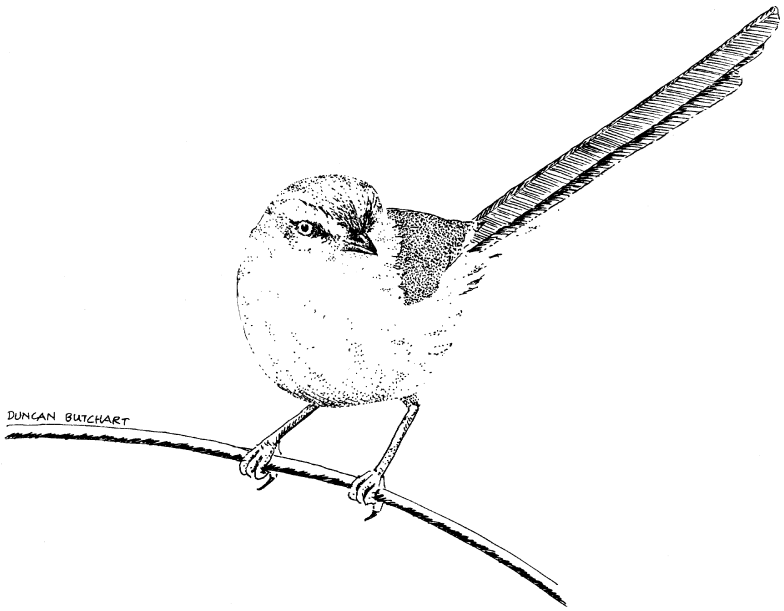


Tawnyflanked Prinia

Bruinsylangstertjie

Prinia subflava

The Tawnyflanked Prinia is widespread in higher-rainfall areas of Africa south of the Sahara, but not in the Zairean forests or at high altitude, and it avoids arid, semi-arid and temperate areas of southern Africa. In South Africa it is common in the coastal regions of the eastern Cape Province, almost reaching Port Elizabeth (3325DC) in the southwest, and is abundant in KwaZulu-Natal and the low-lying parts of the Transvaal. It occurs sparsely in the Free State. It is abundant in Swaziland and common throughout Zimbabwe, eastern and northern Botswana, and the Caprivi Strip, but other than along the Kavango and Kunene rivers, it is sparsely recorded elsewhere in northern Namibia. It is common in Mozambique (Clancey 1971c). It occurs at comparatively low densities of 1 pair/15 ha in broadleaved woodland at Nylsvley (2428DA) (Tarboton *et al.* 1987b), and is more abundant elsewhere. It does not usually occur above 1500 m in Zimbabwe (Irwin 1981) and about 1300 m in KwaZulu-Natal (Clancey 1964b). Bonde (1993) reported only two records from Lesotho. Clancey (1980b) recognizes three subspecies in the region; these show continuous ranges on the present map.

It is conspicuous and vocal, occurring in pairs or family groups. It forages actively in the lower vegetation but is reported to forage at higher levels in winter (Irwin 1981). The distribution pattern shown here is likely to be accurate for the most part. It is likely that there has been a low degree of misidentification with the Lazy Cisticola *Cisticola aberrans*, and also with nonbreeding plumage Blackchested Prinias *P. flavicans* and lightly marked individuals of the Spotted Prinia *P. hypoxantha.*

Habitat: It prefers higher-rainfall areas and relatively tall and dense patches of vegetation: rank grass on the edges of roads or farmlands, drainage lines and edges of dams and rivers, scrubby patches within woodland savannas, secondary thickets, reeds and sedges in wetlands, and ecotones between grassland and dense, tall woodlands and forests. It also occurs in suburban and rural gardens. It occupies these habitats within a range of biomes, being most frequently recorded in the East Coast Littoral, Moist Woodland, Miombo and Eastern Zimbabwe Highlands.

Movements: It is resident and seasonal changes in reporting rates are attributed to changes in conspicuousness, particularly to increased vocalizations during the breeding season.

Breeding: During the atlas period, breeding in the eastern half of the area began in October and continued through the wet season to about March/April. The few atlas records from Zone 1 (northern Namibia and northwestern Botswana) point to breeding being somewhat later, in parallel with the timing of peak rainfall. Egglaying has been recorded in spring and summer (August–April), with a November–January peak in the Transvaal and KwaZulu-Natal, and November–March in Zimbabwe (Dean 1971; Tarboton *et al.* 1987b; Irwin 1981; Maclean 1993b).

