

Grey Penduline Tit

Gryskapokvoël

Anthoscopus caroli

The Grey Penduline Tit is a locally common Afrotropical resident in relatively moist woodlands. In southern Africa it ranges through Zimbabwe, northern and eastern Botswana, through the Caprivi Strip, extending westwards into northern Namibia. Within South Africa it occurs in the eastern, northern and central Transvaal, being common in the Kruger National Park. It is also found in northern KwaZulu-Natal and eastern Swaziland, where it is widespread and occurs quite frequently in the lowveld woodlands (Cyrus & Robson 1980; Parker 1994). The map does not indicate clear divisions between the ranges of the three subspecies in the region (Clancey 1980b).

Although atlas data suggest a scattered distribution, it is almost certainly continuous in the eastern broadleaved woodlands of Zimbabwe and the Transvaal; uneven coverage may have led to under-reporting. The Grey Penduline Tit can be confused with the Cape Penduline Tit *A. minutus*, Burntnecked Eremomela *Eremomela usticollis* or Yellowbellied Eremomela *E. icteropygialis*, but the data have been vetted to remove obvious errors.

Habitat: It is primarily a bird of well-developed broadleaved woodland. The highest reporting rates were in

Miombo, the Eastern Zimbabwe Highlands – where it inhabits low-lying miombo woodlands and not montane forests – the Okavango and Arid Woodland. In the absence of the Cape Penduline Tit, it also occupies tall *Acacia* woodland in Zimbabwe (Irwin 1981). It is a canopy dweller, seldom found on the ground.

Movement: Atlas data reveal no evidence for seasonal movements, and generally it appears to be resident. Reporting rates in the eastern part of the subcontinent peak in winter. This is when it occurs in mixed-species bird parties in more open woodlands after leaf-fall; these circumstances probably making it more detectable. In Zimbabwe there is some indication of altitudinal movement into the Zambezi Valley during winter (Irwin 1981; Tree 1990c).

Breeding: Atlas breeding records span spring and summer, August–February, confirming published information (Dean 1971; Irwin 1981; Tarboton *et al.* 1987b).

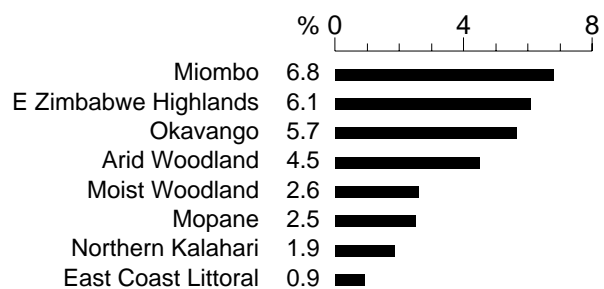
Interspecific relationships: Its range appears to overlap with that of the Cape Penduline Tit, but where the two come in contact, it prefers taller woodlands with a broadleaved component, while Cape Penduline Tit prefers open thornveld. Outside the range of the latter in Zimbabwe, the Grey Penduline Tit also occurs widely in *Acacia* woodland (Irwin 1981). Both may occasionally occur together in mixed species flocks (Ginn *et al.* 1989). Burntnecked Eremomela, Yellowbellied Eremomela, Green-capped Eremomela *E. scotops*, Mashona Hyliota *Hyliota australis*, Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* and white-eyes *Zosterops* spp. are other insect gleaners with which the Grey Penduline Tit occurs in mixed flocks.

