

### Redfaced Crombec

Rooiawangstompstert

*Sylvietta whytii*

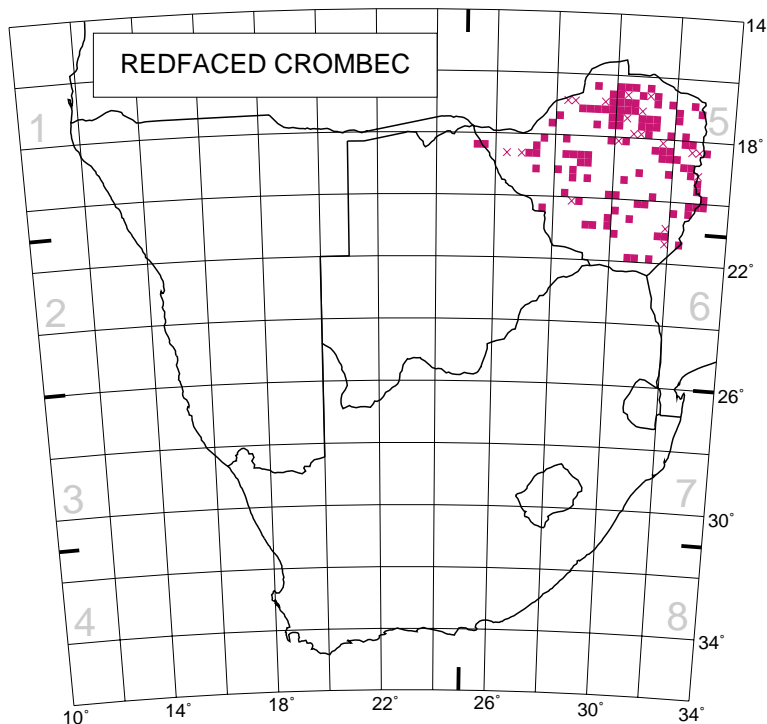
The Redfaced Crombec is most common in *Brachystegia* (miombo) woodlands of the Zimbabwe Plateau and Eastern Districts, even at high altitudes in the Eastern Highlands. It is typically found in well-developed miombo woodland, but may also be found in a variety of other woodlands, including Gusu *Baikiaea* spp., Mahobohobo *Uapaca* spp. riverine forest, and even some degraded woodlands if they are dense enough (Irwin 1981). It is not found in the forests of the east, however.

It is a common member of bird parties at most times of the year. It may be seen moving rapidly with jerky movements up and along branches, or amongst leaves, searching a tree thoroughly for insects before moving on to the next tree. The short tail makes it easy to recognize, but its small size does mean that it could be missed. Although often recorded in pairs, it can occur in small groups and when in bird parties one may find up to 7–8 individuals. It is resident and sedentary.

Egglaying takes place in spring and early summer with a September–November peak (Irwin 1981). In years when rains are late, breeding may continue into January. The nest is usually constructed to hang from a drooping branch. It looks old when first constructed and is often dismissed by observers as derelict. At the start of the breeding season, calling is frequent, but once incubation starts, and especially once the chicks hatch, the species is generally quiet and easily overlooked.

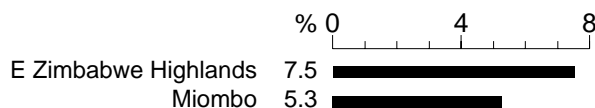
The range of the Redfaced Crombec in southern Africa falls entirely within that of the Longbilled Crombec *S. rufescens*. They tend to prefer different habitat, with the Longbilled more in open savanna and the Redfaced in closed canopy woodland; where they occur together in Zimbabwe, they frequent different strata, the Redfaced Crombec preferring the canopy (Irwin 1981).

Although it is found in some degraded woodlands, it must have been adversely affected by the destruction for agriculture of miombo woodlands over much of the Zimbabwe Plateau. The continuing removal of trees is a threat to the survival of the Redfaced Crombec in many areas.



Recorded in 126 grid cells, 2.8%  
 Total number of records: 491  
 Mean reporting rate for range: 8.0%

Reporting rates for vegetation types



P.J. Ginn

