# In Pursuit of Shelley's Crimsonwing, Nyungwe Forest and Volcanoes National Parks, Rwanda

## February 2025 by Planet Birdsong Citizen Scientist Bird Sound Recordists.

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In Pursuit of Shelley's Crimsonwing.mov

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## Summary

This report seeks to re-ignite the search for a missing finch, Shelley's crimsonwing, *cryptospiza shelleyi,* a beautiful and enigmatic species hardly ever seen, but likely to be present in Rwanda in very small numbers. It is a large finch species in the Estrildidae family of waxbills, firefinches and crimsonwings. It is an Albertine Rift Endemic.

Planet Birdsong ran a citizen science expedition to Nyungwe Forest National Park as a keynote element of their 2024-25 African Bird Club Conservation Award.

**Aims:**

- Draw attention to an enigmatic IUCN Endangered species whose population has crashed in recent years and could benefit greatly from scientific research and conservation.
- Add to the body of knowledge on a Central African species and encourage avian research and tourism in the National Parks of Rwanda.
- Demonstrate that local, trained citizen scientists are capable of an initial search and report on the local status of a species, saving professional time and resources by providing a useful head start and vital local information.
- Produce a compendium of all published information and anecdotal reports.
- Motivate citizen scientists to research and record their findings in an enthusiastic and methodical way, leading to further rarity exploration.

**Findings:**

- The observation of extensive suitable habitat and food sources suggests that Shelley's crimsonwing could remain present, but in very small numbers. Its flighty habits and the probability of seasonality in different parts of the forest add to the difficulties of detection.
- A mist-netting expedition near seeded food sources, in the months of May or June, offers the best prospects for a sighting.
- Initial citizen scientist searches and assistance to professionals offers an inclusive and cost effective way to initiate and support research and conservation.
- Structured searching by professionals and continued anecdotal observation and reporting by local birders and rangers is essential. Photographs and/or sound recordings are needed to establish the credibility of sightings and reliability of any site. Sharing data to open-source platforms would maximise the chances of success and active conservation of the species. Renewed efforts are urgently needed to establish the true status and threats to the species.

## Main Report

## Planet Birdsong Expedition February 2025

### 1. What is Shelley's crimsonwing? A description.

1.1 Shelley's crimsonwing, *cryptospiza shelleyi,* or *Ilfundi nyamwihisha* in *Kinyarwanda (per* Dr. Laure Rurangwa*),* is a large finch species in the Estrildidae family of waxbills, firefinches and crimsonwings. It is an Albertine Rift Endemic.

*Male Shelley's crimsonwing, Virungas NP 2008*
*Credit: The Gorilla Foundation*

*Shelley's crimsonwing female (poss. juv. male) 2017*
*Credit: Bertin Murhabale, Burinyi Forest, Itombwe Mts.*

Shelley's crimsonwing is a brightly coloured finch measuring up to 13 cm in length. The male has a bright red crown, face, mantle and rump with blackish wings, tail (and vent), and **a bright red bill** with white at the base. It has olive-yellow underparts with warmer tones towards orange, on the flanks and belly. The female is drabber with an olive head and some red on mantle and rump (S. Cichon in lit. 2016). Both genders have a bright red rump visible in flight.

1.2 The voice is a sharp, high-pitched *tit tit tit* call. There is no observed song other than a rising and falling series of high-pitched *tu tu tu ti ti ti* sounds. This is confirmed by Stevenson and Fanshawe in Birds of East Africa, who liken the call to some small sunbirds. They indicate a red bill in the female, with some black to the base. Legs are black.

*Largely from Birds of East Africa 2nd Ed., Terry Stevenson and John Fanshawe, Helm Field Guides.*

## 2. Possible confusion species in the search area

*Red-faced crimsonwing*
*eBird media*

*Dusky crimsonwing*
*Oppo Mukankurunziza*


*Abyssinian crimsonwing sub sp*
*rwenzori Matrim Goodey*

2.1 Confusion is possible with the red-faced crimsonwing *(criptospiza reichenovii)*, dusky crimsonwing *(cryptospiza jacksoni)* , and Abyssinian crimsonwing *(cryptospiza salvadorii)*

(now rare in the area) as all have a bright red rump. Other species that may be mistaken include the red-billed firefinch and immature green twinspot.

