

Southern Banded Snake Eagle

Dubbelbandslangarend

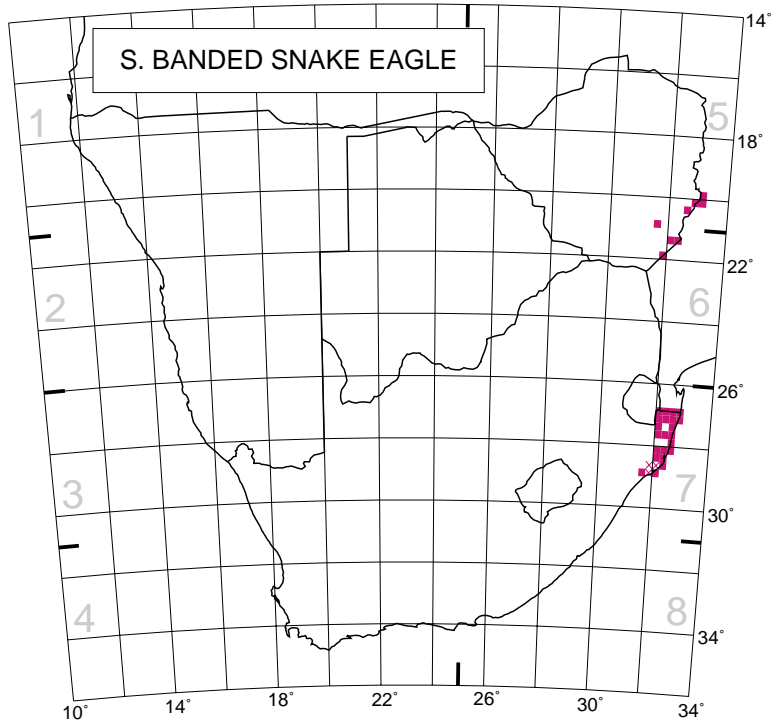
Circaetus fasciolatus

This poorly known eagle has a restricted distribution along the coastal plain of eastern Africa from northern KwaZulu-Natal to Kenya. In South Africa, it is confined to the East Coast Littoral vegetation type. The South African population has been estimated at 40–50 pairs, with 20 pairs in the St Lucia region of northern KwaZulu-Natal (Ginn *et al.* 1989; Coastal and Environmental Services 1992). It is a shy species, not often seen in flight, and usually recorded from its call or when seen perched at the edges of forests and plantations; it was probably under-reported during the atlas period.

It occurs in lowland evergreen forest but will exploit stands of alien trees in its range. It is a resident species; the models show marked, though unexplained, bimodality. However, in an African context, it is described as migratory from the southern to the northern part of its range in July–October, and is relatively common at this time in northern coastal Kenya (Brown *et al.* 1982). Breeding has been reported from northern KwaZulu-Natal in October–November (Clancey 1985c).

It was formerly more widely recorded in southeastern Zimbabwe (Irwin 1981) than during the present atlas. It was collected in Durban (2931CC) in the first decade of the nineteenth century (Clancey 1985c) but was not recorded south of Mtunzini (2831DC,DD) by Cyrus & Robson (1980) or during the present atlas. It has suffered a range reduction through the loss of coastal forest. The Southern Banded Snake Eagle was classed as ‘rare’ in South Africa (Brooke 1984b) and as globally ‘near-threatened’ (Collar *et al.* 1994).

A. Berruti



Recorded in 33 grid cells, 0.7%
 Total number of records: 217
 Mean reporting rate for range: 6.4%