Interspecific relationships: The prinia species replace each other ecologically, but may occur alongside each other in some areas (Irwin 1981). In the eastern Cape Province and KwaZulu-Natal, this species is replaced by the Karoo Prinia *P. maculosa* and Spotted Prinia at higher altitudes or more temperate conditions, and the Blackchested Prinia replaces this species in more arid habitats in northern South Africa, southwestern Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia. The Lazy Cisticola is a 'prinia-like' cisticola and the ecological differences between it and the Tawnyflanked Prinia are not well defined.

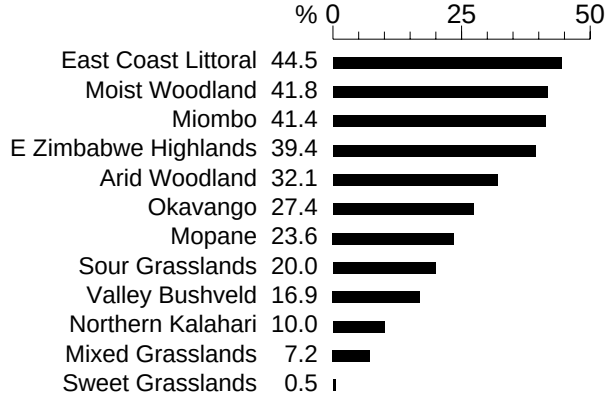
It is a host of the brood-parasitic Cuckoo Finch *Anomalospiza imberbis* (Maclean 1993b).

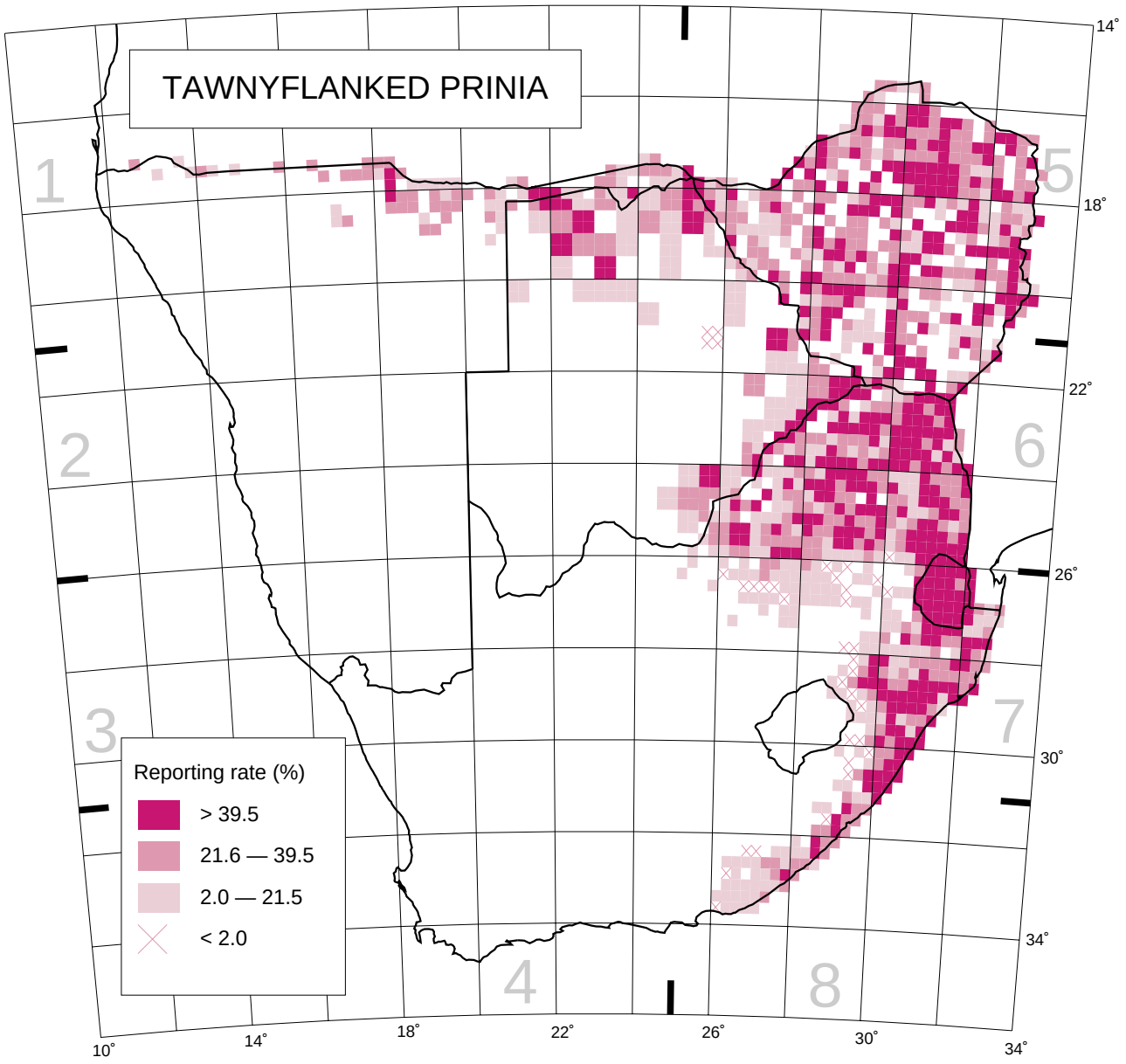
Historical distribution and conservation: The distribution of the Tawnyflanked Prinia is not known to have changed historically. This common species readily adapts to modified habitats, suburban environments and secondary vegetation, and is not threatened.