2.2 However, all of these confusion species reach a smaller maximum adult size of between 9 and 11 cm. Shelley's crimsonwing is a noticeably bigger finch measuring 13 cm in length, with commensurate larger volume and a prominent red bill. Sizes can be compared in the Notes by Sven Cichon, RFCG Section 8.5.

**3. Aims of the project:**

3.1 To highlight scope for research into African rare species in general.

3.2 To draw attention to the conservation objectives of the Planet Birdsong Foundation and our partner organizations in Rwanda. These include: the Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management at the University of Rwanda (CoEB) – a Cat 2 UNESCO Centre; African Parks in Nyungwe Forest National Park (NNP).

3.3 We hope to work with the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI) and Rwanda Development Board (RDB), in Volcanoes National Park (VNP).

3.4 The pursuit of rare species by using citizen science.

3.5 Demonstration of the value of the Planet Birdsong citizen science methodology, currently under examination through the African Bird Club Conservation Award 2024. This includes education of local birders and sound recordists into the conservation value of investigating a rare species.

3.6 To draw together all available published information and known sightings in Rwanda and beyond in order to inform an organized search and to report on species prevalence from Rwanda. This includes documenting and pursuing known anecdotal sightings in Rwanda from the last five years and earlier.

3.7 To demonstrate that trained local birders can carry out an initial search and report on the local status of a species, which will provide professionals with a head start and vital local information saving valuable time and resources.

3.8 Whether successful at finding the target species or not, simply reporting on the search, publicises the potential for a rare sighting opportunity for professional birders and visiting birder tourists alike. This provides benefits for both species conservation and birding tourism.

3.9 Identifying a reliable site for Shelley's crimsonwing sightings as one is not currently available across the range of the species, both within and outside Rwanda.

**4. Project Objectives**

4.1 Objective 1: To pursue a field search in NNP and VNP, to galvanize interest in the status of the species, with a view to prompting further search activity by professional ornithologists and habitat and species conservation work by the Park Authorities.

4.2 Objective 2: To encourage Planet Birdsong citizen scientists, including key sound recordists and trainee photographers to research and record their findings in a methodical way.

**5. Project Method and Reporting**

5.1 Publish a literature review summarizing prior known information in a single compendium.

5.2 Field visits by Planet Birdsong key sound recordists and trainee wildlife photographers, with organized small group searches.

5.3 Conduct field interviews with Park Rangers and guides.

5.4 Report to the relevant Authorities (African Parks Nyungwe Management Company, Rwanda Development Board, CoEB, African Bird Club), interested parties such as Rwandan ornithologists, and the South African based Rare Finch Conservation Group.

5.5 Report in newsletter articles as appropriate and on-line media.

5.6 Circulation to interested parties, including individuals, organisations and relevant Authorities.

5.7 To be issued with an accompanying short film by the Rwanda Wildlife Filmmakers.

**6. Planet Birdsong Nyungwe Forest National Park Field Expedition February 2025**

**6.1 Expedition Method**

6.1.1 From 7th February to 10th February 2025, Planet Birdsong key recordists camped at NNP Gisakura campsite, operated by African Parks. The facilities were sheltered and assisted our field work.

6.1.2 The team comprised Lead Recordist Remy Jean de Dieu Mbonigaba and Key Recordists Daniel Maniraghua, Pacifique Byiringiro, Joachim Harerimana and Pierre

Izabayo. Photographer Roger Irakoze of Rwanda Wildlife Filmmakers accompanied the team.

6.1.3 They were accompanied by Hilary MacBean, Planet Birdsong Trustee, the Planet Birdsong African Bird Club conservation grant project 2024-2025 manager.

6.1.4 The guides were Claver Ntoyinkima, African Parks and Opportune Mukankuruziza (Oppo Nshuti), Nyungwe Forest NP Community Guide. Mist netting was not used.

6.1.5 As the target species is known to react quickly to disturbance and take refuge in cover, the party split into two small groups (A and B) for a quiet search. Known previous sites for the target were explored. In total, seven different observational searches were completed.

**6.2. The Observational Field Searches**

6.2.1 On Saturday 8th from 7.30am, following a group briefing, Group A searched the edges of the tea plantations and areas of *sericostachys scandens* and the adjacent trail floor along the Nyambabare trail. Group B searched the Nyungwe House trail, particularly checking around streams, where *sericostachys scandens* is abundant. Conditions were wet.

