



During atlas travels in July 2005 we found birds east of Liwale that I thought were *P. niger* as I was aware of that odd record in Britton. We did not get close views and could not photograph them but the memory stayed with me. This bird was therefore a target species on last months Ruvuma trip. We found them in only 2 localities and only Maneno had clear views but he noted the pale vent on one bird. However it was not until I processed this map that I appreciated that Daudi had found a bird in his May 2009 visit to the SE and that Marc and Jo also found one bird in Sept 2000. It's the first time I've plotted this map so I was not really aware of Neil Stronach's multiple observations in the eastern Selous in the early 1990s. Nor was I aware of those records from 1966 and 1939. The latter is from Ionides and I'm wondering if there is a specimen tucked away at the BM in Tring. My gut feeling is that all birds south of the Rufiji River will be Southern and this population will extend across the Ruvuma into northern Mozambique.

That odd record from Mkomazi is actually from the North Pare Mts. Curious that it's the only record from that part of the country.

Black circles are Black Tit as per Britton (1980). Blue circles are Black Tit georeferenced records. Green circles are what we think are Southern Black Tit other than the Njombe one which is an entry error.

Check the enclosed spreadsheet for ALL records to date. Those of special interest are coloured.

## Black Tit

*Parus leucomelas*

154 plots from 215 records

	Seasonality		
	presence	bs	eggs
January	19	-	-
February	17	-	-
March	16	-	-
April	12	1	-
May	14	-	-
June	13	1	-
July	19	-	-
August	17	1	-
September	16	-	-
October	31	-	-
November	20	1	-
December	16	-	-

from Britton (1980). Typically a bird of bushed and wooded grassland, woodland edges and cultivated country with trees up to 2000 m, but regular in forested and well-wooded country in S Uganda where it is often the commonest tit. Though rare in the dry northeast, the race *guineensis* ranges throughout Uganda south and west to Bunyoro, Mubende and Masaka. It occurs in very small numbers in W Kenya south and east of Mt Elgon, including Kapenguria, Bungoma, Kibingei and the Nyando Valley while a specimen from Nyarumbugu in NW Tanzania has been placed here. The race *insignis* is reasonably common in extreme SW Uganda and NW Tanzania, in Ankole, Kigezi, Toro and Ngara, and in the highlands of S Tanzania from Njombe to Ufipa and Uzungwe, while there are scattered records from elsewhere in Tanzania east and west of the range of *P. albiventris* including Mwanza, Kidugallo and Bagamoyo. Hall and Moreau (1970) extend the range of *P. niger* north to SE Tanzania, but the type of *P. n. fuelleborni* from Songea is probably a young *P. l. insignis*.

Most curious that a bird so comon south of the Rufiji is hardly known north of it in the VERY well watched northern Selous. It is still not fully appreciated how much of a barrier this river is to so many bird populations.



Tanzania Bird Atlas  
Preliminary Map  
December 2014  
From 1,108,809  
Database records

J F M A  
M J J A  
S O N D  
# # # #

symbols give month of record within square, not the locality within square