

Vanga Flycatcher

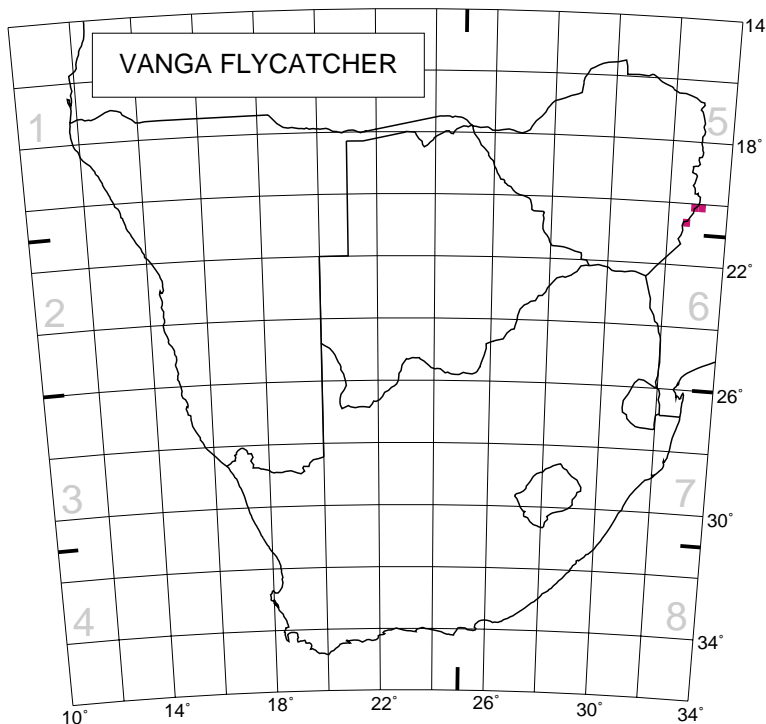
Witpensvlieëvanger

Bias musicus

The Vanga Flycatcher occurs in tropical lowland forest, from Sierra Leone across to the Kenyan coast, southwards to northern Angola in the west, and to Massinga on the southern Mozambique coast in the east (Clancey 1971c). Sir John Kirk who travelled with David Livingstone collected it at Tete on the lower Zambezi River (Clancey 1971c), but there is now little suitable habitat near that town. Elsewhere in southern Mozambique it is reported as not uncommon in the lowland forest-savanna woodland from Beira northwards (Clancey 1971c). It occurred in a mango grove among coconut palms near Massinga, while it was reported from bushveld near Inhaminga (Clancey 1971c). The first Zimbabwe record was from *Brachystegia* woodland above the Rusitu Forest (2033AA) (Irwin 1981), but most records are from the lowland forests of the same Haroni-Rusitu confluence area (2033AA). There is a tentative sight record from much drier habitat on the lower Mazowe River in 1969 (Irwin 1981) where there is some heavy riverine growth. During the atlas period C.G. Stockil also recorded an isolated population south of Chipinge (2032BA) on Zimbabwe's eastern border.

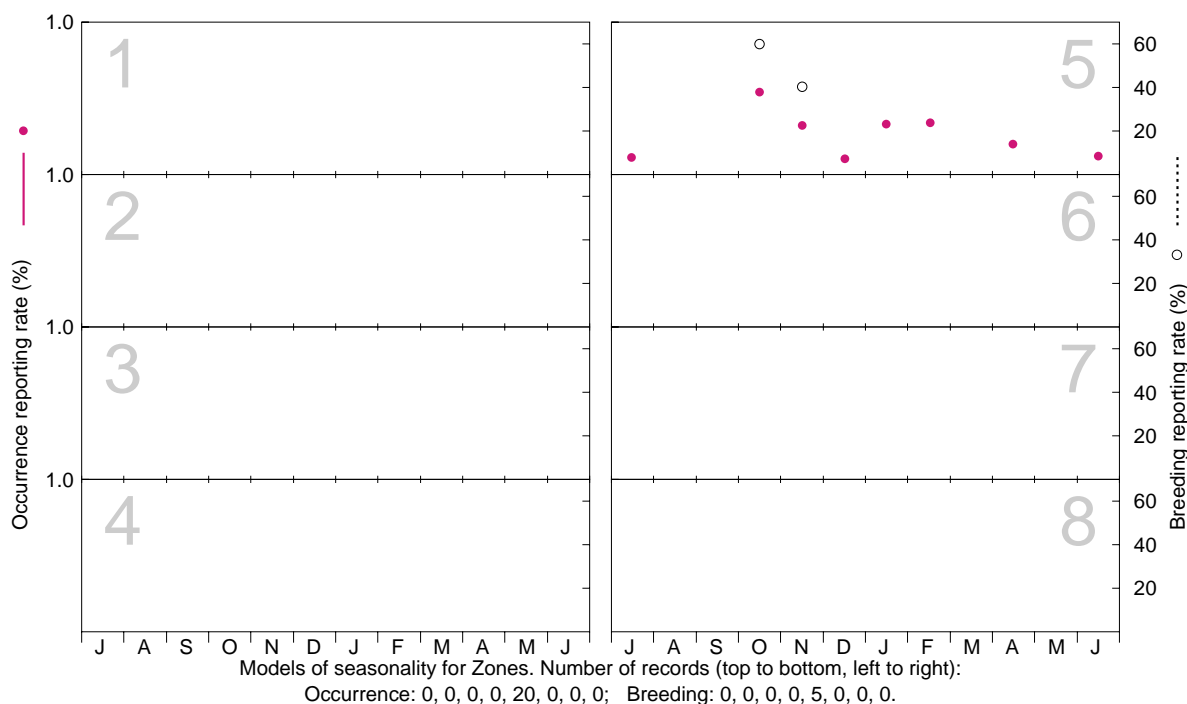
Within Zimbabwe, atlas records suggest that it is resident, but it is so infrequently recorded that its status is uncertain, and Irwin (1981) suggested that the population is subject to movement. Most records are from over 30 m up in the canopy of the tallest trees and it is there that it breeds. Nests have been reported from the outer extremities of horizontal branches overhanging roads or rivers (Tarboton & Jones 1987) and there are breeding records from the Rusitu Forest for October–November.

It is marginal in the atlas region (Maclean 1993b) and its continued existence here will depend on the conservation of tropical lowland forest in eastern Zimbabwe.



Recorded in 3 grid cells, 0.1%
 Total number of records: 20
 Mean reporting rate for range: 35.1%

A.N.B. Masterson





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