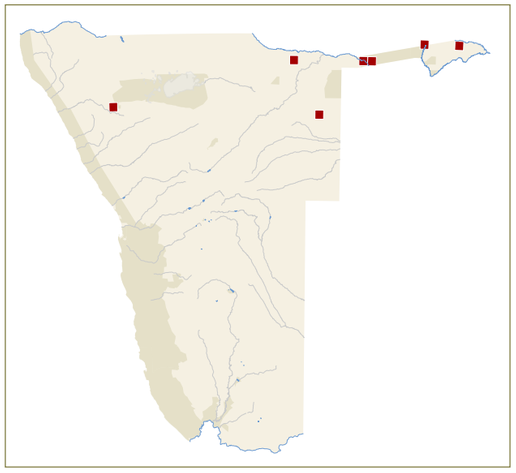
in southern Africa were collected (Komen & Paterson 1999). Although only four birds were recorded in 12 years of wetlands monitoring – three at the Kunene River mouth and one at Ugabmond (data in Jarvis *et al.* 2001) – several other records have been reported from the Kunene River mouth, including flocks of between one and 26 birds from July 2002 to 2006, and one from Walvis Bay (Sinclair & Turner 1981, Braine 1988, Ryan 1997e, Anderson *et al.* 2001, Paterson 2007, Paterson *et al.* 2009). Sightings are commonest between December and March, and may be related to seasonal movements of the warm Angola-Benguela front south into Namibia (Komen & Paterson 1999); sightings of Royal Terns may become more frequent as the Angola-Benguela front moves further south on a more regular basis (Roux 2003, Paterson *et al.* 2009). The breeding population from West Africa has been estimated at 225,000 individuals (Nagy *et al*. 2012) and it is neither globally nor locally threatened, even though some breeding terns are caught for food by local inhabitants in West Africa (T Dodman pers. comm.).

African Cuckoo Hawk (Cuckoo Hawk) | *Aviceda cuculoides*



This species prefers the moist woodlands and forests of sub-Saharan Africa and is thus confined in Namibia to the north-eastern parts of the country (Jenkins 1997b). It is uncommon (or overlooked) in the forests of Zimbabwe and eastern South Africa, and a few records exist for Namibia, mainly from the Zambezi region. It probably extends its range in wet years (Tarboton & Allan 1984, AJ Tree in Jenkins 1997b), explaining its presence in areas west of Etosha National Park and a breeding pair with a subadult in the broad-leafed woodlands near Tsumkwe (RE Simmons pers. obs.). Raptor road counts indicate only 0.2 birds per 1,000 km in the north-east woodlands

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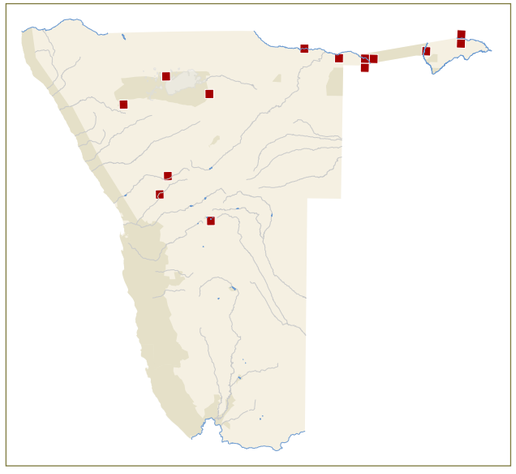
and there are no breeding records (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Population size is unrecorded in Namibia, but is not likely to exceed 200 birds in an area of occupancy of 3,900 km^2 (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is unlikely to have declined in population size, but forest degradation, especially along rivers in the Kavango and Zambezi regions, may decrease the chances of birds occurring there.

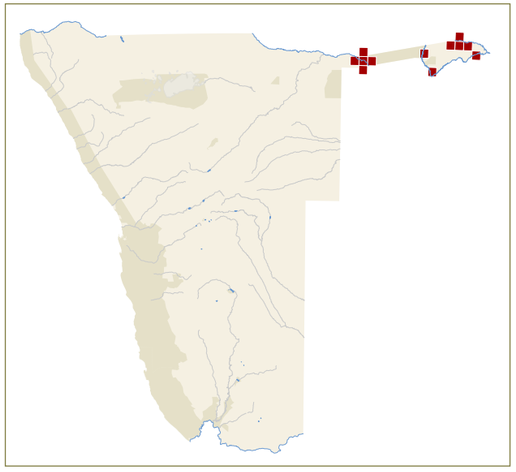
Bat Hawk | *Macheiramphus alcinus*



This secretive and crepuscular bat-specialist is rare or overlooked throughout sub-Saharan Africa and Asia (Steyn 1982). It is only found with any regularity in the woodlands around the Zambezi River in Zimbabwe (Jenkins 1997c), and less so in the Chobe woodlands of Botswana. In Namibia, it has been recorded from the riverine woodlands