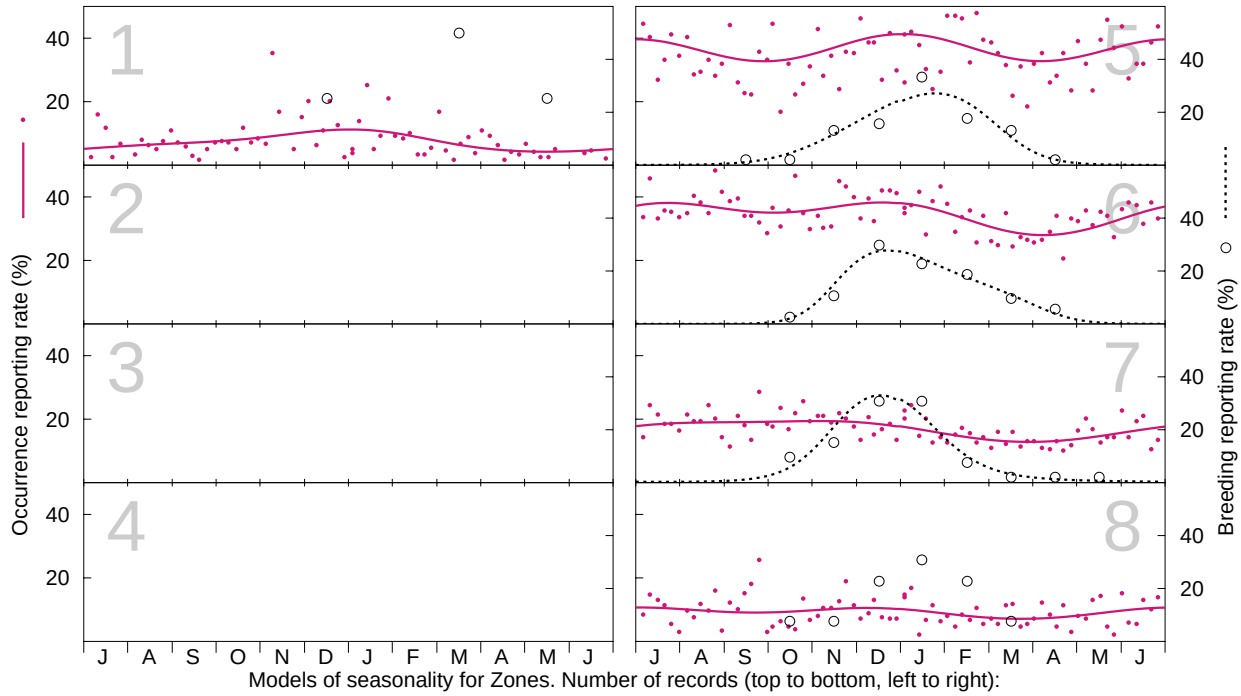
A. Berruti

Recorded in 1317 grid cells, 29.0%
Total number of records: 25 433
Mean reporting rate for range: 32.4%

Reporting rates for vegetation types







Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):
Occurrence: 223, 0, 0, 0, 3178, 3929, 3294, 507; Breeding: 4, 0, 0, 0, 45, 74, 52, 13.