

Bluethroated Sunbird

Bloukeelsuikerbekkie

Anthreptes reichenowi

The Bluethroated Sunbird occurs on the eastern coastal plain of Africa, from southern Kenya to southern Mozambique, also peripherally and rarely in eastern Zimbabwe, where it has bred (Irwin 1981; Lorber 1982a). There is a historical record of breeding from near Tzaneen (2330CC) which remains unconfirmed (Tarboton *et al.* 1987b). Irwin (1995) pointed out a previously overlooked specimen collected in 1885 from the Letaba district (2331DC). There are also several unconfirmed records from northeastern KwaZulu-Natal (e.g. Cyrus & Robson 1980). It was recorded in January 1995 as far south in Mozambique as Praia da Zavora (2435CA) (D.G.A. pers. obs.). It is easily confused with Collared *A. collaris*, Whitebellied *Nectarinia talatala* and Yellowbellied *N. venusta* Sunbirds (Manson 1984; Hustler 1985c).

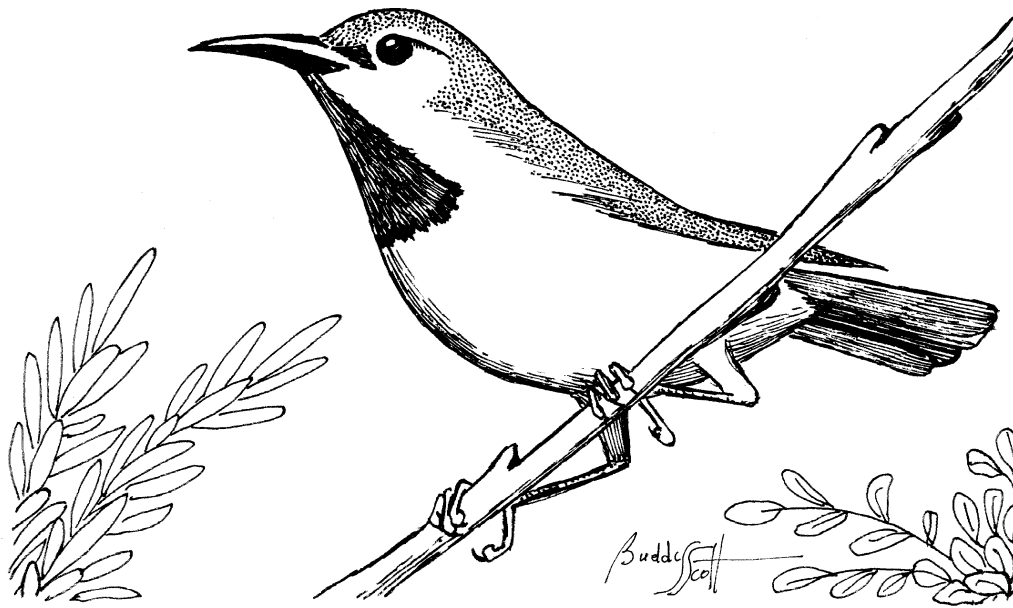
There are records from near Mutare, December 1983 (Manson 1984); Gona-re-zhou National Park, in the south-

eastern lowveld of Zimbabwe, August 1986 and February 1987 (Sharp 1987); Mutare (1832DC), August 1987 (James 1989); and Haroni-Rusitu (2033AA), June 1991 (Hustler & Irwin 1995). Hockey *et al.* (1996) reported a record from Punda Maria (2231CA), 22 June 1994, and stated that it was the first confirmed South African record. This overlooked the Letaba specimen mentioned by Irwin (1995) who summarized all Zimbabwean records. It may only be present in Zimbabwe in some years and considerable movements are believed possible (Irwin 1981).

The Bluethroated Sunbird is considered to be globally near-threatened (Collar *et al.* 1994); the large-scale destruction of woodland and forest within its small range poses a major threat.

D.G. Allan and A.J. Tree

Recorded in 2 grid cells, 0.04%
Total number of records: 2
Mean reporting rate for range: 1.18%



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