

SHORT NOTE

A record of the Namaqua Sandgrouse *Pterocles namaqua* from Rhodesia

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Many sandgrouse populations are known to be nomadic and in some cases even migratory Clancey (1967), McLaren (1944), Roberts (1932) and Vincent (1944). *Pterocles namaqua* is widely distributed throughout the Cape, Orange Free State, the Western Transvaal, South West Africa and parts of Botswana. While Vincent (1944) has recorded Namaqua Sandgrouse nomads from the Mooi River area in Natal available literature shows no records of its occurrence from Rhodesia.

During the recent examination of study material held in South African museums an adult male of *P. namaqua* collected from the Matopos region of Rhodesia was located. This bird was obtained during June 1903 (Collector R. Williams), and is held in the collections of the Albany Museum in Grahamstown (AM. No. 753). This would appear to be the first record of this species from Rhodesia.

Clancey (1967) notes that there is no resident population of Namaqua Sandgrouse in central and eastern Botswana and while there are no records of this species from Rhodesia (Steyn, *pers. comm.*) there is no reason to doubt the Matopos locality. It confirms the belief that Namaqua Sandgrouse populations are in most, if not all cases highly nomadic.

Namaqua Sandgrouse recorded from the Melka Galla on the Uaso Nyiro in Kenya McLaren (1944) are far from the normal range of this species and may refer to the Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *P. exustus*.

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