escarpment in the Transvaal is generally narrower than a grid cell and the species occurs commonly in areas immediately adjacent to the escarpment. Two subspecies in the region have continuous ranges (Clancey 1980b). It usually occurs in pairs.

Although it is brightly coloured, its skulking habits make it inconspicuous. It is similar in coloration to the Greyheaded Bush Shrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* and may be confused with that species if not seen clearly. Its call

often declares its presence, although confusion with the call of the Olive Bush Shrike *T. olivaceus* is possible in the more densely wooded parts of its range.

Habitat: The vegetation analysis shows that it is found in all types of woodland except the arid parts of the Kalahari, and appears to occur most densely in mixed riparian woodlands of the Okavango. The preference for mixed riparian woodlands is also clear from the high reporting rates along the Limpopo along the Botswana–Transvaal border. With the exception of lowland forests in southeastern Zimbabwe (Harris & Arnott 1988), it does not inhabit true forest; association with this vegetation type is, for the most part, confined to occurrence close to, rather than within, forests.

Movements: It is believed to be resident throughout its range (Harris & Arnott 1988). The models show that it is reported less frequently in winter; this is probably due to its being less vocal during the winter months.

Breeding: Atlas data show that breeding occurs mainly in spring/summer; this is largely in agreement with previous records from Zimbabwe and the Transvaal (Irwin 1981; Tarboton *et al.* 1987b). The earlier peak for Zone 7 suggests an earlier breeding season in the southern part of the range than further north (Zones 5 and 6).

Interspecific relationships: It shares a large area of sympatry with the Greyheaded Bush Shrike. The two species occur in much the same habitats and are often encountered in close proximity. The sympatry of two such similarly coloured species seems unusual and it has been speculated that the Orangebreasted Bush Shrike benefits from mimicking the Greyheaded Bush Shrike in appearance (Harris & Arnott 1988). However, the Greyheaded Bush Shrike is relatively uncommon in the strongholds of the Orangebreasted, especially in the Okavango, and to some extent also the Limpopo and the southern Transvaal lowveld and adjacent Swaziland.

Historical distribution and conservation: There is no evidence to suggest that the boundaries of its range have changed in historical times. However, Orangebreasted Bush Shrike populations have possibly been depleted in areas where intense human population pressure or intensive agriculture has resulted in woodland destruction.

