

Grey Waxbill

Gryssysie

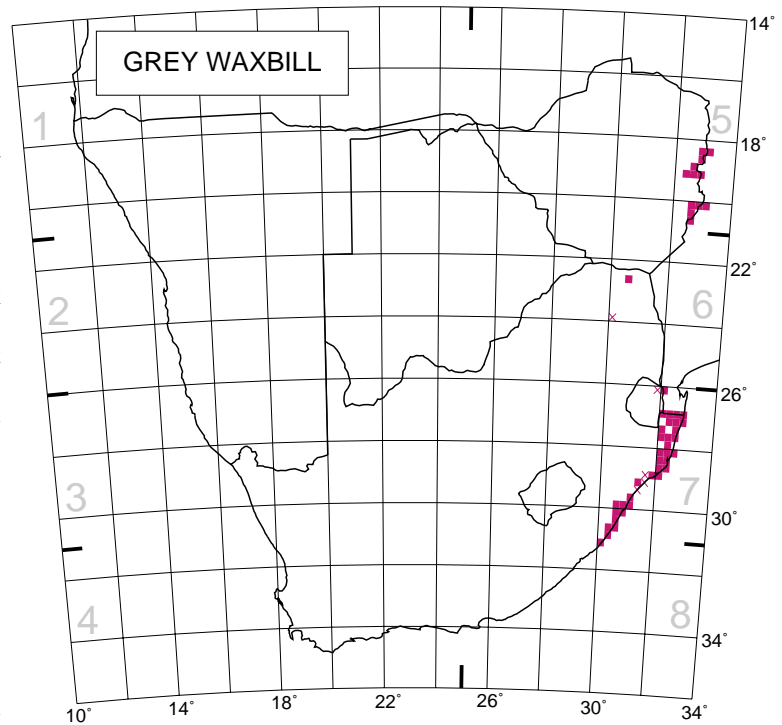
Estrilda perreini

The Grey Waxbill occurs from Gabon, Angola and Zaire eastwards to Tanzania and Mozambique, and southwards to South Africa. During the atlas period, the highest reporting rates were in eastern Zimbabwe where it is locally common below an altitude of 800 m (Irwin 1978). It was reported less frequently in KwaZulu-Natal, exclusively in the East Coast Littoral zone. It occurs marginally in Swaziland (Parker 1994). During the atlas period it was rarely observed along the eastern Transvaal escarpment, as reported by Tarboton *et al.* (1987b).

It occurs on the edges of evergreen forest, riverine forest, thickets and dense bush, mainly in the lower strata. It is inconspicuous and was probably under-reported.

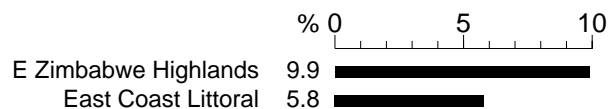
It shows a slight summer increase in reporting rate in Zimbabwe, which suggests that it is more frequently seen when breeding. However, a winter increase in reporting rate was recorded in KwaZulu-Natal. This pattern is also noted for the Pinkthroated Twinspot *Hypargos margaritatus* and some other species (Berruti *et al.* 1994a) and may reflect greater detectability of species inhabiting dense cover during winter when leaf cover is reduced, or a wider foraging area in winter. There were only a few breeding records during the atlas period, most from KwaZulu-Natal. It has been recorded breeding October–February in KwaZulu-Natal (Dean 1971), and October–April in Zimbabwe (Maclean 1993b).

The atlas data indicate a small but significant range extension across the Umtamvuna River (3030C); the species was previously unrecorded from the Transkei (Quickelberge 1989). The Grey Waxbill is listed as a species worth monitoring in South Africa (Brooke 1984b), but does not appear to be particularly threatened in southern Africa.

