



ince also reflects occurrence in riparian vegetation rather than in the thornveld itself. It is found in a variety of other vegetation types, but almost certainly the majority of records were from riparian evergreen forest fringe or riparian woodlands within those biomes.

Movements: Although considered to be sedentary (Irwin 1981), the models indicate a degree of seasonal change in reporting rates in South African populations, with peak sightings during the winter months. This may be caused by greater conspicuousness when visiting nectar sources away from their normal forest environment. It is unlikely that it has any regular migration patterns, although there may be some altitudinal movement from high-lying forests, for example in the Drakensberg, down major watercourses.

Breeding: The atlas data largely span September–April, with a more poorly defined peak in the north of the range, compared with the south.

Interspecific relationships: It resembles a small insectivore in its habits and diet, and is unlikely to compete with other sunbirds, especially the two other forest sunbirds (Grey *N. veroxii* and Olive *N. olivacea* Sunbirds) to any significant extent (Skead 1967c; Irwin 1981). Some competition with three other sunbird species at *Leonotis* patches, however, has been recorded (Frost & Frost 1980).

Historical distribution and conservation: A more extensive range in the Transvaal, Zimbabwe and northern Botswana is apparent in comparison with the map presented by Skead (1967c), but this is also partially indicated by both Irwin (1981) and Tarboton *et al.* (1987b) and is likely to be the result of better coverage. While there is an apparent increase in range in northern Zimbabwe, possible confusion with the Yellowbellied Sunbird renders firm conclusions in this regard elusive. In KwaZulu-Natal there is likely to have been a substantial decrease in local populations of the Collared Sunbird with the clearing of coastal forests for agriculture.

A.J. Tree

Collared Sunbird

Kortbeksuikerbekkie

Anthreptes collaris

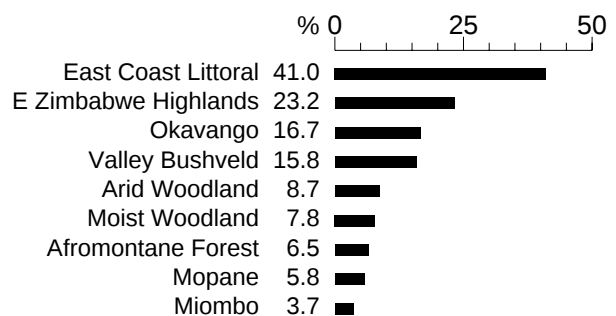
The Collared Sunbird occurs commonly, albeit rather locally, from West and East Africa (Maclean 1985c) southwards to the Caprivi Strip, northern Botswana, northern, eastern and southern Zimbabwe, in the northern and eastern Transvaal, through Swaziland and KwaZulu-Natal, to about 24°E in the eastern Cape Province. The three eastern subspecies (Clancey 1980b) have almost continuous ranges; *A. c. chobiensis* in the Okavango, Caprivi and Zambezi Valley is well isolated from the eastern races.

