

Redwinged Warbler

Rooivlerksanger

Heliolais erythroptera

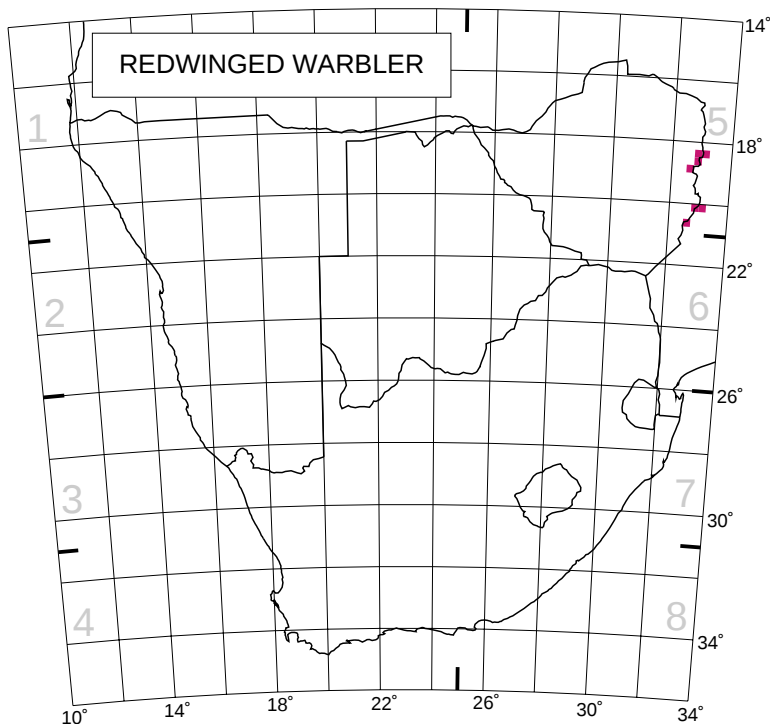
The Redwinged Warbler is a widespread tropical species that ranges from the Guinea coast across to Ethiopia, southwards through much of East Africa and across the Save River into southern Mozambique. In Zimbabwe it occurs along the lower parts of the seaward side of the mountains on Zimbabwe's eastern border (Irwin 1981). Swynnerton collected it in the vicinity of Mount Selinda (2032BC) (Priest 1935), and it is still to be found there and in the Rusitu Valley (2032B) in the south. It is more frequently encountered in the Honde and Pungwe valleys (1832B,D), e.g. on the tea estates of Aberfoyle and Katiyo.

It inhabits lush woodland where it spends most of the time in rank grass interspersed with shrubs and saplings that grow below the fragmented woodland canopy. It also occurs along streams and the edges of cultivated lands where there is a good scatter of trees emerging from tall grass tangles. When disturbed, small parties fly up into the woodland canopy.

The scatter of records throughout the year reflects its resident status and, as the birds are distinctive in both their dry-season and wet-season plumage, the species is likely to have been reliably recorded. Egg-laying has been recorded in November and January (Irwin 1981). While the behaviour of these birds suggests affiliations with prinias, the nest, like the heavily spotted tail, is more akin to that of the cisticolas (Plowes 1972).

It occurs in areas which have fertile, productive lands and much of the natural habitat has been brought under cultivation so that the Redwinged Warbler continues to lose habitat.

A.N.B. Masterson



Recorded in 7 grid cells, 0.2%
Total number of records: 18
Mean reporting rate for range: 5.4%

