

Mottled Spinetail

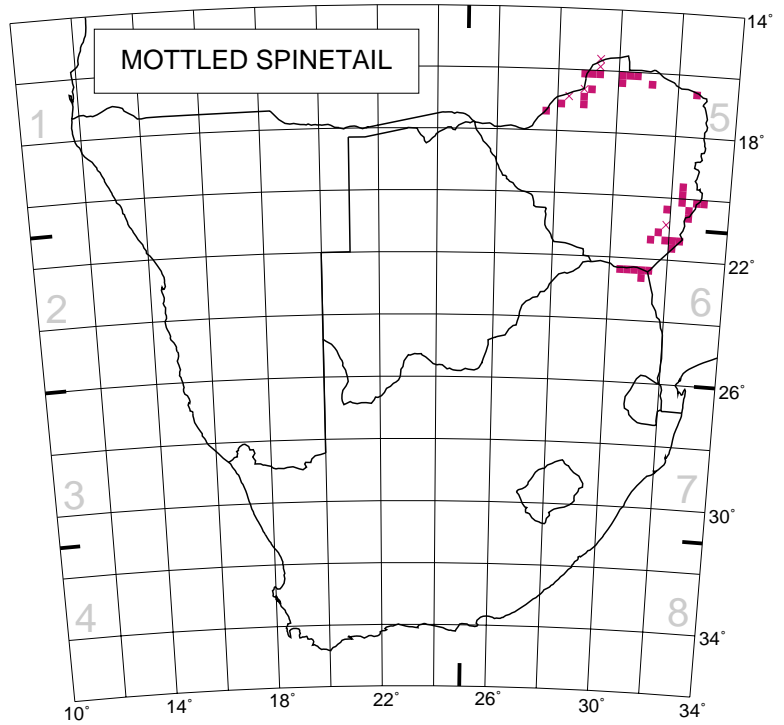
Gevlekte Stekelstert

Telacanthura ussheri

The Mottled Spinetail is widely but discontinuously distributed throughout tropical Africa from the Transvaal to Senegal. As swifts go, it is not difficult to identify and there is no reason to doubt the atlas data, or to believe that many records have been attributed to the Little Swift *Apus affinis* with which it may be confused.

In southern Africa the principal habitat is hot, low-lying valleys in Mopane veld in which Baobabs *Adansonia digitata* are common (Brooke 1971b; Benson & Winterbottom 1977). It is in hollow Baobabs that nests are normally placed in southern Africa. There is no evidence for seasonal movements or for changes in its range. Few breeding data have been documented; it probably breeds in summer (Irwin 1981; Tarboton *et al.* 1987b). Conservation of Baobabs should ensure the local conservation of the Mottled Spinetail which is 'rare' in South Africa (Brooke 1984b).

R.K. Brooke



Recorded in 39 grid cells, 0.9%
 Total number of records: 163
 Mean reporting rate for range: 8.9%

Reporting rates for vegetation types