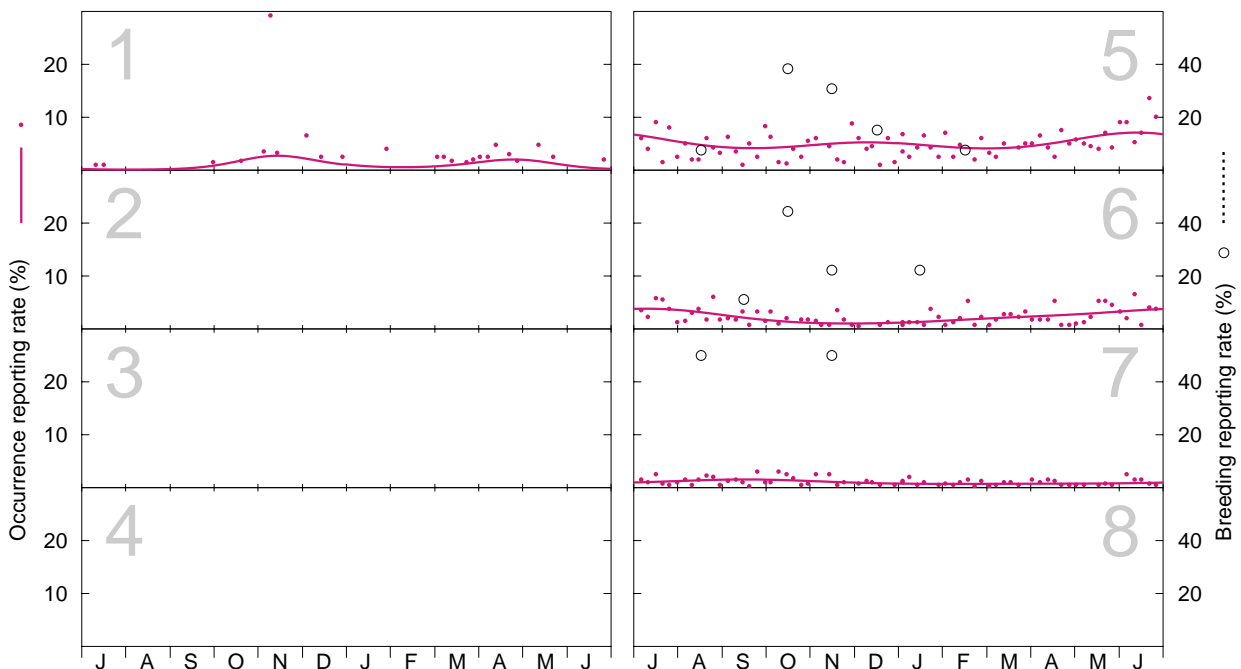
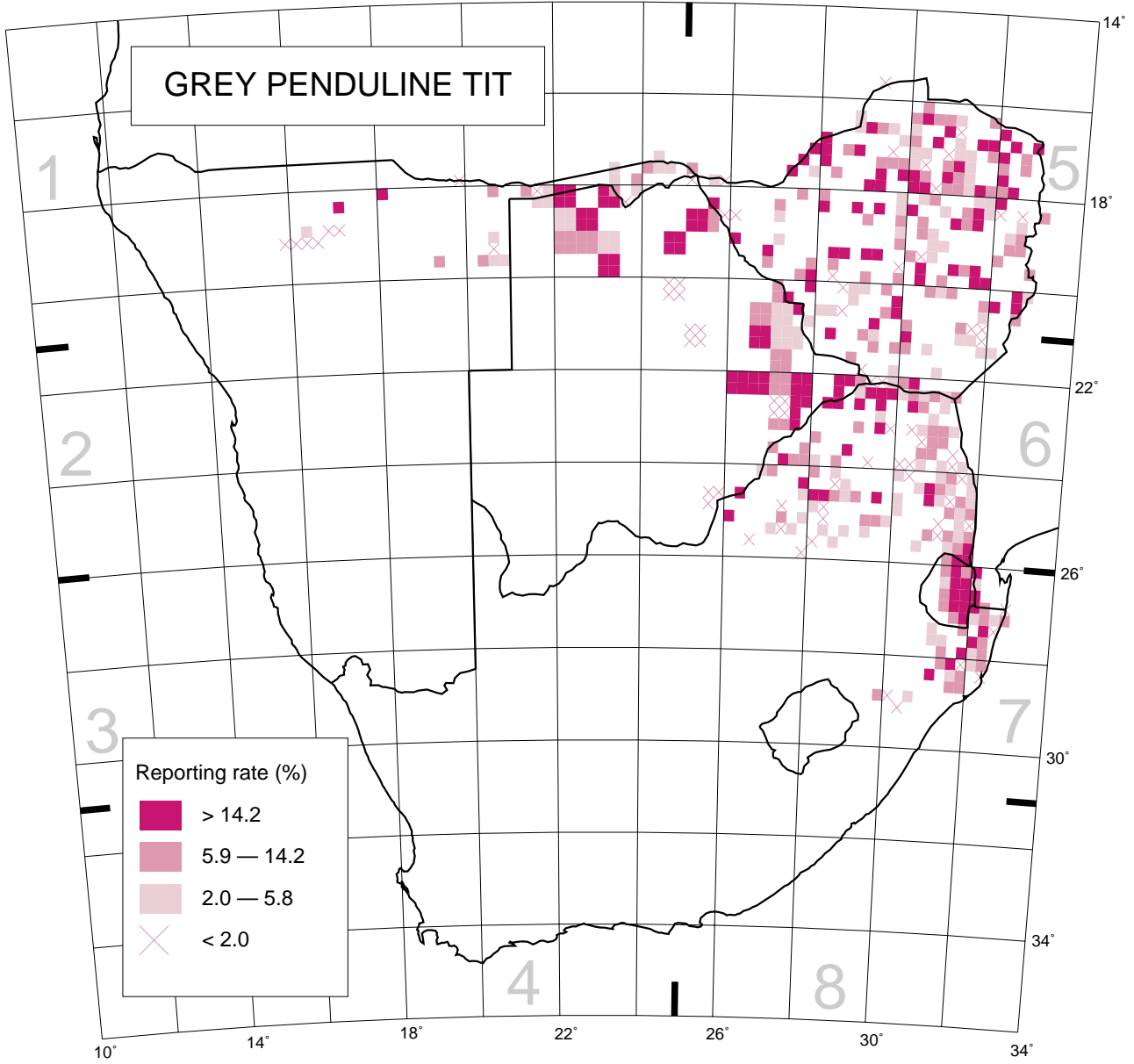
Historical distribution and conservation: Atlas data show the presence of a previously unknown population in Etosha National Park, not recorded there by Jensen & Clinning (1976) in their detailed study. It is now clear that it was previously overlooked (C.J. Brown pers. comm.). The Grey Penduline Tit is widespread in southern and east Africa and is not considered threatened.

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Recorded in 510 grid cells, 11.2%
Total number of records: 1918
Mean reporting rate for range: 6.9%

Reporting rates for vegetation types





Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):
 Occurrence: 35, 0, 0, 0, 445, 256, 195, 0; Breeding: 0, 0, 0, 0, 13, 9, 2, 0.