

Bird diversity in the Caprivi

Using data collected for the Southern Africa Bird Atlas Project, Tony Robertson and Alice Jarvis calculated an index on bird species diversity. The basis for the atlas work and the index are quarter degree squares, each square being 15 x 15 minutes of latitude and longitude.

The index of diversity calculated is the Shannon Index described in Harrison, JA and Martinez, P. 1995. Measurement and mapping of avian diversity in southern Africa: implications for conservation planning. *Ibis* 137: 410-417.

The database (fauna\birddiv\birdive.dbf) for quarter degree squares contains the following fields:

MAPNAME:	Code for each square
INDEX:	Shannon index value
RANK:	rank number for each square ranging from the lowest to highest diversity values
SABAP_CARD:	number of fields cards recorded for each square

Indices were only calculated for squares with five or more field cards because lower reporting rates do not provide useful measures of numbers of species.