

Project Update: October 2015

During the last field season we successfully surveyed 31 sites for the presence of yellow-breasted pipits and simultaneously gathered data on vegetation height and diversity, burn frequency and timing, and grazing intensity at each site. These surveys resulted in a number of sightings of yellow-breasted pipits and other threatened grassland bird species in areas where they had not previously been recorded, or where they had not as yet been recorded during the second South African Bird Atlas Project. We are currently having the plant specimens that were collected during the first season identified at a national herbarium, and are using the present yellow-breasted pipit sightings database to produce a preliminary distribution map for the species using ecological niche modelling software. We are also gearing up for our second field season, during which period we aim to visit at least 30 additional sites across the species' range to gather additional data

