



Goldenrumped Tinker Barbet Swartblestinker

Pogoniulus bilineatus

The Goldenrumped Tinker Barbet is a widespread African species (Fry *et al.* 1988) which is common in the lowlands from the Umtamvuna River (3130AA) through KwaZulu-Natal, Swaziland, the lowlands of southeastern Transvaal and the lowland forest areas of eastern Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwean highlands, where it occurs most abundantly below 1000 m (Irwin 1981). It is widespread in Mozambique (Clancey 1971c). It has not been positively recorded in the Transkei (Quickelberge 1989). Clancey (1980b) distinguished three subspecies in the atlas region.

It occurs singly or in pairs and is a vocal and conspicuous species. Misidentification on the basis of call is possible, as this and other tinker barbets have similar calls. It usually calls in bursts of four to six notes compared to the prolonged calls of the Redfronted *P. pusillus* and Yellow-fronted *P. chrysoconus* Tinker Barbets. The atlas distribution can nevertheless be accepted as reasonably accurate.

Habitat: It prefers the canopy and mid-stratum of coastal evergreen and riparian forest, moist thickets, and montane forest in eastern Zimbabwe. Most commonly recorded in the East Coast Littoral vegetation type, it also occurs in the Eastern Zimbabwe Highlands and Afromontane Forest. In eastern Zimbabwe it is most common at the junction of the Haroni and Rusitu rivers (2033AA) (Irwin 1981). It may be particularly plentiful where there are fruiting figs *Ficus* spp. (Maclean 1993b). Where it occurs in the same area as other tinker barbets, it generally occupies denser and moister vegetation types (Fry *et al.* 1988).

Movements: Reporting rates were slightly lower in winter, which is attributed to a decline in vocalizations in winter (Maclean 1993b). Irwin (1981) regarded it as sedentary, but suspected some movement. Local or seasonal movements have not been reported elsewhere in Africa (Fry *et al.* 1988).

Breeding: It breeds in cavities which it excavates in dead branches. Atlas records spanned September–February in Zimbabwe, and October–April, with additional records June–July, from KwaZulu-Natal. Previously, the breeding period was given by Maclean (1993b) as September–March. Egglaying has been recorded September–December in KwaZulu-Natal (Dean 1971), October–February in Zimbabwe (Irwin 1981) and December–February in the Transvaal (Tarboton *et al.* 1987b). The winter breeding records from KwaZulu-Natal are unusual and require confirmation.

Interspecific relationships: Its distribution overlaps with the Redfronted Tinker Barbet, particularly in the coastal region of southern KwaZulu-Natal, but the latter tends to occur in relatively less humid and more open forest (Fry *et al.* 1988). Nevertheless, in Swaziland, these two species are observed together, and both species respond to mimicked calls of either species (V. Parker *in litt.*). It has been suggested that the Whitechested Tinkerbird *P. makawai*, known from a single specimen collected in northwestern Zambia, is an aberrant individual of the Goldenrumped Tinker Barbet (Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire 1980). Sightings of Goldenrumped Tinker

Barbets which have a clear white breast and lack the white eyebrow should be carefully documented.

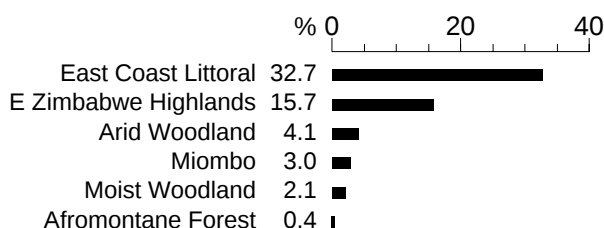
The Goldenrumped Tinker Barbet is a host of the Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus* (Fry *et al.* 1988).

