

### Victorin's Warbler

Rooiborsruigtesanger

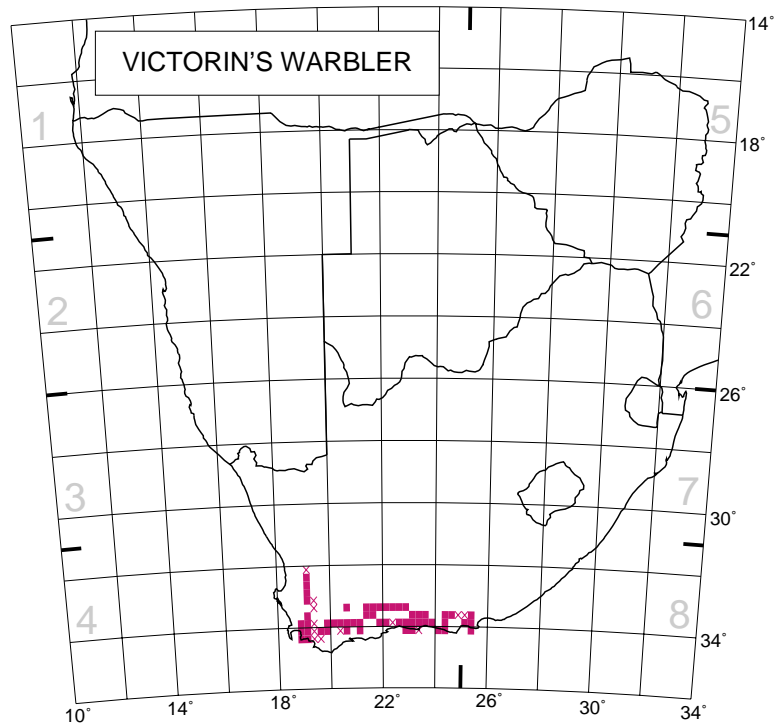
*Bradypterus victorini*

This short-winged, notoriously skulking warbler is endemic to the fynbos biome (Winterbottom 1968a; Clancey 1986a). Victorin's Warbler is patchily distributed on the slopes of Cape fold mountains from the Cederberg (3218BA) in the north to Uitenhage (3325CC) in the east. It is absent from the Cape Peninsula, despite the presence there of apparently suitable habitat. It does, however, occur on isolated fynbos-clad mountains in the southern Cape Province which are surrounded by karroid vegetation and which may be tens of kilometres from the nearest fynbos. Within its range it is resident and inhabits mainly rank streamside or seepage vegetation in wet and mesic mountain fynbos, where it can be locally common. In forested areas it occurs in ecotonal vegetation or in damp, fern-filled glades.

It has a distinctive song which is the source of most atlas records; confusion with other species is unlikely. A spring peak in reporting rates from the southwestern Cape Province may be attributed to its being particularly vocal at this time of year, when it breeds (McLeod *et al.* 1958; Winterbottom 1968a).

Threats include alien-plant infestation and the damming of river valleys in mountain catchments. It is perhaps less susceptible to the consequences of fire than other fynbos birds because it inhabits moist, less flammable vegetation which, if it does burn, recovers more quickly than the slower-growing vegetation of more xeric areas. Although unlikely to be under any immediate threat, its limited range and the general paucity of knowledge of its biology and ecological requirements qualify Victorin's Warbler as a 'species for monitoring' (Brooke 1984b).

*M.W. Fraser*



Recorded in 64 grid cells, 1.4%  
 Total number of records: 836  
 Mean reporting rate for range: 9.0%

