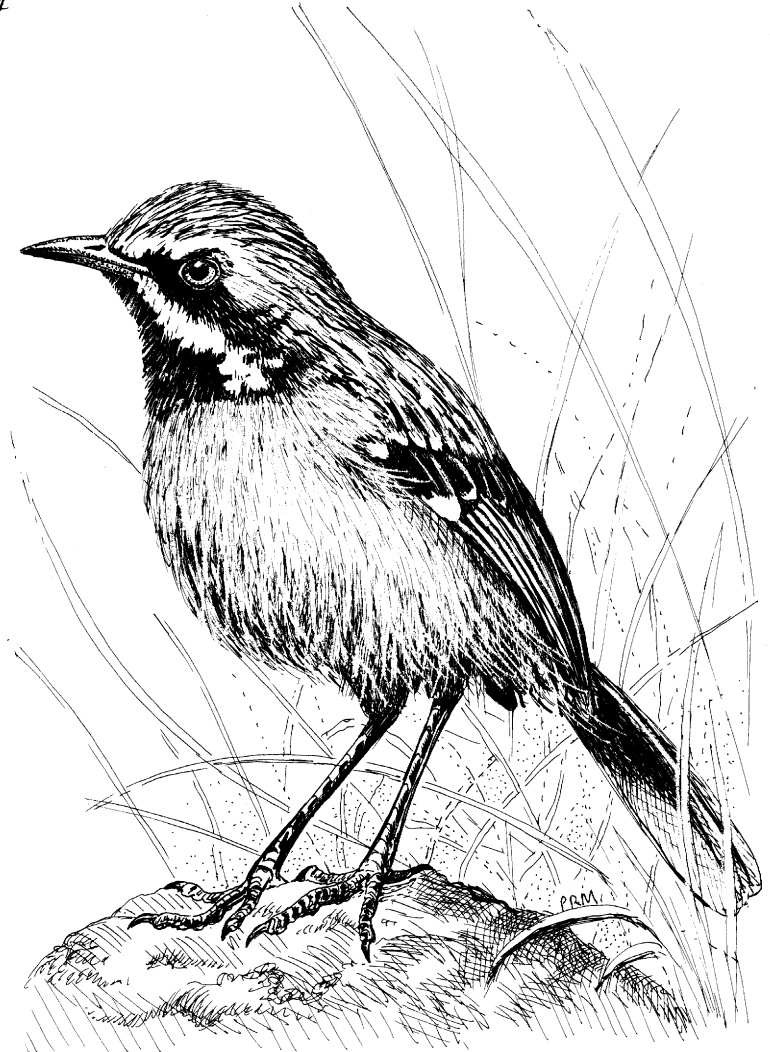




*Cape Rockjumper*

*Orangebreasted Rockjumper*



### Cape Rockjumper

Kaapse Berglyster

*Chaetops frenatus*

Endemic to the fynbos biome (Clancey 1986a), the Cape Rockjumper is a poorly known species, despite being relatively easy to find by virtue of its far-carrying call and occupation of traditional sites. It is patchily distributed in sparse, low-growing fynbos shrublands (Cowling & Holmes 1992) on rocky fold mountain slopes and peaks from the Cederberg (3218BA) in the northwest to Uitenhage (3325CC) in the southeast. It also occurs where Mountain Fynbos (*sensu* Moll *et al.* 1984) extends to sea-level, notably in the extreme west of its range at Cape Hangklip (3418BD) (Hockey *et al.* 1989). The species is considered monotypic.

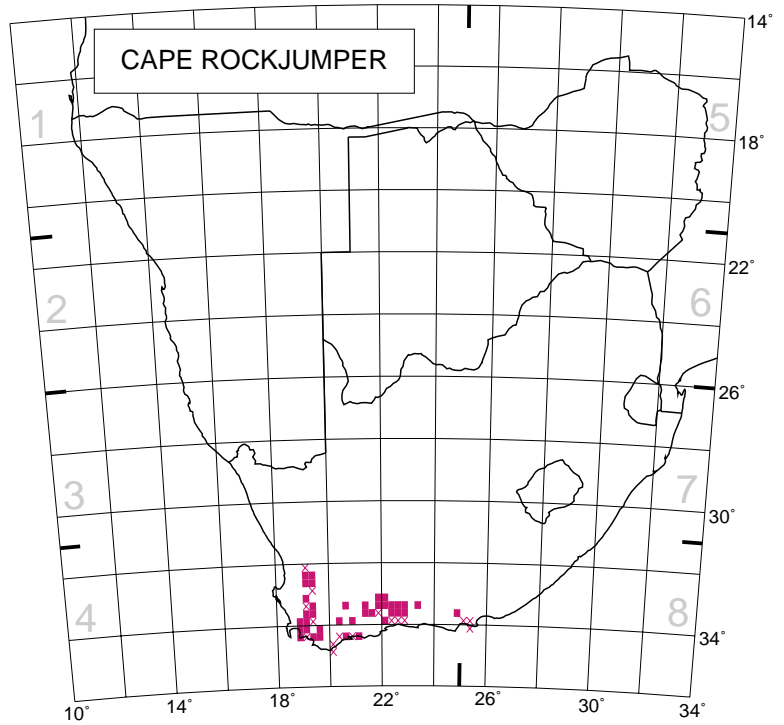
It is probably resident; the minor rise in records in spring and summer may reflect increased observer visits to mountain tops and trails, and increased detectability of vocal family parties. Breeding was recorded August–January, with a peak August–September, which agrees with published information (Winterbottom 1968a; Maclean 1993b).

A potential source of misidentification is the call of the Ground Woodpecker *Geocolaptes olivaceus*, which occurs in the same habitat. In common with two other fynbos-endemic birds, Victorin’s Warbler *Bradypterus victorini* and Protea Canary *Serinus leucopterus*, it is historically absent from the Cape Peninsula (3418A), possibly as a consequence of higher Pleistocene sea-levels followed by local extinction and a subsequent failure to traverse the inimical habitat of the Cape Flats (3418BA).

The historical distribution elsewhere is complicated by its recent splitting from the Orangebreasted Rockjumper *C. aurantius* (Winterbottom 1973). The ecological requirements of the two are similar and their distributions are separated by a relatively narrow strip of grassland and karroid vegetation between mountain ranges in the southeastern Cape Province.

Alien woody-plant infestation and, on some coastal forelands, disturbance and holiday-home and other development destroy Cape Rockjumper habitat.

M.W. Fraser



Recorded in 51 grid cells, 1.1%  
 Total number of records: 469  
 Mean reporting rate for range: 6.4%

