

Bird of the fortnight

Local birds in focus brought to you by Karumba Progress Association

Zitting Cisticola (Cisticola juncidis)

Normani sub species listed as endangered by EPA

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Description

Small streaked grass bird with greyish-white under parts & white tips to its tail. In winter tail longer, generally less obvious. Male less streaking on crown than female.

Size

10 cm

Environment

tall grassland, often near water

Food

insects

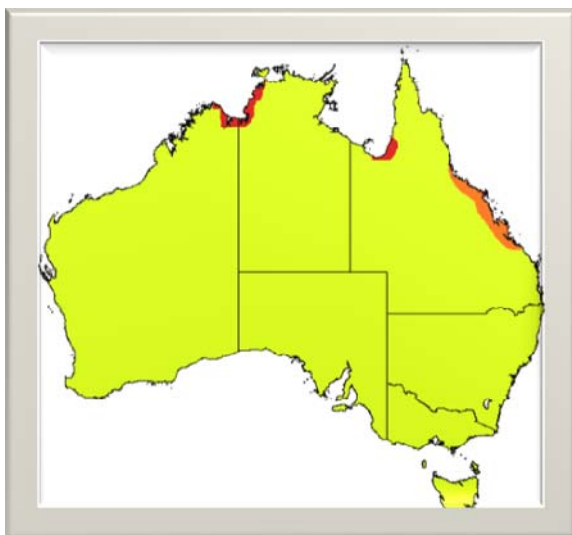
Breeding

nest is a cup shape with a canopy of tied-together leaves or grasses overhead for camouflage; 3-6 eggs are laid.

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Photo by Glenn Newton



Locally can be found in grassland around the airport, the cemetery road and grassland behind Shellie's beach in Karumba. Often confused with the common Golden headed Cisticola. Zitting Cisticola has a quite heavy white edge to its tail feathers at breeding time. Our rarer subspecies being reasonably stable and accessible attracts many birdwatchers each year.