

# **LANIOTURDUS**

SWA/NAMIBIA VOGELKLUB  
 eine Zweigstelle der  
 SWA Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft  
 und der  
 Southern African Ornithological  
 Society

Beiträge bitte an den Redakteur des LANIOTURDUS p.A. SWA Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft, Postfach 67, Windhoek, 9000 senden.

Mitgliedsbeiträge für die S.A.O.S. und die Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für 1986 sind wie folgt:

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Manuskripte sollten mit Schreibmaschine (oder in gut leserlicher Handschrift) geschrieben sein und zwar mit doppeltem Zeilenabstand auf A4 (30 x 21 cm) Format.

Skizzen, Karten und Tabellen sollten auf weissem Qualitätspapier mit schwarzer Tinte gezeichnet werden.

Klare Schwarz-weiss-Photographien (15 x 20 cm) können eingereicht werden, um die Arbeit zu illustrieren.

Newsletter of the SWA/Namibia Bird Club  
 Mitteilungen des SWA/Namibia Vogelklubs  
 Vol./Jg. 22, No. 2 1986

## **CONTENTS**

## **INHALTSANGABE**

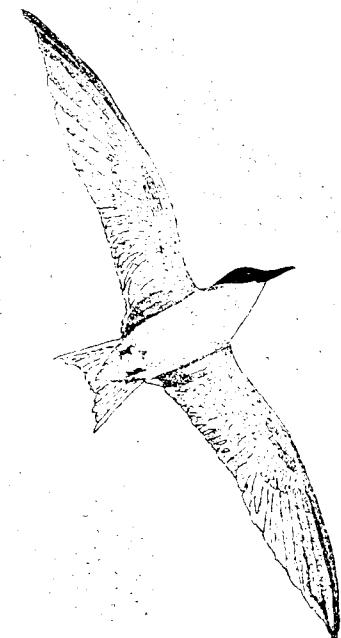
EDITORIAL/ REDAKTION.....	26
ARTICLES & REPORTS/ ARTIKEL & BERICHTE :	
Zum Brutvorkommen des Stelzenläufers ( <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> ) in SWA/Namibia.....	28
Damara Terns: Nonbreeding population and post-fledging feeding in the Lüderitz area of SWA/Namibia.....	32
NOTES & NEWS/ BEMERKUNGEN & MITTEILUNGEN :	
Disorientated: A Broadbilled Roller at Possession Island.....	35
PARK NOTES/ BERICHTE :	
Wattled Starlings breeding at Rietfontein, Etosha....	37
HEADSCRATCHERS...ZUM KOPFZERBRECHEN :	
Chestnut Weavers.....	40
MYSTERY BIRD...WAS FÜR EIN VOGEL IST DAS ?.....	42
ERRATA - APOLOGIES !.....	43
PROJECTS...REQUESTS.....	44

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Further observations are needed in the Lüderitzbucht to determine whether this species does, in fact, breed in this area. If so, observations of the timing of local breeding and the monthly occurrence and population size of Damara Terns in this area during the nonbreeding period will greatly enhance our understanding of seasonal movements of this species.

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## Notes and News

## Bemerkungen & Mitteilungen

### DISORIENTATED : A BROADBILLED ROLLER AT POSSESSION ISLAND

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[Received April 1986]

### ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Ein Zimtroller *Eurystomus glaucurus* wurde kürzlich von einem Busch auf Possession Island, vor der Namib Küste, südlich von Lüderitzbucht aufgescheucht. Er wurde nur an einem Tag gesehen und war wahrscheinlich desorientiert. Possession Island liegt mehr als 1 000 km von den nächsten Brutplätzen dieser Art entfernt.

Broadbilled Rollers *Eurystomus glaucurus* are endemic to sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar. They range from the "Sudan" zone of Senegambia to Ethiopia, southwards to Angola, northern Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. They are usually found in areas of riverine or moist woodland (Snow 1978, Irwin 1981, Maclean 1985). Broadbilled Rollers nest in holes in trees and obtain their food by aerial hawking for insects above the tree canopy. Within SWA/Namibia these rollers are confined to the Caprivi and to riverine woods along the Kavango River, and are not numerous (unpublished data, SWA/Namibia Bird Atlas).

