

Species abundance of raptors represents biodiversity of tanzania savanna woodland
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Abstract

Bird distribution in western Tanzania remains unknown, although northern and eastern regions of the country are becoming reasonably well known. I made birding in approximately 20 km² of savanna woodland in western Tanzania in December 2011 - March 2012. I observed a great variety of raptors in such a small part of woodland compared to our familiar temperate forest, and identified over 20 species of them including three new records of the region, the Western Banded Snake-eagle (*Circaetus cinerascens*), Ayres's Hawk-eagle (*Hieraaetus ayresii*), and the Crowned Hawk-eagle (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*).

The species abundance of raptors is considered to represent a richness of biological diversity in the present study area, because a community of predators is sustained by a wealth of prey animals in their habitat. Those sympatric species are expected to exhibit some segregation in foraging strategy, what, where, and how they hunt, to share resources. It would be interesting to study behavioral differences in their predation and predator-prey interaction in the ecosystem of the area.