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Israel Veterinary Medical Association

P.O.Box 22, Raanana 4310001, Israel
Tel: 09-7419929 • Fax: 09-7431778
E-mail: ivma@zahav.net.il

M. Etinger – President
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Website: www.ijvm.org.il

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Email: oren.print@gmail.com

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Front Cover: **RETZ'S HELMETSHRIKE** (*Prionops retzii*)

Retz's helmetshrike (*Prionops retzii*) is a species of bird in the helmetshrike family Vangidae, formerly usually included in the Malaconotidae. Four subspecies are recognized:

- *P. r. nigricans*, Neumann, 1899 – South Central Africa;
- *P. r. graculinus*, Cabanis, 1868 – East Africa;
- ***P. r. retzii*, Wahlberg, 1856 – Northern parts of Southern Africa;**
- *P. r. tricolor*, G.R. Gray, 1864 – Eastern and Southeastern Africa.

The bird is found in *Angola, Botswana, DRC, Eswatini, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe*. Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical dry forests, subtropical or tropical mangrove forests, and subtropical or tropical moist shrub-land.

The helmetshrike is mostly black-and-brown with a piercing orange eye, red legs and eye-wattles, and an orange-tipped red bill. Calls are complex and include grating, whistling and a nasal note.

The picture of the cover were generously provided by **Mathew Axelrod** from South Africa.