6.2.3 On Sunday 9th, Groups A and B searched the Bigugu Trail and Hilary and Oppo formed a separate group C to cover the Ikaze, Nyungwe House and Kwa Gervais areas, focussing on streams and forest edges. Conditions had improved, with sun and dry weather.

6.2.4 On Monday 10th, group A checked the Rangiro road area and Group B revisited the Nyambabare trail, covering different forest edges.

6.2.5 On Tuesday 11th, Hilary MacBean and Oppo searched the Karimanzovu Waterfall trail.

6.2.6 eBird complete lists were uploaded in all cases.

**6.3. Local Guide Observations,** *Claver Ntoyinkima*

6.3.1 The guide confirmed the very occasional presence of Shelley's crimsonwing in the past 10 years, and previously, along the search trails.

He confirmed a preference for:

i) seed food from *serichostachys scandens*;

ii) a range of balsam plants such as the shade loving *mimelopsis excelens*. "Balsam" simply means a plant which has medicinal value, and does not necessarily refer to plants of the same taxa.

iii) the large balsam *sturmani*, growing amongst *serichostachys* areas;

iv) the non-native and invasive Himalayan or Bhutan balsam amongst the tea plantations in the Gisakura tea factory area;

v) many other herbaceous plants and grasses such as *isachene mauritania*, both along the tea plantation margins and in patches on the trails.


1) *Balsam mimelopsis excelens,* 2) *sterichostachys scandens* coming into full flower Feb 25 3) Forest opening dominated by *serichostachys scandens,* 4) adjacent to stream Nyungwe House trail. Courtesy: Roger Irakoze, Hilary MacBean (Image 4).

6.3.2 It was noted that there is a likely association with other species such as red- faced and dusky crimsonwings, in mixed foraging flocks. Both crimsonwings are seen frequently but irregularly in the search areas. The guides suggested that finch flocks may make local movements depending on food availability and the likelihood of more advanced seeding cycles of favoured seed-bearing plants in different parts of the forest. This may account for apparent seasonality.

6.3.3 Claver suggested that May or June would be the most likely months for observations in Nyungwe Forest NP, due to seeding patterns and the likely breeding season at the end of the wet season.

### 6.4 Expedition Findings

6.4.1 The expedition did not observe Shelley's crimsonwing. A small number of dusky crimsonwing (1 or 2 together) were seen on the Nyungwe House and Rangiro Road trails. Best for dusky crimsonwing was Bigugu trail, producing 4 individuals. Finch family species generally were noticeably lower around Gisakura than on our previous visit in November 2023.

6.4.2 Larger numbers of dusky crimsonwing have been observed on previous expeditions, notably a flock of around 11 individuals on Rangiro Road in November.

6.4.3 Hilary and Oppo observed two different individuals of red-faced crimsonwing in different parts of the Nyungwe House and Kwa Gervais Trails, both picking seed from the trail edges, adjacent to tea plantations and mature trees.

6.4.4 It was noted that the *stericostachys scandens* was in full and early flowering on the Nyambabare trail, in the upper forest areas. In the lower valleys along the streams on

Nyungwe House trail, but there was no sign of flowering in the upper areas. All the balsams were in full flower. Flowers were young and immature, seed formation being some weeks away.

6.4.5 On 12th February, Hilary noted an example of *stericostachys scandens* in full flower and seed formation at Uwinka Visitor Centre, behind the security point. There was no sign of any foraging finches.

## Known Information on Shelley's Crimsonwing

### 7. Birdlife International IUCN Status Assessment

### 7.1 Habitat and Ecology

7.1.1 The species inhabits the understory of closed-canopy moist forest, often in lush valley bottoms near water, as well as low secondary growth at forest edges, forest clearings and glades dominated by large herbs, bamboo thickets and the upper forest/moorland ecotone. It is a resident species occurring between 1960 mean metres above sea level (mmsl) and 3400mmsl, (1550mmsl – 3400mmsl is mentioned in Stevenson and Fanshawe).

### 7.2 Designation

7.2.1 Shelley's crimsonwing was designated by the IUCN as Threatened until 2017 but was then redesignated as Endangered. It has shown population declines for reasons unknown, but possibly due to deforestation and forest degradation throughout its range. Sightings are rare and it is likely to have a small, severely fragmented and declining population.

