

Cabanis's Bunting

Geelstreepkoppie

Emberiza cabanisi

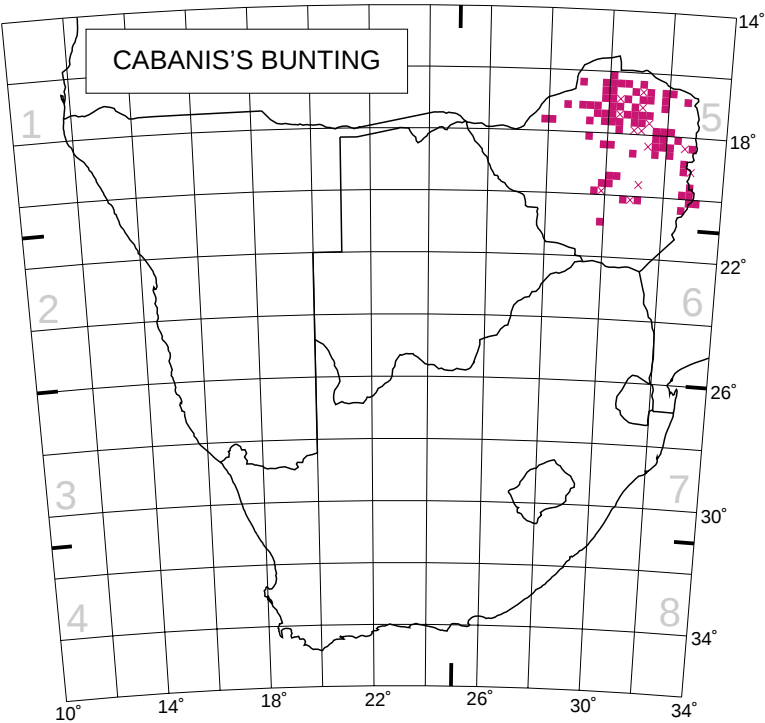
Cabanis's Bunting is found widely in sub-Saharan Africa and reaches its southern limits in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. It is sparse, localized and habitat-specific in southern Africa, preferring stands of untouched primary miombo woodland. It was most commonly recorded in the Eastern Zimbabwe Highlands, where it inhabits areas with scattered trees and bushes, often near the edges of low-altitude evergreen forest (Irwin 1981). Cabanis's Bunting is not found in any other woodland type, although it may be found in quite isolated patches of miombo surrounded by other vegetation. It can be easily confused with the ubiquitous Golden-breasted Bunting *E. flaviventris*.

Although it is thought to be sedentary (Maclean 1993b), the model does indicate seasonal variation in reporting rates. These were highest in summer and this may be due to enhanced conspicuousness while singing during the breeding season. Some evidence for movements, however, comes from one site on the Mashonaland highveld: it would appear that in years of normal rainfall in the western part of the range, birds are usually present August–December or January, but in drought years they may occur from April onwards (Tree 1994c).

Egg-laying occurs September–March, with a peak during October–November (Irwin 1981). The atlas breeding data are sparse and span November–March, peaking November–December.

This species does not appear to compete with the similar and more common Golden-breasted Bunting which occupies a similar ecological niche but prefers drier woodlands, although the two species can be found close to each other.

The clearing of miombo woodlands for agriculture has fragmented its distribution to some extent, but Cabanis's Bunting is not considered to be threatened.



Recorded in 89 grid cells, 2.0%
Total number of records: 355
Mean reporting rate for range: 7.2%

Reporting rates for vegetation types



A.J. Tree

