

Chirinda Apalis

Gryskleinjantjie

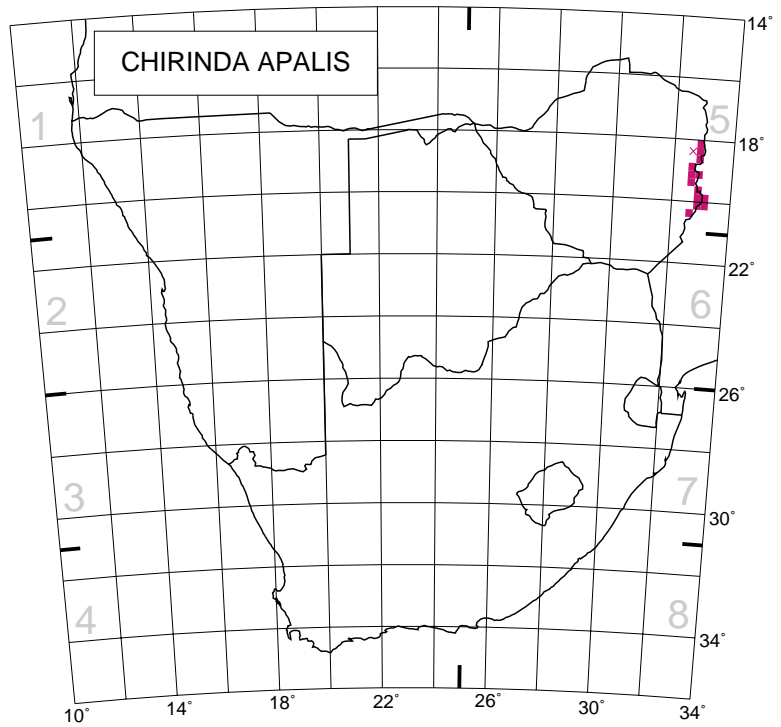
Apalis chirindensis

Endemic to the highland forests of eastern Zimbabwe with an isolated population at Gorongosa Mountain in Mozambique, this small warbler is uncommon and its behaviour does not make it easy to identify with certainty. It is found in the canopy of evergreen forest or thick riverine bush where it gleans insects from leaves and twigs in a manner characteristic of the family. It is said to prefer open, sunny glades in forest (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1963; Newman 1983). Despite its limited range, two subspecies have been described, *A. c. vumbae* from the Vumba (1932B) north to Mount Inyangani (1832BD), and nominate *chirindensis* from Himalaya (1932BC) to Mount Selinda (2032BC) (Clancey 1980b).

It may move to lower altitudes in winter (Irwin 1981; Maclean 1985c). Two atlas summer breeding records agree with the fact that birds in breeding condition have been found October–February (Irwin 1981; Maclean 1985c), which is the period chosen by other *Apalis* species for breeding.

It is frequently found in bird parties and, particularly in winter, is said to be ‘found in the same forest bird parties as the Blackheaded Apalis *A. melanocephala*’ (Irwin 1981) and ‘often associating with other insect-hunting birds’ (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1963).

There is nothing to suggest that the distribution of the Chirinda Apalis has changed significantly in recent times. Its mountain forest habitat is not under great pressure.



Recorded in 14 grid cells, 0.3%
 Total number of records: 177
 Mean reporting rate for range: 19.5%

D.B. Hanmer and W.J. Chadder

