

**Pallid Swift**

Bruinwindswael

*Apus pallidus*

This Palearctic migrant is known in southern Africa from one specimen taken near Kuruman (2723AD), 12 February 1904 (Irwin & Benson 1967; Brooke 1970). The race concerned is *A. p. brehmorum* from the western Mediterranean Sea region. The next most southerly specimen is of nominate *pallidus* from Chilanga, Zambia (Irwin & Benson 1967). Owing to the particular difficulty of recognizing Pallid Swifts in the field in southern Africa, it is not possible to say whether the Kuruman record from arid savanna represents a vagrant or the only collected example of a small regular presence during the austral summer. It was not recorded during the atlas period.

R.K. Brooke

**Böhm's Bee-eater**

Rooskopbyvreter

*Merops boehmi*

Status in southern Africa uncertain, although it is almost certainly a rare, localized resident in southern Mozambique (Clancey 1971c). It has been described as 'quite common' in parts of the lower Zambezi River valley (Fry *et al.* 1992). It occurs in open areas of broadleaved woodland and riverine vegetation, in the Zambezi River valley near Tete and in the vicinity of Manica e Sofala in Mozambique (Clancey 1971c; Fry *et al.* 1992). There are, as yet, no confirmed records from Zimbabwe (Irwin 1981) and therefore from the atlas region. The species also occurs in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia (Fry *et al.* 1988).

C. Cohen

**Whitethroated Bee-eater**

Witkeelbyvreter

*Merops albicollis*

Breeds in a narrow band along the sub-desert steppe region just south of the Sahara, across North Africa to Arabia, and migrates southward to the equatorial rainforest region of

Central and West Africa where it inhabits forest fringe and other wooded habitats (Fry *et al.* 1988, 1992). It is vagrant to southern Africa, with two records. Contrasting habitat selection also characterizes the southern African records: arid Kalahari Gemsbok National Park (2520CC), 31 December 1988 (Hockey *et al.* 1990); and comparatively lush, forested coastal Sedgfield (3422BB), 18 February 1990 (Perry 1989; Hockey *et al.* 1992). Although the species normally occurs over 1500 km north of the atlas region, a specimen collected just north of the Zambezi River in southern Zambia on 15 July 1934 (Clancey 1962b) is further indication that it occurs sporadically further south than usual.

C. Cohen

**Green Tinker Barbet**

Groentinker

*Pogoniulus simplex*

Occurs discontinuously from southeastern Kenya and northern Tanzania, south to eastern Malawi and northern Mozambique (Benson & Benson 1977; Fry *et al.* 1988). Its status in southern Africa remains uncertain; the one confirmed record is of a specimen collected at Chicomo (2034CA), southern Mozambique, 15 January 1958 (Pinto 1959).

C.N. Spottiswoode

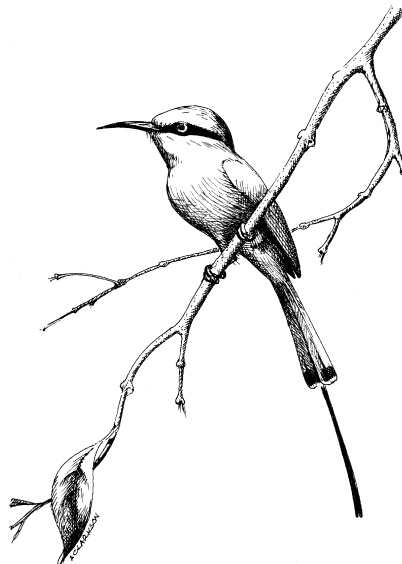
**Specklethroated Woodpecker**

Tanzaniese Speg

*Campethera scriptoricauda*

Often considered conspecific with Bennett's Woodpecker *C. bennettii* (e.g. Fry *et al.* 1988), or the Nubian Woodpecker *C. nubica* (e.g. Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1952). No records exist for the atlas region, but the species appears to be relatively common in miombo woodland in Mozambique, from Beira northwards to the lower Zambezi (Clancey 1968; Logan 1996; Ryan 1996; J.M.D. Graham pers. comm.). Its range extends to central and eastern Tanzania, northern Mozambique and Malawi (Winkler *et al.* 1995).

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Böhm's Bee-eater