

## Cinderella Waxbill

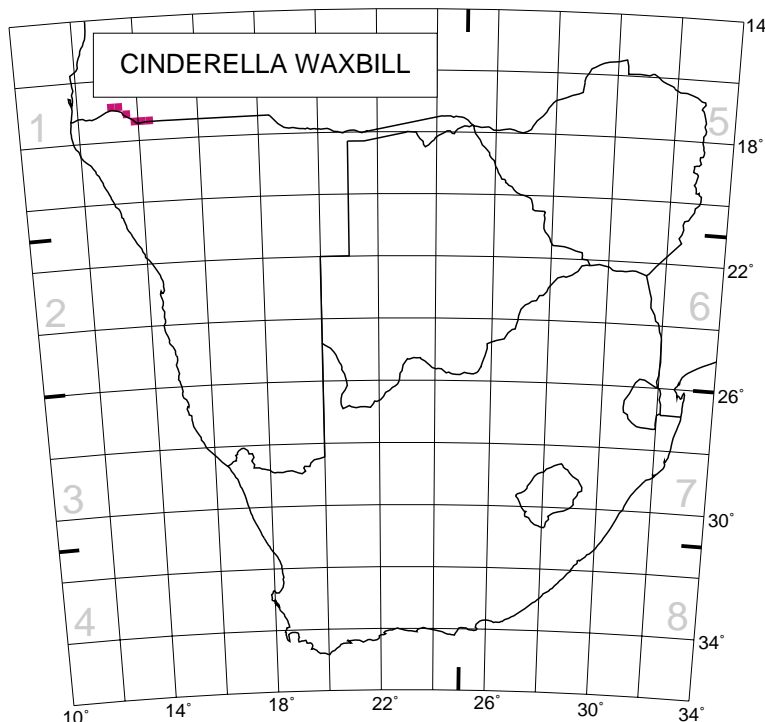
Swartoogsysie

*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

