

Wattle-eyed Flycatcher

Beloogbosbontrokkie

Platysteira peltata

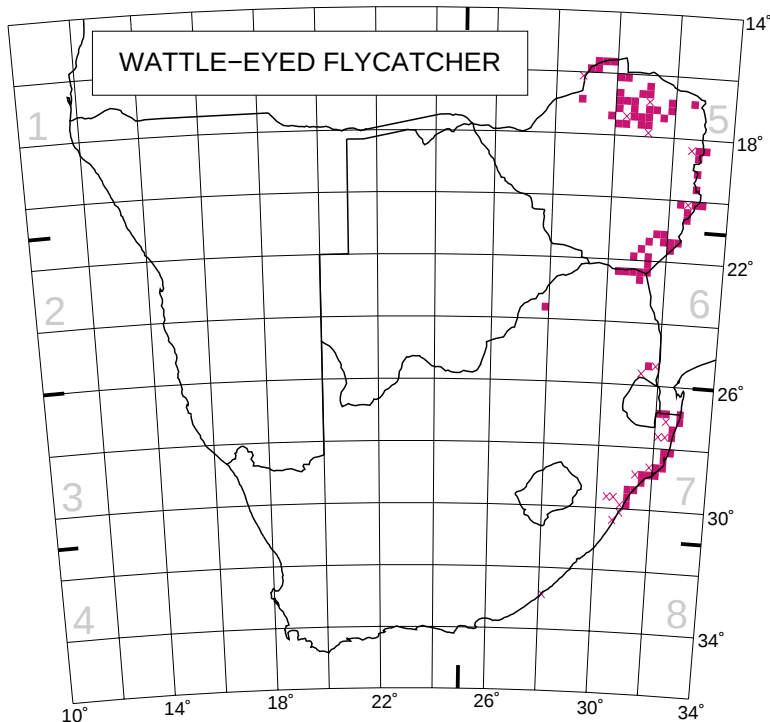
The Wattle-eyed Flycatcher is localized, but not uncommon along the coastal fringes of KwaZulu-Natal, and from the far northeastern Transvaal to northern Zimbabwe via the eastern highlands. In the southern Kruger National Park it is rare and localized. Beyond southern Africa it extends as far as Kenya (Maclean 1993b). It usually inhabits dense evergreen vegetation, mostly over or near water (Irwin 1981), being typical of mangroves and dune forest at the coast (pers. obs), and riverine and highland forests inland. Alongside rivers it sometimes uses deciduous vegetation (Irwin 1956b; Brooke & Manson 1979). It is easily recognized, but not so easily seen in its dense habitat, so it may have been under-reported.

It is considered to be resident (Cyrus & Robson 1980; Scott 1984) and the suggestion of seasonality in the models is unreliable because of the wide scatter in the data. Breeding records during the atlas period were in spring and early summer, particularly September–January, which agrees with older records (Brooke & Manson 1979; Irwin 1981; Tarboton *et al.* 1987b).

The Wattle-eyed Flycatcher may be in competition with the Cape *Batis capensis* and Woodward's *B. fratum* Batises; locally their ranges are complementary (Irwin 1981), suggesting competitive exclusion.

The former distribution is not known to differ from the present (Brooke 1984b). An old record exists from the central Transvaal (Van der Merwe & Pienaar 1959), but this is far out of range and habitat, and in the absence of annotation must be considered dubious. The status of the Wattle-eyed Flycatcher is ranked 'indeterminate' in South Africa (Brooke 1984b). It has suffered habitat destruction around Durban (2931CC) and along the Limpopo, and further destruction could still occur elsewhere in the range. Conservation of all remaining forests would suffice to ensure its safety in the region.

D.N. Johnson



Recorded in 98 grid cells, 2.2%
Total number of records: 875
Mean reporting rate for range: 7.0%

Reporting rates for vegetation types

