

**Eastern Honeyguide**  
*Oostelike Heuningwyser*  
*Indicator meliphilus*

The Eastern Honeyguide has a restricted range, being found from Malawi westwards through northern Zambia to Angola with an isolated population in eastern Uganda, southern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania. It has a restricted range in southern Africa: it was first detected at Dondo near Beira in 1964 (Clancey 1985c), but subsequently it has been recorded near the Haroni–Rusitu confluence (2033AA) and adjacent Mozambique. During the atlas period it was recorded from two areas: Haroni–Rusitu and north of Mutare (1832DC) in the fringe of evergreen forest, degraded forest and nearby woodland.

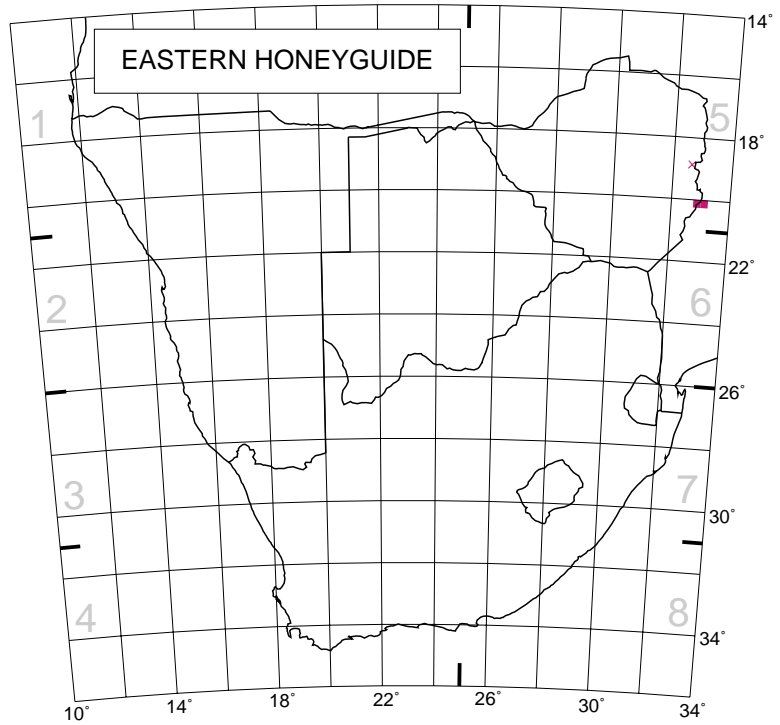
Its relationship to Willcock’s *I. willcocksii*, and Dwarf *I. pumilio* Honeyguides is uncertain; Fry *et al.* (1988) hesitated to define any superspecies between them. However, Western *I. exilis* and Eastern Honeyguides, whose ranges adjoin in Angola, Zambia and around Lake Victoria, may form a superspecies pair (Clancey 1985c).

Irwin’s (1981) restriction of the species to ‘low-land evergreen forest’ in Zimbabwe (Irwin 1981) needs to be revised in the light of atlas observations in riverine woodland and forest remnants. Also, one bird was mist-netted by D.B.H. on two occasions in 1992–93 at an altitude of 1460 m in an overgrown garden in degraded woodland. It was found more widely during the atlas period than before, and it was probably under-reported because of confusion with the Lesser Honeyguide *I. minor*, which has now been shown to occur alongside the Eastern Honeyguide.

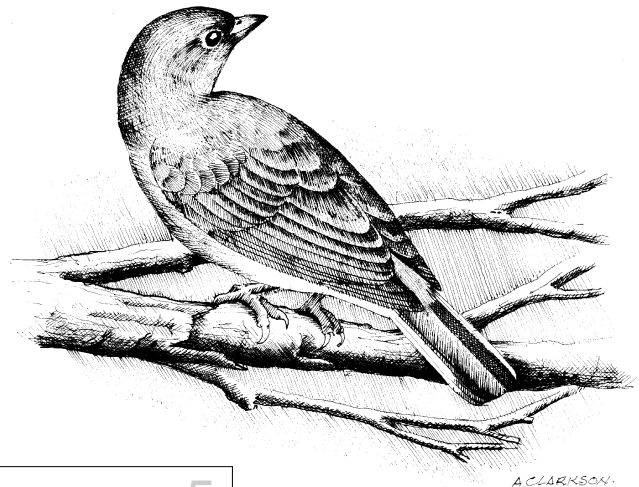
The only historical record from Zimbabwe is of the White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis* as host (Maclean 1985c); in the Haroni–Rusitu area it is found in association with this abundant species. Elsewhere it has been recorded parasitizing Goldenrumped Tinker Barbet *Pogoniulus bilineatus* (Friedmann 1955), which is possibly also a host of the Western Honeyguide *I. exilis*.

It has not been classified as vulnerable, but destruction of forest is likely to affect the Eastern Honeyguide adversely.

*D.B. Hanmer and W.J. Chadder*



Recorded in 3 grid cells, 0.1%  
 Total number of records: 13  
 Mean reporting rate for range: 6.7%



*Slenderbilled Honeyguide*

