



Yellowfronted Tinker Barbet

Geelblestinker

Pogoniulus chrysoconus

The Yellowfronted Tinker Barbet is widespread across sub-Saharan Africa and occurs south to the Transvaal. It is widespread in the broadleaved woodland areas of the Transvaal, northern Swaziland, throughout Zimbabwe, eastern and northern Botswana and the Caprivi Strip in Namibia. It occurs at elevations of 600–1700 m, but has a patchy distribution throughout its range, being recorded commonly in some grid cells but inexplicably uncommon or absent from adjacent ones. It is sparse in the Transvaal lowveld, the Limpopo River valley, in southern and north-western Zimbabwe and in northcentral Namibia.

Clancey (1980b) recognized two subspecies, and there appears to be a break between the two forms, approximately coinciding with 22°S.

It has a distinctive call which can often be heard throughout the heat of the day. However, when it is not calling it is easily overlooked as it sits unobtrusively in the canopy of trees. Calling frequency may vary between seasons (Winterbottom 1956b). It is solitary and highly territorial. An orange-fronted form which occurs in the Transvaal may be confused with the Redfronted Tinker Barbet *P. pusillus* (Tarboton *et al.* 1987b).

Habitat: It is most frequently recorded in broad-leaved woodlands: Miombo in Zimbabwe, Moist Woodland in the Transvaal, the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe, the Okavango of northern Botswana and Arid Woodland of eastern Botswana, where it occurs in mixed woodlands on rocky hills.

Movement: The atlas data reveal lower reporting rates during the winter months, probably related to reduced calling outside the breeding season. There is no evidence in the literature to suggest seasonal movements and it is presumed to be resident throughout its range.

Breeding: Atlas records were August–June. Egg-laying data for the region similarly span most of the year, but with a clear peak in spring and early summer, September–December (Irwin 1981; Tarboton *et al.* 1987b). The atlas records indicate that breeding peaks earlier in Zimbabwe (Zone 1), which agrees with available egg-laying data (Irwin 1981; Tarboton *et al.* 1987b).

Interspecific relationships: See the account for the Redfronted Tinker Barbet. Yellowfronted Tinker Barbets frequently join mixed bird parties.

Historical distribution and conservation: Though McLachlan & Liversidge (1957) showed it occurring over most of Botswana except the southwest, this was not supported by Smithers (1964). This map is probably little different from the historical distribution. The type specimen of the southern subspecies *P. c. extoni* was collected over 100 years ago at Kanye (2425C) (Clancey 1980b), which is situated at the edge of suitable habitat in southeastern Botswana; the species was still recorded from this region during the atlas period.

The Yellowfronted Tinker Barbet is common in several types of broadleaved woodland in southern Africa and occurs in game and nature reserves in the region.

D.H. Day

Recorded in 828 grid cells, 18.2%

Total number of records: 8904

Mean reporting rate for range: 22.3%

Reporting rates for vegetation types



