

Neergaard's Sunbird

Bloukruissuikerbekkie

Nectarinia neergaardi

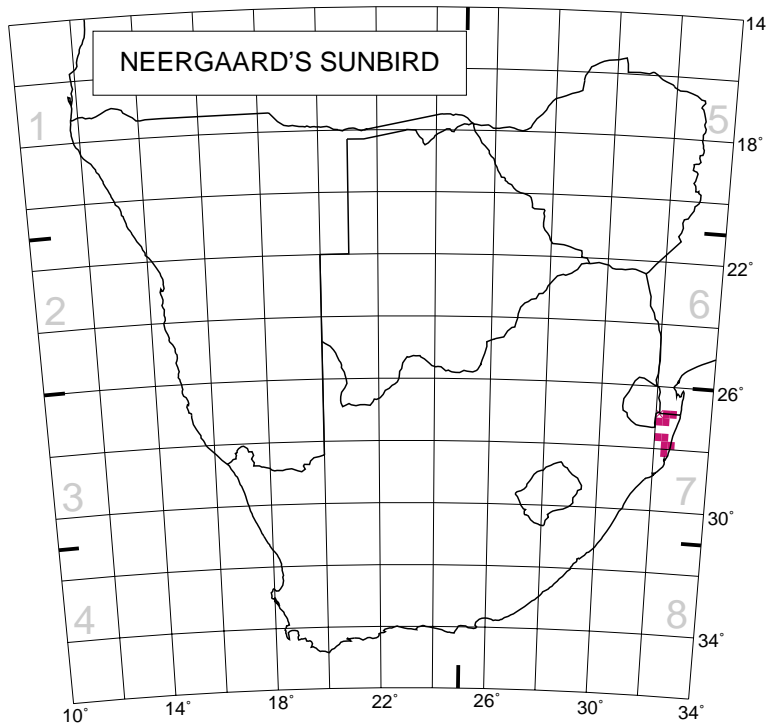
Neergaard's Sunbird is endemic to the east coast littoral, extending continuously from just south of Richards Bay (2832CC) northwards to Inhambane in Mozambique (Clancey & Lawson 1967). It is usually found in fairly dense dry vegetation, notably the sand forest of Mkuzi (2732C), False Bay (2732CD, 2832AB), Ndumu (2632CC,CD) and Tembe (2632CD,DC, 2732A) nature reserves. It is easily seen foraging at the canopy edge, but can be confused with the Purplebanded Sunbird *N. bifasciata*.

It is resident but from the model there is an increase in reporting rates in spring, possibly due to greater activity at that time of increased territoriality, and when many of the trees are partially leafless. The species does not have an eclipse plumage, thus seasonal changes in the presence of conspicuous males is not a factor. Migration has not been confirmed. Skead (1967c) considered that erratic local movements were typical, although Lamm (1955) found it to be present in southern Mozambique only in summer, suggesting a north-south migration.

No breeding was reported in the atlas period, but Dean (1971) noted breeding in July, October and November.

Neergaard's Sunbird is uncommon and is included in the South African Red Data book as 'rare' (Brooke 1984b), and is regarded as globally 'near-threatened' (Collar *et al.* 1994). A suggestion that it will be threatened by dune mining for titanium (Connor 1980) is unfounded, since it is rare or absent from dune forest. Much of its habitat in South Africa is conserved and its status here is unlikely to deteriorate in the near future. Deforestation in Mozambique, however, does give cause for concern (Ryan 1995).

D.N. Johnson



Recorded in 10 grid cells, 0.2%
 Total number of records: 101
 Mean reporting rate for range: 7.8%

Reporting rates for vegetation types