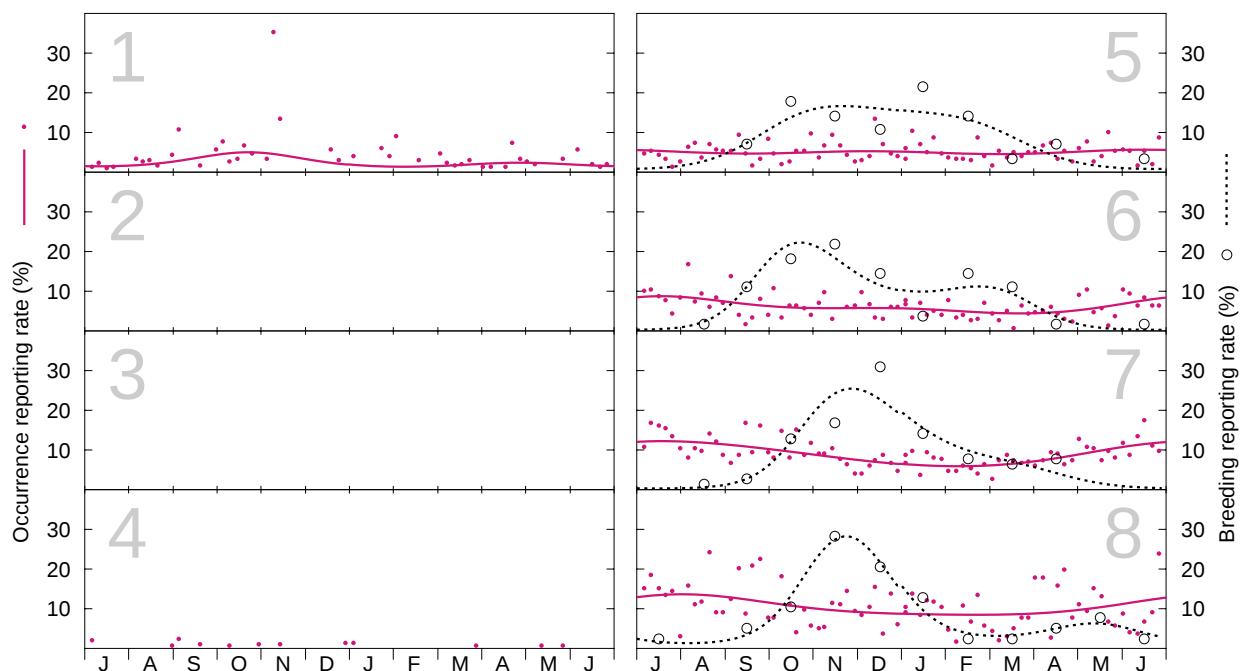
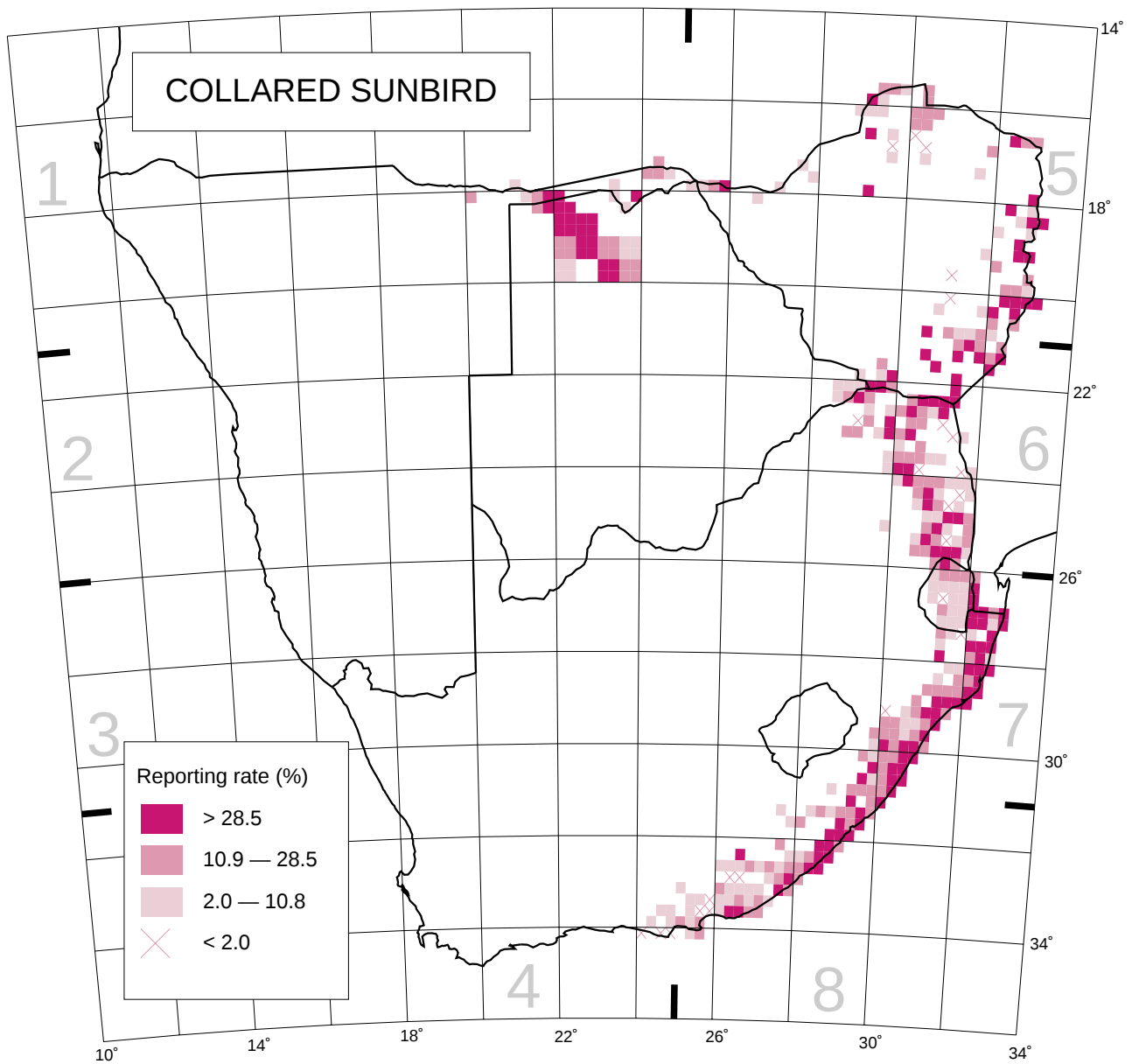
It can be confused with the Yellowbellied Sunbird *Nectarinia venusta*, especially the short-billed northern form *chobiensis*, as well as with the rare Bluethroated Sunbird *A. reichenowi* (Hustler 1985c).

Habitat: This is primarily a forest denizen, with highest reporting rates from the forests of the East Coast Littoral. The northern race *chobiensis* occupies riparian forest and adjacent woodland, hence the relatively high reporting rates from the Okavango vegetation type. The important association with Valley Bushveld in the eastern Cape Prov-

Recorded in 424 grid cells, 9.3%
Total number of records: 8915
Mean reporting rate for range: 24.2%

Reporting rates for vegetation types





Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):
 Occurrence: 81, 0, 0, 16, 439, 702, 1744, 574; Breeding: 0, 0, 0, 0, 28, 55, 78, 39.