

Singing Cisticola
 Singende Tinktinkie
Cisticola cantans

The Singing Cisticola is widely distributed in tropical Africa, reaching its southern limit in the highlands of the eastern border of Zimbabwe, from Nyanga (1832BB) in the north to Chipinge (2032BC) and the Haroni–Rusitu confluence (2032BB) in the south. West of the eastern highlands it occurs at a few localities on the Mashonaland Plateau east of Harare, such as Marondera (1831BA) and Chishawasha (1731CC) (Irwin 1981).

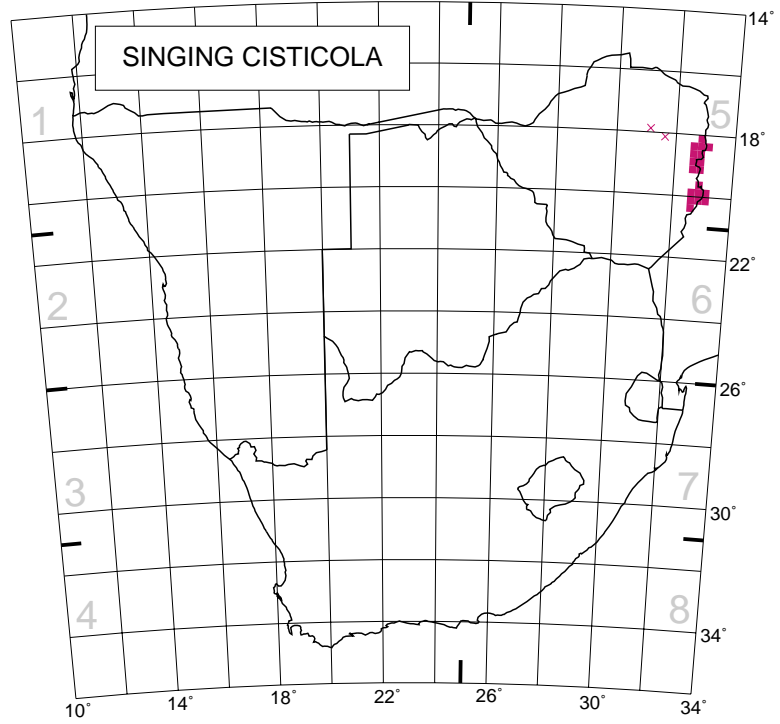
It has a rufous crown, plain back and a longer, more slender bill than other cisticolas. It sings from a prominent post on the top of a bush or small tree. On plumage features, it is most easily confused with the Redfaced Cisticola *C. erythrops*.

It inhabits grassland savanna, riverine growth and forest edge. It is a common resident of longer grass and bracken-scrub, with scattered bushes. It is resident (Irwin 1981) and no altitudinal movements are known. The seasonality in the model results from greater conspicuousness during the summer breeding season.

The only two breeding records in the atlas are in November and December; Irwin (1981) reported egg-laying throughout the wet summer, November–April (peak November–January). Its nest is distinctive as it is the usual cisticola ball type, but sewn inside a large leaf; only the Redfaced Cisticola makes a similar nest. It is a host of the brood-parasitic Cuckoo Finch *Anomalospiza imberbis* (Maclean 1993b).

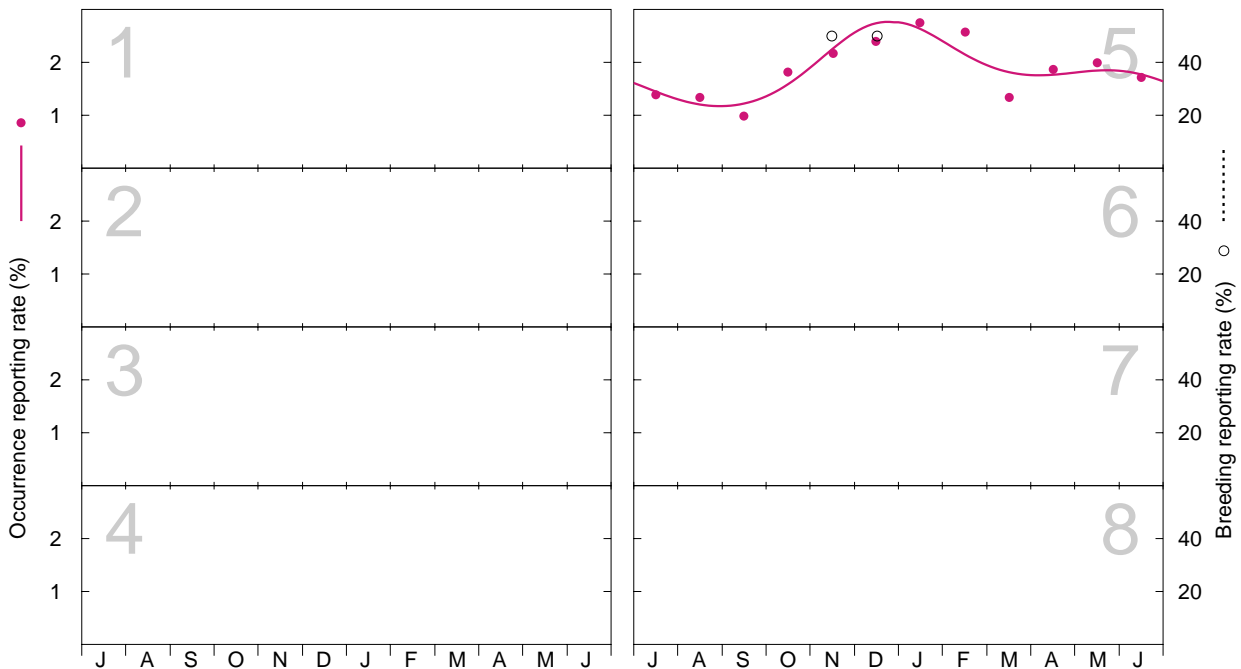
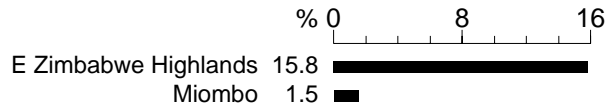
The Singing Cisticola occurs widely and commonly elsewhere in Africa and is marginal to the atlas region; it is not threatened.

R.M. Harwin



Recorded in 20 grid cells, 0.4%
 Total number of records: 212
 Mean reporting rate for range: 16.4%

Reporting rates for vegetation types



Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):
 Occurrence: 0, 0, 0, 0, 212, 0, 0, 0; Breeding: 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0.