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The status of the Booted Eagle *Aquila pennatus* in southern Africa was previously something of an enigma. Originally, it was considered to be a migrant from the Palearctic region until a nest was discovered in the Western Cape in 1973. Once its secretive breeding habits became known, further nests were found, usually well hidden on a cliff in a remote kloof. Subsequently, it has been found to be a regular intra-African migrant breeding in many localities in the Western and Northern Cape in spring, and then moving northwards to the Kalahari and Namibia in the winter months. Palearctic migrants that breed in the northern hemisphere do, however, also reach southern Africa, so that the two distinct populations overlap.

Photo and text: Peter Steyn, Email: peregrine@mweb.co.za

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