

Bluespotted Dove

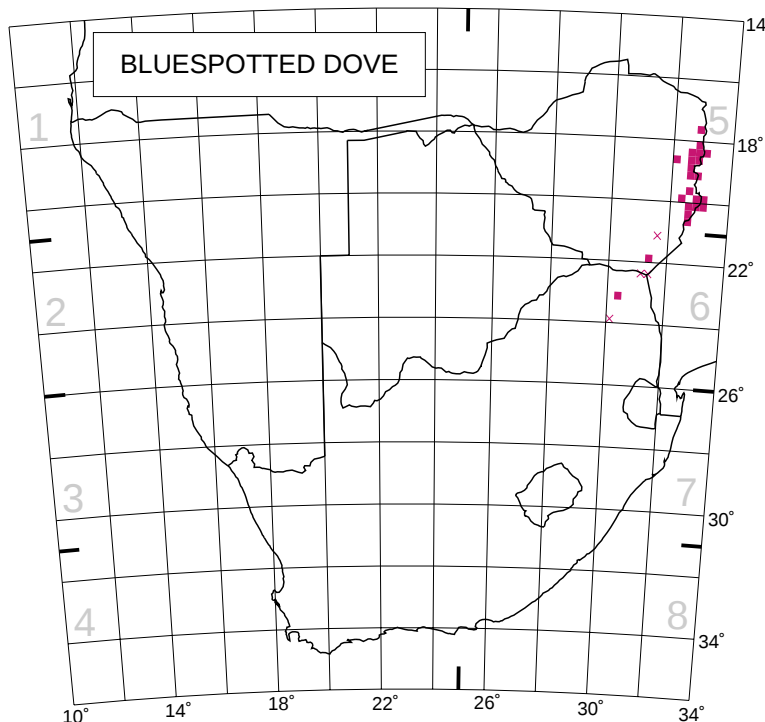
Blouvlakduifie

Turtur afer

In southern Africa the Bluespotted Dove has a restricted range in eastern Zimbabwe, adjacent Mozambique and a small area of forests on the escarpment in the northern Transvaal. It is locally common and may have been under-reported because of confusion with the Green-spotted Dove *T. chalcospilos*. The edges of low-land evergreen forest and riparian fringing forest are its preferred habitat, together with clearings in montane forest (Maclean 1993b). It is generally absent from open woodland where the Green-spotted Dove is common.

In the absence of more recent records, the breeding season can be taken as 'August, September, December and April in Zimbabwe' (Maclean 1993b). No records support the suggestion that occasionally Bluespotted and Green-spotted Doves may interbreed (Priest 1934).

Historically the Bluespotted Dove was described as widespread from 'Angola, the Rhodesias, Belgian Congo, Nyasaland, Portuguese East Africa and northern Transvaal' (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1962), but atlas records show that its presence is confirmed only in the areas given above, as also shown by Urban *et al.* (1986). This does not necessarily indicate a reduction in numbers or extent of distribution, but probably results from the earlier confusion with the Greenspotted Dove. If habitat fragmentation occurs numbers could decline; population monitoring is required.



Recorded in 26 grid cells, 0.6%
Total number of records: 304
Mean reporting rate for range: 16.1%

D.B. Hanmer and W.J. Chadder

Reporting rates for vegetation types