### 7.3 Conservation Actions

7.3.1 The IUCN reports that no conservation measures are known to be currently in action. Previous efforts were curtailed by a lack of funding. Proposed actions are to monitor the population size and trends, investigate declines or reported unexplained fluctuations, assess threats, survey habitat and increase suitable habitat in areas with protected status.
The IUCN Assessment is available here (recommended for full information):

https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22719374/118357677
BirdLife International (2017). "*Cryptospiza shelleyi*"

### 7.4 Range Description

7.4.1 Shelley's crimsonwing *cryptospiza shelleyi* is known from many parts of the mountains of the Albertine Rift. Sightings have been reported from: the Itombwe Mountains; Kahuzi-Biéga National Park and the mountains west of Lake Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo; Nyungwe National Park, Gishwati, Makwa and Mukura Forest National Park in Rwanda; Bururi Forest and elsewhere in Burundi; the Rwenzori Mountains (with records at 1960m and 3400m [Willard et al. 1998]) and Bwindi (Impenetrable) Forest in Uganda; as well as the Virunga Mountains (2,200-3,000 mmsl) on the border between DRC, Rwanda and Uganda. It is generally rare (Butynski et al. 1997).

7.4.2 In Uganda, the species has only been encountered rarely during recent surveys (A. Plumptre in litt. 2007, D. Pomeroy in litt 2007), possibly because it is much rarer than previously thought, or perhaps because it is very difficult to locate (A. Plumptre in litt. 2007).

7.4.3 Mist-netting surveys specifically targeting crimsonwings in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in 2009-2010 failed to locate the species (Krüger and du Toit, 2010). However, in August 2010 there were reports of up to four birds seen on two days by local bird guides leading visitors in the Ruhija sector of Bwindi.
https://www.bwindiimpenetrablenationalpark.com/news/rare-shelleys-crimsonwing-spotted-in-ruhija/

7.4.4 Between the late 1970s and the early 1990s it may have suffered population declines locally (Catterall 1992), and reporting rates are continuing to decline (S. Cichon, M. McQuillan and E. Meyjes 2016), although it is not a well-known species and there are few baseline data (Dowsett-Lemaire, 2000).

**8. The Rare Finch Conservation Group (RFCG)** *rarefinchsa.org (copy and paste)*

8.1 This organisation is based in South Africa and focussed on finding Shelley's Crimsonwing in Uganda from 2005 to 2014.

8.2 They report that perhaps 25 individuals in all were netted in DRC and Uganda, all in the 1990's. In 1996, five were netted by Dehn and Christianson in the Mubuka/Mahoma/Bujuku River Valleys (2100mmsl – 3000mmsl) in the Rwenzori Mountains of Uganda, leading to two photos.

8.3 One specimen was netted by Kenyan Colin Jackson at Mt. Tshiaberimu in the DRC in 1997. His netting site was adjacent to bamboo forest and an open area with swampy ground, above 2000m.

*Shelley's crimsonwing male*
*African Geographic Colin Jackson 1997*

*Shelley's crimsonwing ventral view Morten Dehn 1996*

8.4 The Gorilla Foundation published perhaps the best of only 5 known published photos, from Mt Tschiaberimu, DRC in 2008 (See Section 1.1). There are no published photos of the bird in its wild setting and no sound recordings.

8.5 Sven Cichon of RFCG considers that the species was never common but in the 1960's and 1970's it was observed on a regular basis. In 2011 he contacted Dr Peter Kunkel, who had been Head of Research, Institute at Bukavu, Lake Kivu during the 1960's. He donated two specimens, male and female, to the Museum Alexander Konig, Bonn, Germany. Sven Cichon has supplied an unpublished report from when inspecting these specimens in 2011.

Shelley's_skins_at_König_Museum_Bonn_July2011.pdf

8.6 There are reported sightings at Ruhija, near Buhoma in Bwindi National Park around 2008, one flying off and one feeding on the ground for 3 minutes. This led in 2009-1910 to the RFCG mounting a netting expedition at Ruhija, but without success. They also offered bird tourism searches up to 2014. A proposed Birding Ecotours Expedition in 2018 appears not to have run. Activity has been quiet since.

