

Despite being locally quite common in its preferred habitat this bird is rare and under increasing pressure. Yet BirdLife International are due to downgrade its threatened status because it no longer fits into their "vulnerable" category. There are apparently too many populations with the largest currently quite well protected in Arabuko Sokoke FR in coastal Kenya.

In Tanzania none of the forests it occurs in are, in reality, protected and where joint forest management allows the collection of dead wood by local villagers these people target the dead wood thickets this species requires for nesting.

The largest population in Tanzania may well occur in Ruvu South FR but no one has been to look. The long isolated population in the Nguu Mts is small and under pressure. The coastal forests are being degraded at an alarming rate despite it being 20 years since WCST raised concerns for this habitat. Those forests nearest Dar es Salaam in the Pugu Hills are a national disgrace. When Dar suffers from severe flooding following storms on the Pugu Hills some of us will not be surprised.

The population in Jozani forest on Zanzibar occupies a tiny habitat.

The recenty (2003) discovered population in Nyumburuni FR was under severe pressure at the time of discovery despite an IUCN programme in Rufiji District. The now maturing plantation of Mvule on the Rondo Plateau which supports a healthy population of akalats (at least untill 1996) will surely tempt local saw mills soon.

If being globally vulnerable has done little to save this bird one must assume being only "near threatened" will make no difference.

The high proportion of breeding records is inferred from the body condition of birds caught for ringing. Very few nests are known.

While not immediately on our "nearly gone list" it will not be long under current conditions of neglect.

East Coast Akalat

Shepardia gunningi

55 plots from 1,293 records

Virgin Yellow-vented Bulbul squares **14**

Single YvB month **30**

Two YvB months **31**

	Seasonality		
	presence	bs	eggs
January	73	24	19
February	95	28	16
March	65	14	8
April	59	2	2
May	81	1	2
June	116	1	-
July	91	3	-
August	115	-	-
September	64	-	-
October	167	4	3
November	138	7	3
December	64	4	33

Status

- Presence
- Breeding season
- Month with eggs

