

### Blackfronted Bush Shrike

Swartoogboslaksman

*Telophorus nigrifrons*

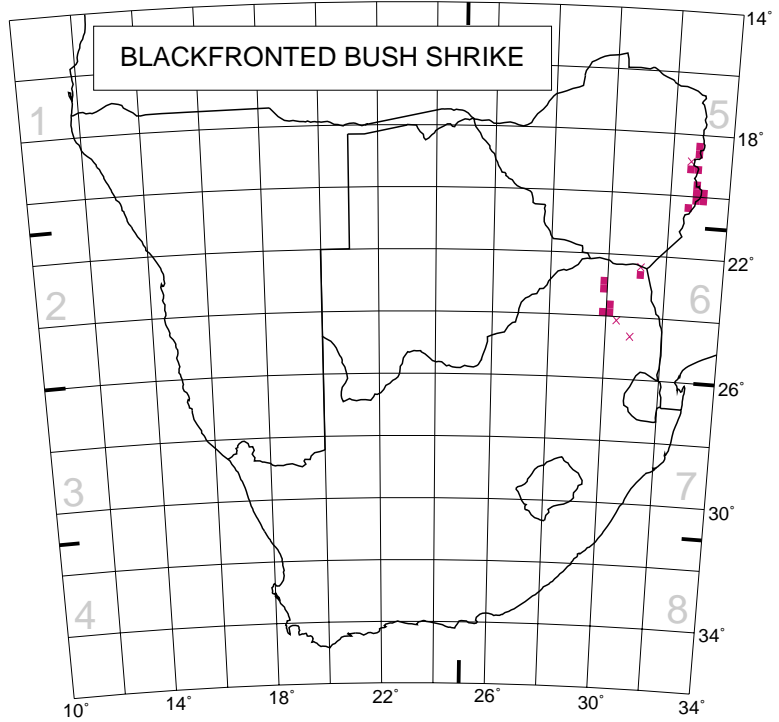
The Blackfronted Bush Shrike is confined to the eastern parts of central and southern Africa (Harris & Arnott 1988). In the atlas region it occurs in the northeastern Transvaal and eastern Zimbabwe. It was observed most frequently in high-altitude forests in the eastern Zimbabwe highlands and in the northernmost part of the Drakensberg escarpment in the northern Transvaal.

It is difficult to detect because it skulks in the forest canopy and is superficially similar both vocally and visually to the Olive Bush Shrike *T. olivaceus*. The ranges of these two species overlap, but the latter usually occupies the undergrowth rather than the forest canopy. The Blackfronted Bush Shrike is usually encountered in pairs. Breeding territories are about 3 ha in extent (Harris & Arnott 1988).

The models show that it is present throughout the year. The fluctuation in reporting rates may be due to its being more conspicuous in summer when territorial behaviour, especially calling, is more intense. It may undertake some movements over short distances to lower altitudes in winter (Harris & Arnott 1988). There are too few records in the atlas data from the lower-lying parts of its range to establish whether its presence there is seasonal or not. Breeding has been recorded October–February (Harris & Arnott 1988).

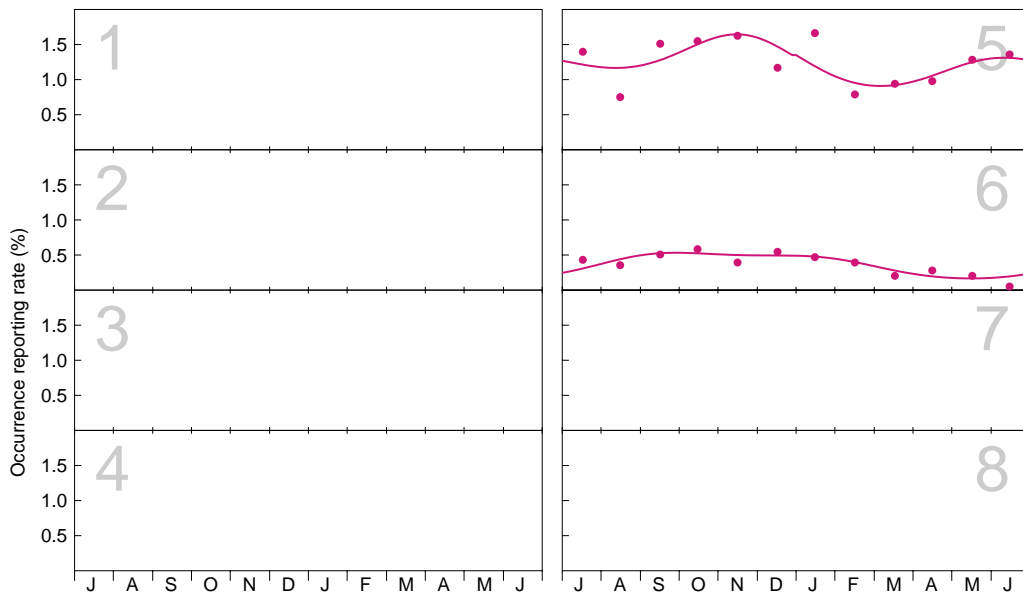
Its conservation status is classified as ‘indeterminate’ in South Africa (Brooke 1984b). This classification is due both to the fact that the status of the Blackfronted Bush Shrike is poorly known and to the fact that it occurs only marginally within the boundaries of South Africa. It is not believed to be immediately threatened but may have been depleted in the lowlands of eastern Zimbabwe owing to deforestation (Harris & Arnott 1988).

V. Parker



Recorded in 20 grid cells, 0.4%  
 Total number of records: 235  
 Mean reporting rate for range: 11.3%

Reporting rates for vegetation types



Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):

Occurrence: 0, 0, 0, 0, 144, 91, 0, 0.