8.7 Sven Cichon contacted Bertin Murhabale Ciririka of University of Bukavu, DRC, in 2018 (details supplied). Murhabale took the image of a female (Section 1.1) in Burinyi Forest, Itombwe Mountains, DRC in 2017. Murhabale reported that in his experience, the species prefers forest edges, always near a small river, seen in pairs or singly. He had searched since 2012 at altitudes between 1200 mmsl to 2900 mmsl. His observations were between 2200 mmsl and 2700 mmsl. Sven Cichon considers that the photographed example may be a juvenile male, evidenced by a flush of red feathers on the head. There was no evidence of red feathers on the museum skin examples of females.

8.8 Anecdotally, Shelley's crimsonwing have been reported by rangers to occur singly or in pairs or threes' in Ruhija, Uganda and Volcanos and Nyungwe Forest NPs in Rwanda. They forage on the ground for seeds, and are known to associate with dusky crimsonwing *cryptospiza jacksoni*. They are shy, elusive and seldom seen. When flushed, they fly rapidly for a short distance, dive for cover and do not reappear. Their favoured food plants are the seeds of balsam and *serichostachus ss scandens* along water courses. For the full report, see: https://rarefinch.wordpress.com/category/learn-more-about-the-shelleys-crimsonwing/

Shelley's crimsonwing - no photos in natural habitat - Africa Geographic

8.9 Great Adventures Uganda offered a birdwatching trip for the species around 2018, possibly in a Rwenzori Mountain location. They posted an apparently free-perching photo of a male Shelley's crimsonwing. Sven Cichon of RFCG reports that the photo was probably taken in a photo box in the 1960's and is not free flying. It was published in "Les Oiseaux du Zaire" Willens and Lippe, Belgium 1976.

**9. Birds of Rwanda An Atlas and Handbook**

9.1 Shelley's crimsonwing is a large finch-like passerine in the Estrildidae family. They describe the family as a tropical, small, gregarious and mainly granivorous ground feeder. Breeding is in solitary pairs and in June (post rains).

9.2 It is an Albertine Rift Endemic and uncommon resident. It occurs from VNP, Congo Nile Divide, NFNP, including Busaga Forest, between 1750mmsl and 3400mmsl elevation. The distribution is very uneven and absent from Cyamudongo Forest. It was once most abundant in Mukura Forest, where flocks of 20 birds were seen in the 1970s. It was also quite abundant at 2900m to 3200m in the tall hagenia forest on the saddle between Karisimbi and Bisoke in VNP and in high altitude hypericum, bamboo and veronica thickets. In 2011, it was reported as very uncommon.

9.3 In NFNP, it occurs throughout and is reported as least uncommon in the Gisovu area and on Mount Bigugu. Habitat is moist places in tall close canopied forest and dense secondary growth, including macaranga forest.

9.4 It occurs in pairs or small parties gleaning small seeds on the ground in shaded but often quite open understorey. It favours more open woody understory.

9.5 It is reported to occur with dusky crimsonwing in mixed species foraging flocks. Anecdotally, GVdW has suggested that its decline in NFNP and VNP may be linked to the absence of elephant grazing, which previously produced more open understory under and near tall trees.

9.6 By 2018, the species was reported to have crashed in numbers.

Source: *Birds of Rwanda. J.P. Van de Weghe and Gael R. Van de Weghe, Rwanda Development Board 2011, referencing Schouteden 1932, 1938, 1966; Dowsett-Lemaire 1990; Plumptre et al. 2002 and Ntoyinkima C comments.*

## Historic Fieldwork in Rwanda

### 10. Previous Rwandan sightings

10.1 In Rwanda sites where the species has previously been seen include Nyungwe Forest NP (NFNP), a Ramsar and UNESCO World Heritage Site, Gishwati Mukura NP and VNP. All have strong protections. They also have conservation objectives and promote birding tourism. Sightings in the last 10 years are very rare but do occur. Sightings have been incidental, during the working activities of Rangers and Guides.

10.2 Faida Emmanuel, a Ranger in VNP, reported seeing 1 individual on 13/09/21 at 3145 mmsl on the Kayira Trail on the West side of Karisimbi. He entered an eBird report. He reported seeing 3 individuals in 2023 or 2024. Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International in Rwanda holds this record and a record image.

