

Northern Grey Tit

Miombogrysmees

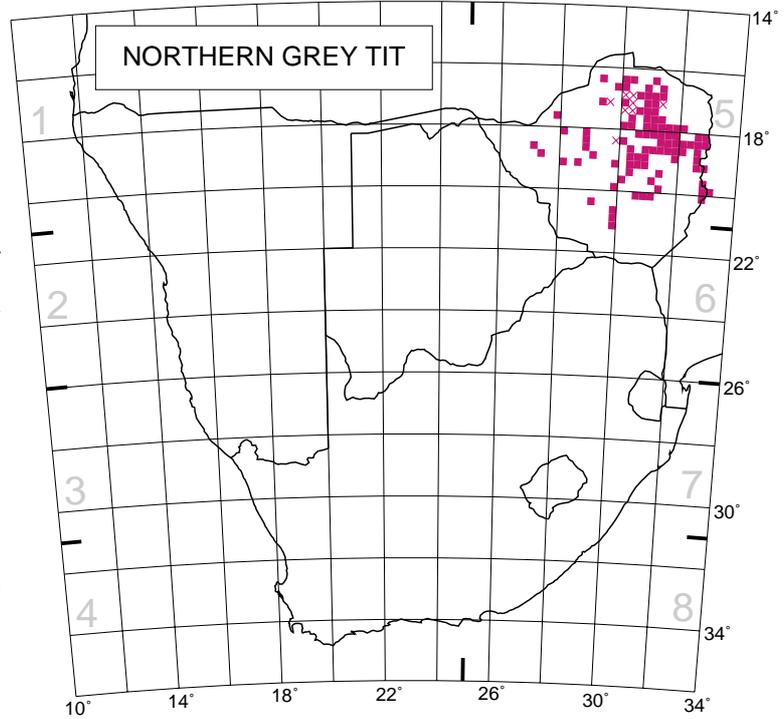
Parus griseiventris

The Northern Grey Tit is widespread in the better-developed miombo woodlands of south-central Africa. In the atlas region, it occurs only in Zimbabwe where it is essentially restricted to the well-developed *Brachystegia* woodlands of the middle- and highveld. It prefers woodlands with large trees that have a good covering of lichen and *Usnea* in which it forages. It is a conspicuous member of bird parties for most of the year, but is less conspicuous in the breeding season (September–November) when it defends territories centred on a suitable nest hole, and just after breeding when moulting. It regularly delivers a series of contact calls which help to keep a bird party together.

It is resident, but may be overlooked if no bird parties are encountered as it seldom forages alone. Although it may start breeding in August after a good rainy season in the previous year, most breeding starts in September (Irwin 1981). It prefers a natural hole in a living tree, but will use woodpeckers' and barbets' holes, even if broken open. It also uses pipes in fences, including around tennis courts. There appears to be some competition with Southern Black Tits *P. niger* for nest holes.

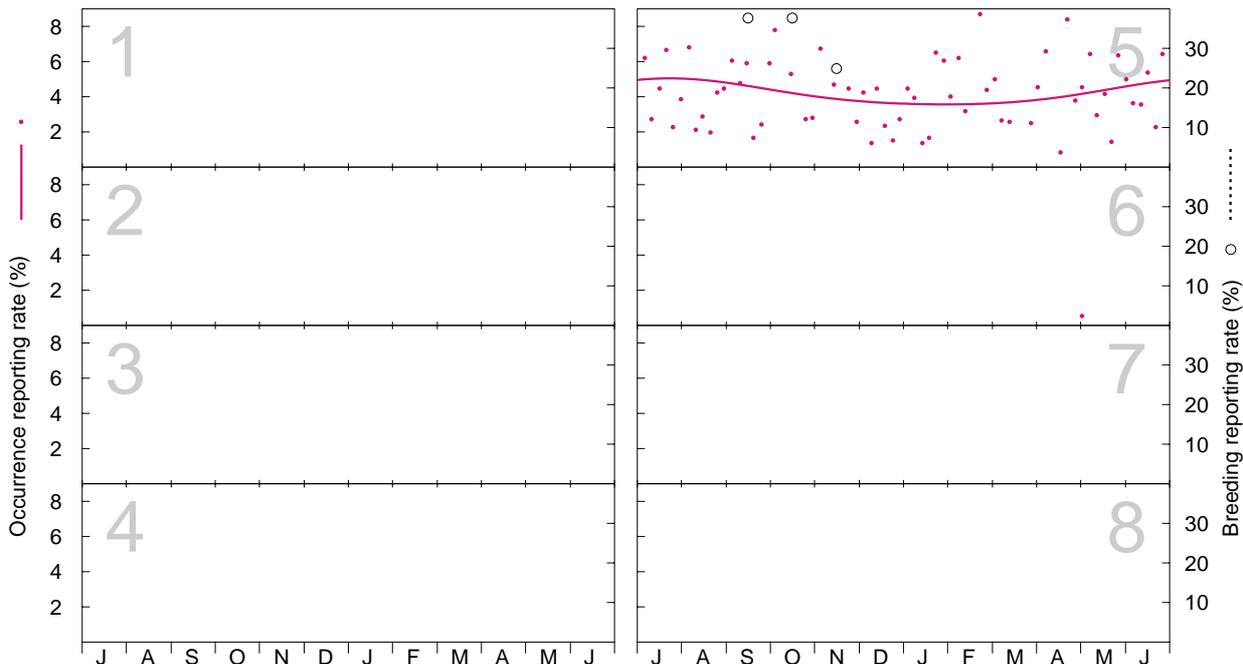
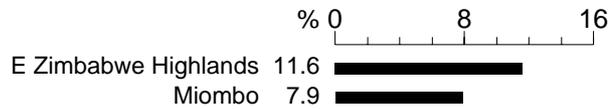
It is affected by the removal of woodland – hence its patchy distribution – and perhaps by the collection of dry wood for fuel, as this may reduce insect abundance. The Northern Grey Tit is sensitive to habitat changes and it is one of the first species to disappear from degraded woodland.

P.J. Ginn



Recorded in 101 grid cells, 2.2%
 Total number of records: 598
 Mean reporting rate for range: 11.0%

Reporting rates for vegetation types



Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):
 Occurrence: 0, 0, 0, 0, 369, 1, 0, 0; Breeding: 0, 0, 0, 0, 8, 0, 0, 0.