**Collared Flycatcher and other birds in Shamvura Camp Area**

On 13th February 2015, I was conducting a guided bird-walk with returnee guests Paul and Helen Gascoigne. We came across a small birding party a few kilometers from Shamvura Camp in a pocket of remaining quite thick broadleaf woodland. The party revealed an adult male Collared Flycatcher, some Spotted Flycatchers and Violet-backed Starlings. The Collared Flycatcher was very active with very little sitting and waiting unlike the Spotted flycatchers it was with. The Gascoignes said they also saw a Tree Pipit among this group. The Collared Flycatcher which was photographed appears to be in full breeding plumage.

Interestingly, a female Collared Flycatcher was recorded from within the property of Shamvura Camp in September 2007 and which stayed for several weeks being easy to pick up in the garden. A visiting birding group from Johannesburg (“The Inkwazi Group”) photographed the bird and reported this sighting to Trevor Hardacker. This may indicate that this bird is more established in the area than previously thought.

With the Gascoignes we went on to find several other interesting birds, Yellow Wagtail, Souza’s Shrike, Rufous-bellied Tit, Grey-headed Parrot, Slaty Egret, Racket-tailed Roller (heard), Quail Finch, Ayres hawk Eagle, Lesser Jacana and Pallid Harrier among many others.

**Compiled by: Mark Paxton, 20 March 2015.**