

Lemonbreasted Canary

Geelborskanarie

Serinus citrinipectus

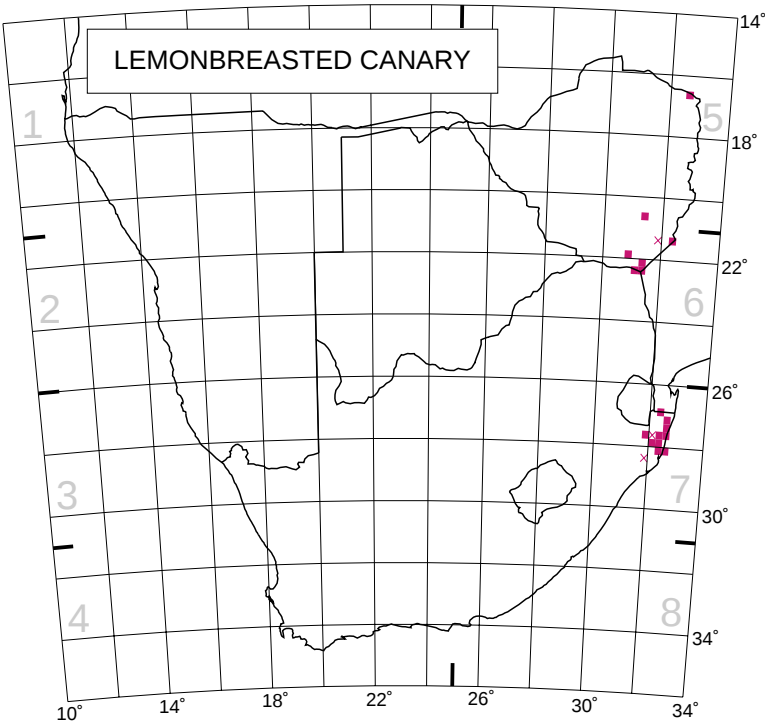
Near-endemic to southern Africa with the centre of its distribution in Mozambique (Clancey 1971c). It also occurs in northern KwaZulu-Natal, the northeastern Transvaal, the southeastern lowlands of Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, and there is a record from Zambia (Irwin 1981; Hanmer *et al.* 1983; Clancey 1985c; Hustler 1991a). Most atlas records are from northern KwaZulu-Natal, with a few from the Transvaal and Zimbabwe. This was the last new species to be discovered and named in southern Africa (Clancey & Lawson 1960). It is one of four species centred on the interior of the coastal plain south of the Zambezi River; the other three species being Rudd's *Apalis ruddi*, Neergaard's Sunbird *Nectarinia neergaardi* and Pinkthroated Twinspot *Hypargos margaritatus*.

It inhabits dry woodland, particularly in palm (*Hyphaene natalensis*) savanna (Robson 1990), and along roadsides in old agricultural lands and near human habitation.

Its numbers are variable at the same locality from year to year. When abundant it may occur in flocks of hundreds (Hustler 1991a). Movements are probably linked to irregular rainfall. The summer peak in reporting rate in northern KwaZulu-Natal is presumably linked to the rainy season there. Only one nest has been reported in the wild, with eggs in December (Robson 1990).

It often occurs in mixed flocks with the abundant Yellow-eyed Canary *S. mozambicus*, and is regarded as an eastern counterpart of the Blackthroated Canary *S. atrogularis* (Clancey & Lawson 1960).

It was first reported from KwaZulu-Natal in 1979 (Cyrus & Robson 1980), but was probably overlooked previously. It was listed as 'rare' by Brooke (1984b) and as 'worthy of monitoring' by Collar & Stuart (1985). It does not appear



Recorded in 20 grid cells, 0.4%
Total number of records: 64
Mean reporting rate for range: 3.2%

threatened, as it is able to use secondary habitats and large areas of its range are protected. Damage to palm trees, from wine-making and the cane-furniture industry, may pose a threat (Hustler 1991a).

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