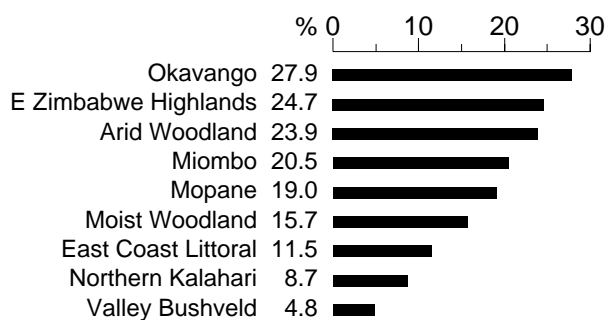
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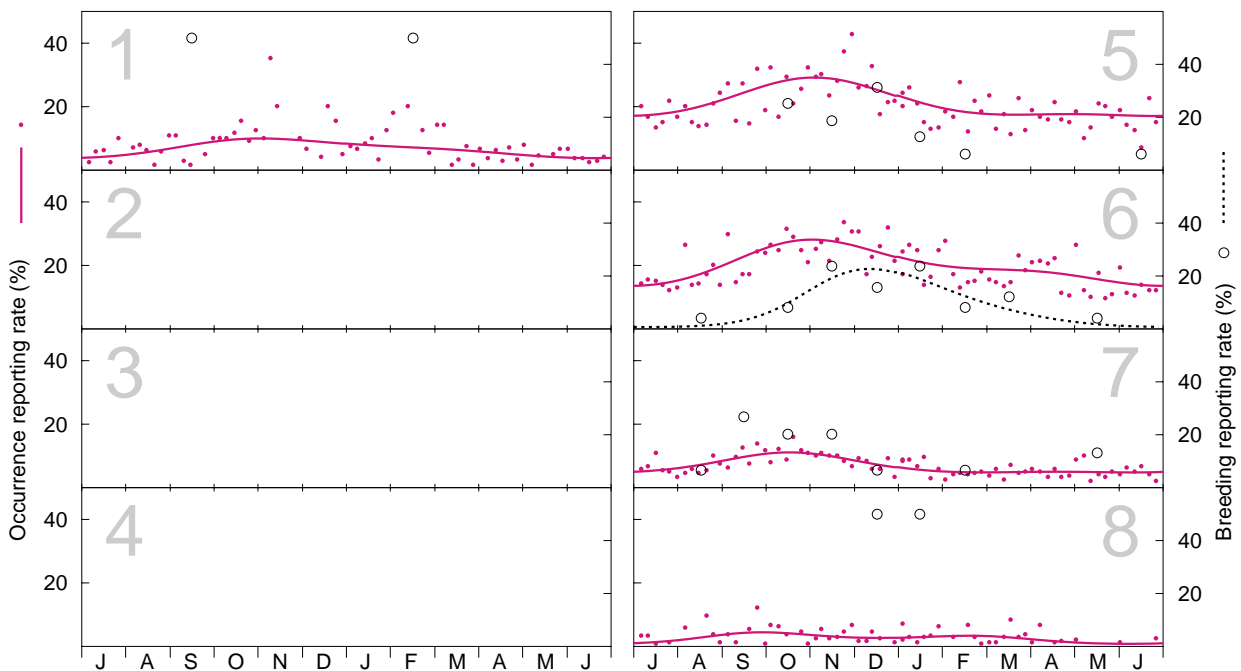
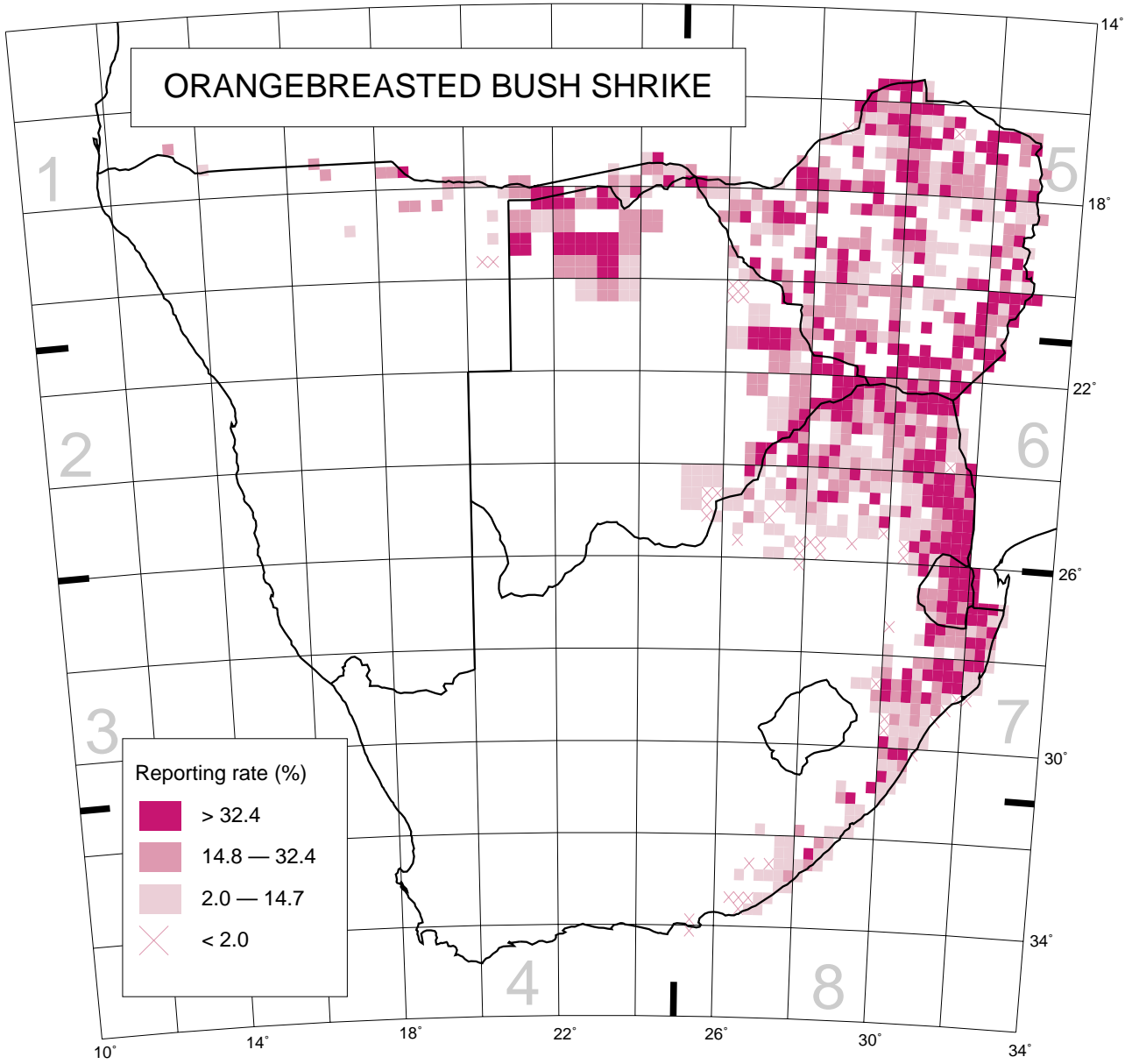
Recorded in 974 grid cells, 21.5%

Total number of records: 11 330

Mean reporting rate for range: 20.7%

Reporting rates for vegetation types





Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):
 Occurrence: 212, 0, 0, 0, 1858, 2275, 1316, 143; Breeding: 2, 0, 0, 0, 16, 25, 15, 2.