

### Shortwinged Cisticola

Kortvlerktinkinkie

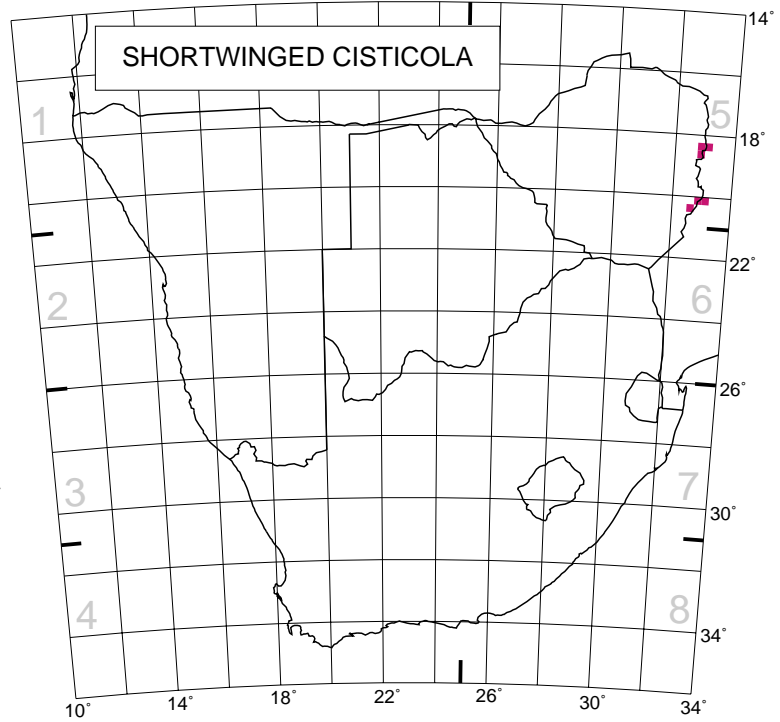
*Cisticola brachyptera*

The Shortwinged Cisticola is widespread in sub-Saharan Africa, north to Uganda and west to Senegal, and occurs in southern Africa in Mozambique and westwards a short distance into eastern Zimbabwe. It occurs widely in Mozambique south of the Zambezi River, with records extending across that country from its border with Zimbabwe to the coastal area around Dondo outside Beira, and from there south to the vicinity of Vilancoulos, well south of the Save River (Clancey 1971c).

Although recorded in the vicinity of Zimbabwe's eastern highlands, this is not a bird of montane habitat because it avoids both montane forest and grassland. It is typically found in rich woodland with a vigorous understorey of tall grass and scattered bush, such as is present on the lower, wetter eastern slopes of the highlands. In southern Mozambique it also occurs in palm savanna. In the early 1960s it was found in the grounds of a school within the urban area of Mutare (1832DC) (C.J. Vernon pers. comm.), and there are more recent reports from the Chipinge uplands south of Mutare. However, it is most frequently found around the airstrip on the Katiyo Tea Estate north of Mutare where the Pungwe River enters Mozambique (1832BD). This site is some 35 km from the foot of the mountains in a hot but relatively dry environment where the tea is irrigated.

It is resident but most often recorded December–February when displaying and breeding. Atlas breeding records were for March, and egg-laying records are from the wet summer season, November–March (Irwin 1981).

Being marginal to the region, the Shortwinged Cisticola cannot be regarded as a conservation priority.



Recorded in 6 grid cells, 0.1%  
 Total number of records: 63  
 Mean reporting rate for range: 25.8%

A.N.B. Masterson

