

Stripecheeked Bulbul

Streepwangwillie

Andropadus milanjensis

Bulbuls are a common feature of the montane forests of East Africa but, of the truly montane species, only the Stripecheeked Bulbul extends south of the Zambezi (Keith *et al.* 1992), where it is a common denizen of the forests along the Zimbabwe–Mozambique border. The range within the atlas region extends from Nyanga (1832BA) south to the Chirinda Forest (2032BA).

Its choice of habitat is fairly wide, inhabiting the middle stratum and canopy of the evergreen forest, as well as forest edge, bracken-scrub, and even adjoining *Brachystegia* woodland and wattle plantations. It is found most often above 1400 m, reaching 1700 m in the Bunga Forest (1932B). Outside the atlas region it ranges further north in montane forests as far as southern Kenya (Keith *et al.* 1992). As in other parts of the range, there seems to be a limited movement to lower altitudes in the dry season (Irwin 1981; Keith *et al.* 1992), but this is not evident from the present analysis.

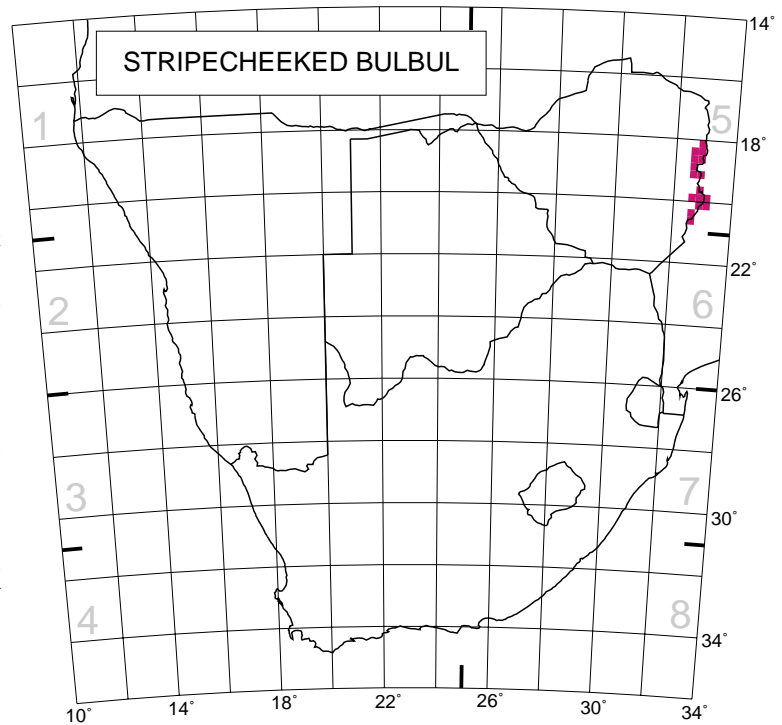
It is less retiring than many forest bulbuls, but nevertheless more often heard than seen. Its presence is made known by its characteristic call, a series of 6–8 unmusical notes, one rendering of which is: 'I'm not such a silly old fool.'

Breeding is in spring and summer, September–February being recorded in the atlas, which conforms to published egg-laying data October–March (Irwin 1981).

It occurs alongside several other bulbuls and is usually the commonest in its forest habitat; however, at Badger's Bend (1932BB) at 1200 m, the Yellowstreaked Bulbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus* is commoner.

Despite the small range in the region, the Stripecheeked Bulbul is locally common and not threatened, at least as long as its forested habitat is preserved.

R.M. Harwin



Recorded in 16 grid cells, 0.4%
Total number of records: 391
Mean reporting rate for range: 41.7%