10.3 Occasional sightings in NFNP by Guides and Rangers: perhaps 2- 3 in the last 6 years and previous historical sightings. They confirm association with dusky crimsonwing foraging flocks. Lower, wet trails in the Gisakura area and along the Bigugu and Rangiro Road trails are favoured. For reference, Gisakura is 1900 mmsl.

### 11. Important Food plants in Rwanda

### 11.1 *Sericostachys ss scandens* seeds

11.2 At the International Conference on the Impact of *Sterichostachys scandens* on the Conservation of NFNP, held in September 2009, with a contribution from Prof. Beth Kaplin, it was reported that the plant has a mass flowering every 10 – 15 years followed by a mass die-back. Smaller flowerings occur in the intervening years. A mass flowering occurred at the time of the conference. This suggests a mass flowering around 2019 – 2025. Could a mass flowering coincide with an eruption of Shelley's crimsonwing? This is not known but is a contention that may explain the very occasional sightings of Shelley's, e.g. in 2021 and 2024, when it was observed in VNP.

https://rema.gov.rw/rema_doc/pab/International%20Conference%20on%20the%20Impact%20of%20Sericostachys%20scandens%20on%20the%20Conservation%20of%20Nyungwe%20National%20Park,Rwanda..pdf

### 11.3 Balsam seeds:

11.3.1 Several native balsams occur in the Afro-montane forests frequented by Shelley's crimsonwing. They are a known seed plant food source.

11.3.2 Balsam impatiens or Himalayan balsam *impatiens glandulifera* is a native of Asia and grows to 2 – 3 m in height along water courses. It has pink to mauve flowers, leaves that run around the stem, leaves opposite, flowers/seeds that grow on stems from the leaf root, seed capsules that are elongated green, turning brown and hairy with explosive seed dispersal. It is invasive in Africa but does occur quite widely, including amongst the tea plantations adjacent to NNP.

Sources: *on-line and guides*.

## 12. Conclusions

12.1 Anecdotal sightings and the observation of extensive suitable habitat and food sources suggest that Shelley's crimsonwing could remain present, but in very small numbers. Its flighty habits and the probability of seasonality in different parts of the forest add to the difficulties of detection.

12.2 It is likely that a mist-netting expedition near seeding food sources, in the months of May or June offers the best prospect for a sighting.

## 13. Recommendations

13.1 Renewed efforts to detect and report on this IUCN Endangered species are urgently needed to establish the true status and threats to the species, with a view to a more proactive conservation plan. Photographs and sound recordings are particularly sought and would help to establish the credibility and reliability of any site.

13.2 Reports about the circumstances of any observations, habitat characteristics and the activities of the individuals will add to the available collective knowledge. It is strongly recommended that any observations or likely observations, anecdotal, incidental or otherwise, are recorded in open-access platforms such as eBird, in the Rwanda Biodiversity Information System (RBIS) at CoEB, reported to local experts and reviewers, and shared with the wider birding community.

13.3 The value of this preview exercise to the citizen scientist participants cannot be overstated, inspiring them to continue in their birding activities as well as teaching them the excitement and rigour of a serious attempt for a rare bird. The expedition is an initial field trip, collecting a compendium of existing and local information to encourage and inform future searches.

13.4 A further Planet Birdsong expedition in VNP, in collaboration with the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International Rangers is recommended for May or June 2025.

13.5 A reliable site would be of great value to the birdwatching tourism offerings of NNP and, potentially, VNP, highlighting its wider interest and appeal.

13.6 Ornithologists, birdwatchers and guides are encouraged to take the search further and to a higher professional level. The status and future of an iconic species deserves fuller attention and conservation effort. Ultimately, it is hoped that a collective effort will reveal this enigmatic species to the world.

13.7 African birders in Rwanda and beyond should be recognised as well positioned to pioneer initial research and field work into other scarce and rare species using their local knowledge, ready access to search areas, and capacity to aggregate and publish as much information as possible on species status.

## 14. Support us

14.1 If you would like to support grass-roots ground-breaking ornithological investigations by our Planet Birdsong citizen scientist birders and bird sound recordists in Rwanda and more widely in Africa, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Hilary MacBean at hilary@planetbirdsong.org or Remy Mbonigaba at mbonigabajeandedieu@gmail.com. For more information visit our website at www.planetbirdsong.org.

Thank you.

Hilary MacBean, Planet Birdsong Foundation, April 2025.