Possession Island lies off the Namib Coast south of Lüderitz, and is more than 1 000 km from the nearest Broadbilled Roller breeding locality. On this long rocky island the only vegetation is a scatter of low bushes, no more than a metre high at most. Regular strong winds and poor food supply combine to reduce the number of insects on the island. Few places could be less suitable for a Broadbilled Roller to find food or shelter. Almost all the birds recorded on this island have been seabirds or other species which occur regularly along the Namib Coast.

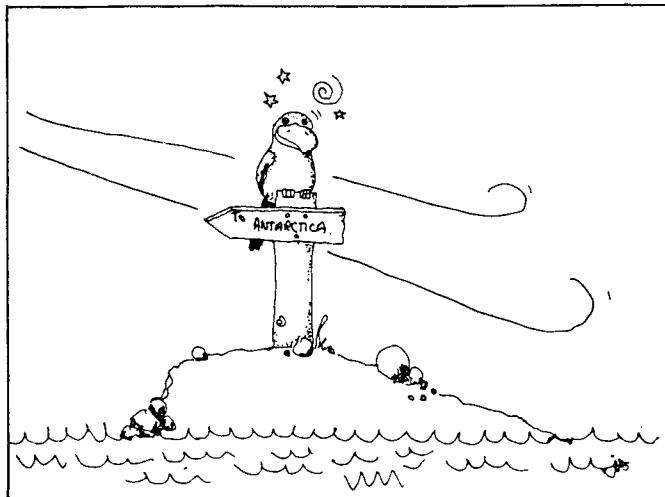
On 14 April 1986 a Broadbilled Roller was flushed from a bush during a seabird census of Possession Island. Good views were obtained of the bird, and some distant photographs were taken. The most conspicuous field characters were the bright yellow beak and turquoise rump patches. Although searched for the following day, the roller had disappeared.

What was this bird doing on the island so far from its normal habitat? Broadbilled Rollers are intra-African migrants which arrive in southern Africa in late September or October, and move northwards again in March or April (Irwin 1981). Perhaps the Possession Island bird was a juvenile on its first migration and had become disorientated.

What this record brings home is that one should always be on the alert for possible vagrants. Even the most unlikely species can pitch up in your recording area.

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#### Der Deutschen Namen der Vögel im südlichen Afrika

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## PARK Notes / Berichte

#### WATTLED STARLINGS BREEDING AT RIETFONTEIN, ETOSHA

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[Received August 1986]

#### ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Eine Brutkolonie von Lappenstaren *Creatophora cinerea* wurde beim Rietfontein Wasserloch im Etosha Nationalpark beobachtet. Einzelheiten über Brutplätze, Brutzeit, Grösse der Eier, Anzahl der Jungen, Fütterung und Gefahren durch Raubtiere in dieser Starkolonie werden hier aufgeführt.

#### Introduction

Wattled Starlings *Creatophora cinerea* are endemic to Africa where they occur throughout southern Africa and northwards to Eritrea, occupying the drier regions. Wattled Starlings are generally present in the Halali area (between Suaeda and Springbokfontein waterholes) of the Etosha Pan National Park, but only as scattered individuals which appear erratically in the company of Cape Glossy Starlings *Lamprotornis nitens* (personal observations during the last eight years, and D. & J. Bartlett pers. comm.).

In March 1986 there was a marked influx and massive local breeding attempt of Wattled Starlings close to the Rietfontein waterhole. This breeding coincided with the first large irruption of mopane worms (caterpillars of the Emperor moth *Gonimbrasia belina*) in the Halali area in eight or more years. This note details our observations on the breeding habitat, breeding season, egg measurements, clutch and brood size, food fed to the young and predation of Wattled Starlings at the colony.