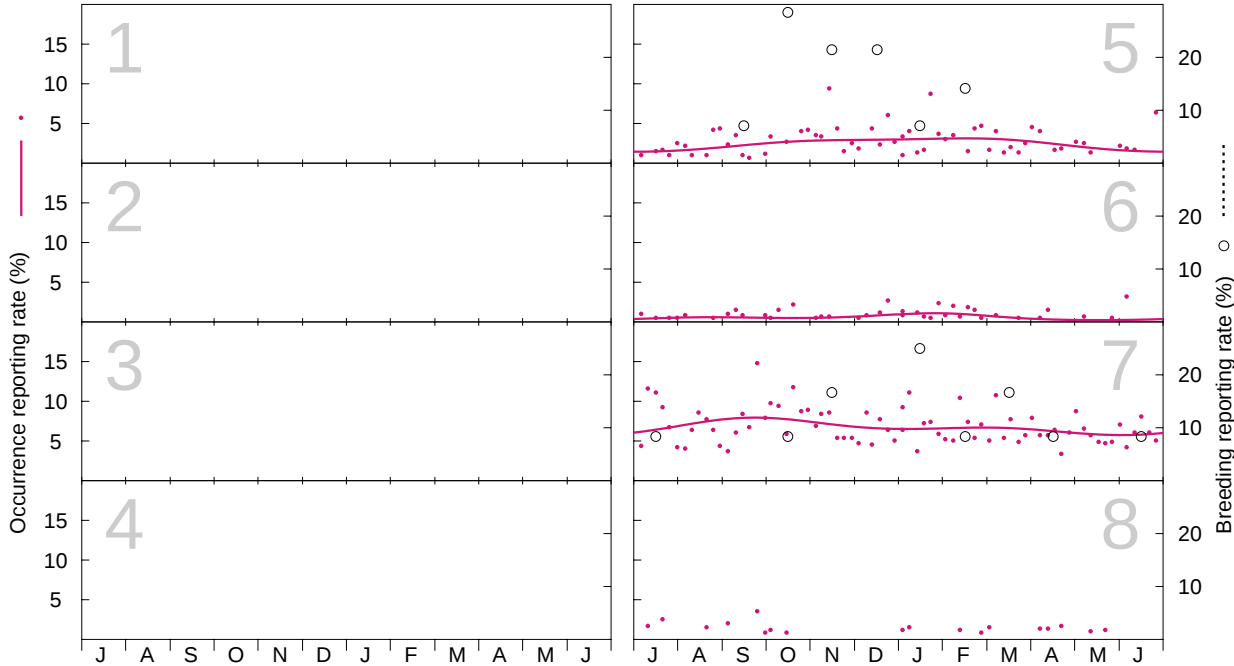
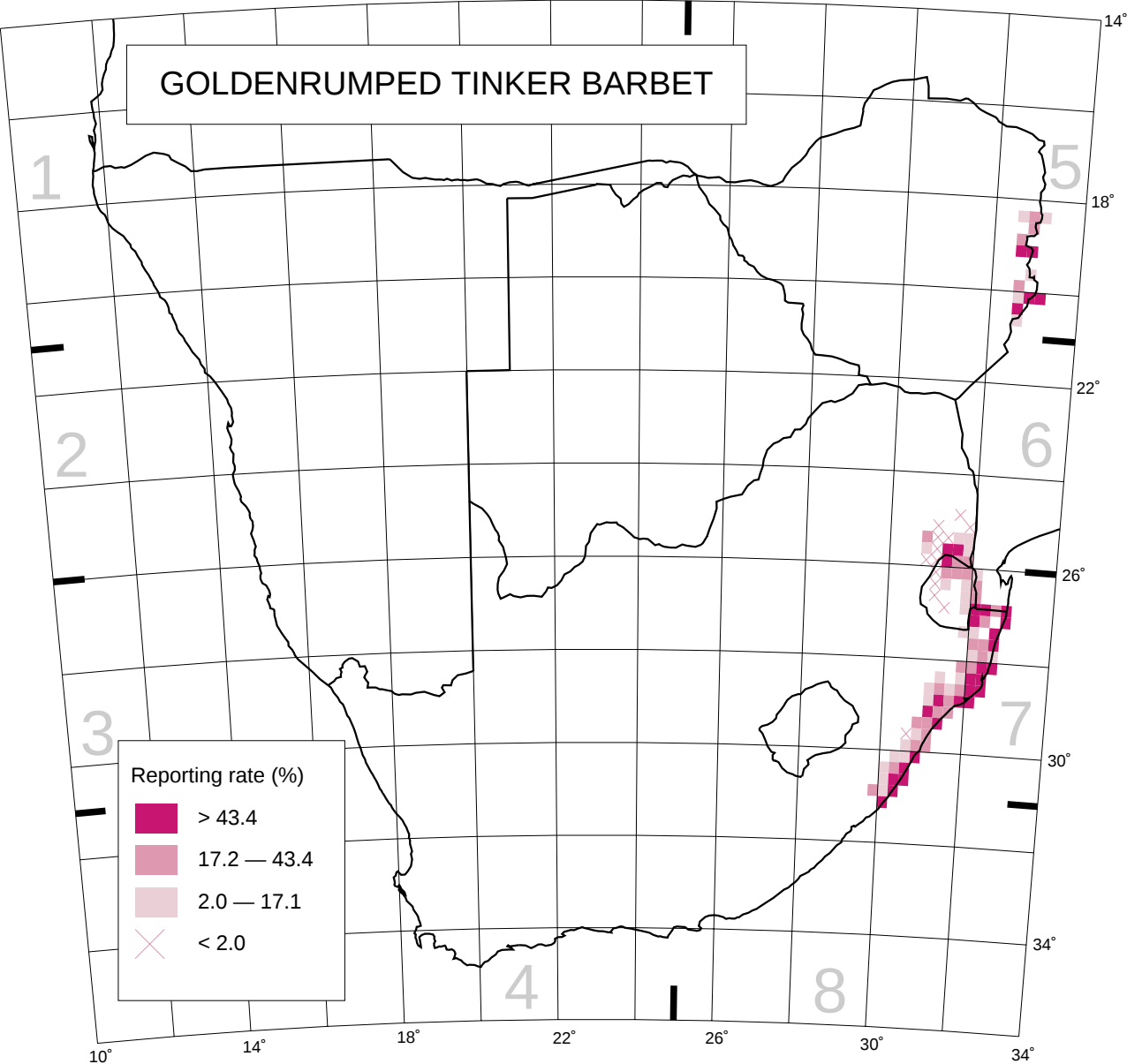
Historical distribution and conservation: The historical distribution is not known to have differed from the present. The existence of the Goldenrumped Tinker Barbet in the atlas region is not threatened because it is common within forest habitat, although clearing of forests has presumably decreased its abundance. It is not listed in the South African Red Data book (Brooke 1984b).

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Recorded in 106 grid cells, 2.3%
Total number of records: 4466
Mean reporting rate for range: 30.4%

Reporting rates for vegetation types





Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):
Occurrence: 0, 0, 0, 0, 210, 65, 1316, 20; Breeding: 0, 0, 0, 0, 14, 0, 12, 0.