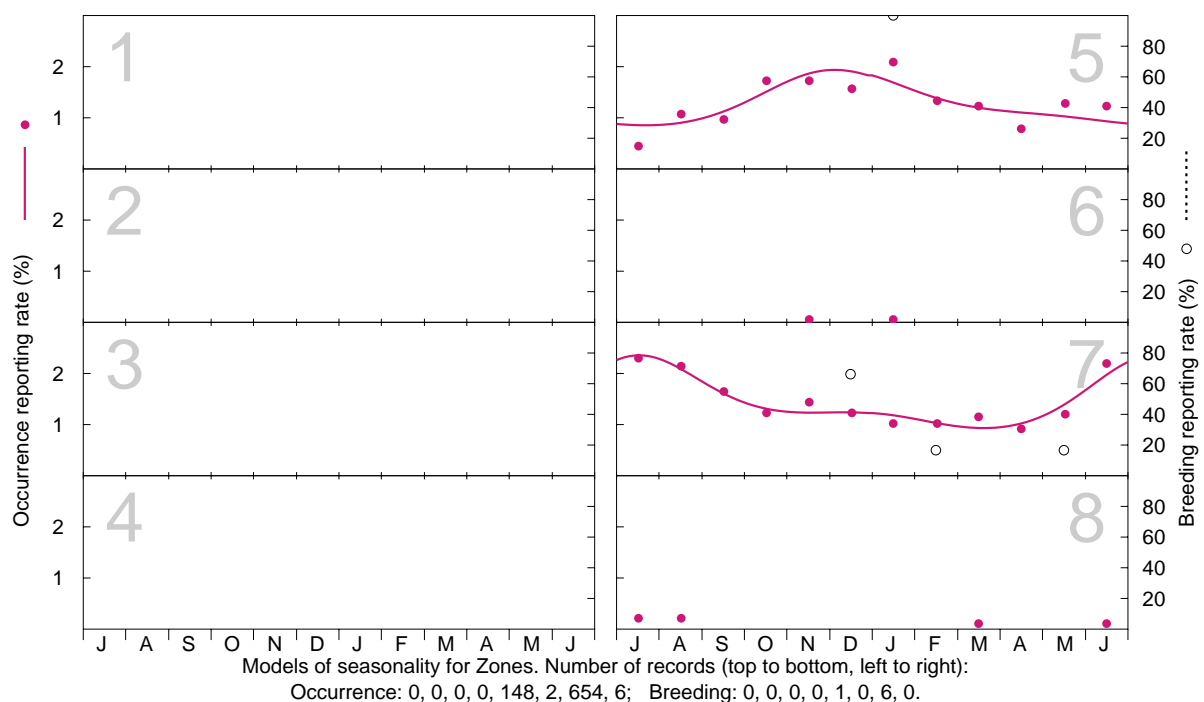


Recorded in 53 grid cells, 1.2%
Total number of records: 810
Mean reporting rate for range: 8.4%

Reporting rates for vegetation types



A. Berruti



Cinderella Waxbill

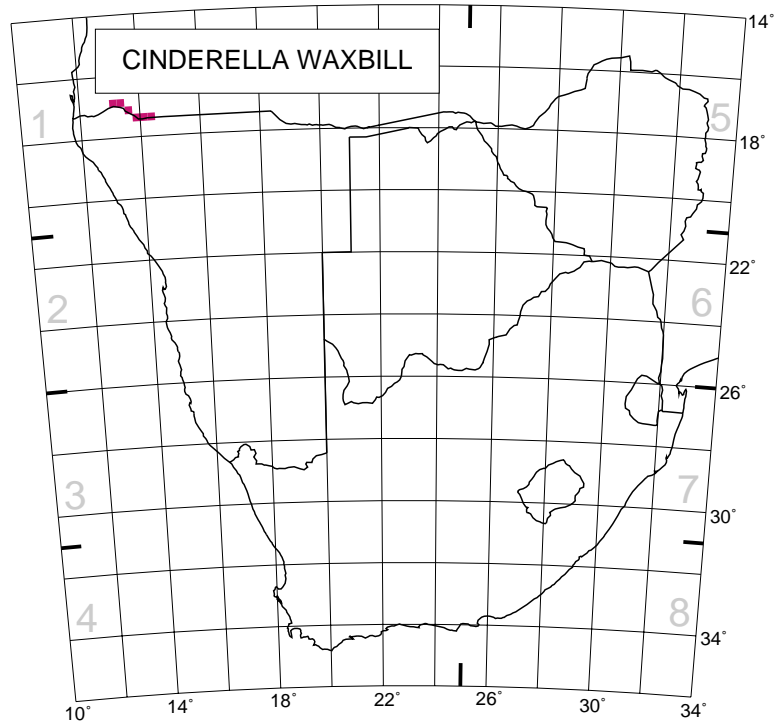
Swartoogsysie

Estrilda thomensis

The Cinderella Waxbill is a pale-grey estrildid in the lavender waxbill group (Hall & Moreau 1970; Goodwin 1982). It is known mainly from localities in western Angola and extreme north-western Namibia (Pinto 1970; Ginn *et al.* 1989), being near-endemic to that area. It is known in the atlas region only from the banks of the lower Kunene River. Although originally found on São Tomé, it has not been seen there since and could have been introduced or described in error (Hall & Moreau 1970; Pinto 1970). It is poorly studied and seldom seen, and where it overlaps with the Grey Waxbill *E. perreini* (outside the atlas region) there is much potential for misidentification (Goodwin 1982).

It enters arid terrain, such as Iona National Park in southwestern Angola (Ginn *et al.* 1989), but seems to be dependent on surface water. On the Kunene River it occurs in mixed riverine woodland, and adjacent Mopane woodland, and is known from thorn and Mopane woodland below the central Angolan escarpment in Huila Province (Hall & Moreau 1970; Pinto 1970) and from Benguela and Mozâmedes Provinces. It is therefore difficult to characterize its diversely described habitat with any confidence.

Nothing is known of any seasonal movements or of its breeding habits. The Cinderella Waxbill is included in the African Red Data book (Collar *et al.* 1994) as 'near-threatened' and will be included in the Namibian Red Data book as 'vulnerable'. The planned hydroelectric development on the Kunene River at Epupa Falls (1613CD) could well cause its extinction in Namibia through destruction of the riverine woodland along the lower Kunene and flooding of adjacent habitat over a large area.



Recorded in 6 grid cells, 0.1%
Total number of records: 6
Mean reporting rate for range: 7.7%

P. Barnard

