

Chubb's Cisticola *Cisticola chubbi* near Bukoba, Tanzania

Keith (1993) discussed in some detail the location of two Chubb's Cisticola *Cisticola chubbi* specimens collected by Grauer in 1907 that have consistently been referred to as from Bukoba. In fact, they were taken near Karagwe in what was then Bukoba District, some 80 km west of Bukoba. The conclusion reached was that these birds did not occur close to Bukoba but in higher country well to the west.

On 29 January 2018 we found this species at two localities on the road from Kamachuma to Nshamba at 1°42'S 31°34'E and 1°45'S 31°33'E (Fig. 1). The habitat was herbaceous vegetation with low bushes alongside small streams in an area of low-density cattle grazing and village-level agriculture. These sites, at an altitude of 1450 m, are only 6 km apart on different streams and only 16 km from Lake Victoria and 47 km south-southwest of Bukoba town. There is no reason to believe that these were the only pairs in what is an extensive network of small streams merging into highland swamps in an area of quite high human population density.



Figure 1. Chubb's Cisticola (photo: N. Baker).

The Tanzania Atlas database holds records from Ngara and Kabanga close to the Rwandan border from September 1992 (NEB, EMB), and one from the Rovuvu River where it forms the boundary between Tanzania and Burundi, on 29 September 1992 (ZB). There is also a more recent record from the Rwandan side of Rusumo Falls on 13 December 2009 (JA). Haldane (1951) did not record any cisticolas in his three years' residence, not even Trilling *C. woosnami*.

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References

- HALDANE, L.A. 1951. Notes on the birds of the Ngara District. *Tanganyika Notes & Records* 30: 15–44.
- KEITH, S. 1993. On the supposed occurrence of Chubb's Cisticola *Cisticola chubbi* at Bukoba, Tanzania. *Scopus* 16(2): 114–115.

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