of the Zambezi, Chobe, Kwandu and Okavango rivers and the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park, at a reporting rate of about 5% (Jenkins 1997c). It has also been reported from Farm Kakuse, about 70 km north-west of Tsumeb. It is no longer recorded at Otjimbingwe on the Swakop River (W Swanepoel pers. comm.), where the southern African population has previously been described (Hustler & Dean 2005). Its area of occupancy in Namibia is 7,000 km^2 (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Birds have been sighted in Etosha National Park and are regularly seen in eucalyptus trees alongside the Omaruru River at Omaruru (CJ Brown pers. obs.). The main sightings occur in November (Jenkins 1997c), the middle of its breeding season elsewhere (Hartley & Hustler 1993). There are no breeding records for Namibia (Jarvis *et al.* 2001), and the Namibian population is unlikely to exceed 100 birds. Its classification as *Near Threatened* in South Africa (Barnes 2000) has recently been revised to *Endangered* (Taylor *et al*. in press). It is not globally threatened.

Western Banded Snake-Eagle | *Circaetus cinerascens*



This species occurs patchily through western Africa (Senegal) and central Africa, entering Ethiopia along the Blue Nile. It is absent from central African forests and appears again in northern Angola and Zambia (Brown *et al.* 1982). In southern Africa, it is highly restricted to Zimbabwe, especially along the Zambezi River (Edwards 1985), and Botswana's Okavango Delta (Herremans 1997b). It is an uncommon resident in Namibia: an estimated four pairs were recorded in the last 50 km of the Okavango River and no more than 10 pairs in the Zambezi region in the riverine woodland along the Chobe and Zambezi rivers (Brown & Hines 1987). Two nests in Namibia had eggs laid in March

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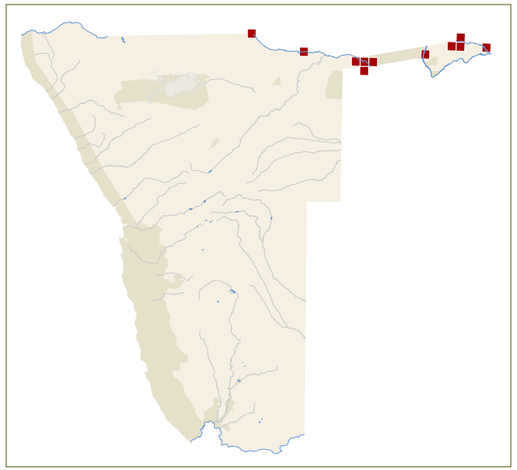
and June (Brown *et al*. 2015). Elsewhere, the breeding period is between December and March (Simmons 2005b, Tarboton 2011). Its area of occupancy in Namibia is 6,000 km^2 (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is not listed as threatened globally, although there is some evidence of habitat degradation in north-eastern Namibia's riverine habitat (Brown & Hines 1987), because of high human and elephant population pressure there (Mendelsohn & el Obeid 2004).

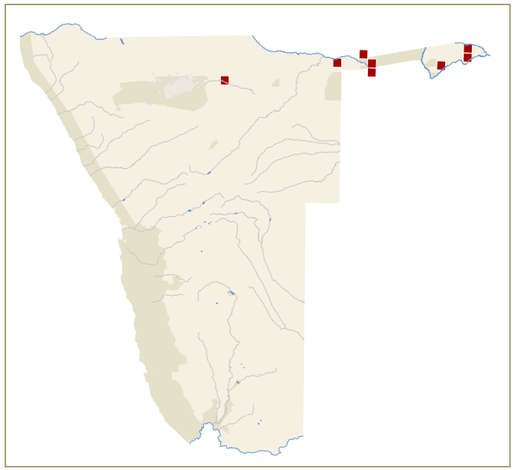
African Goshawk | *Accipiter tachiro*

This small, secretive hawk occurs widely through forests and woodlands of sub-Saharan Africa (Brown *et al.* 1982), and may occur at high breeding densities in the parts of southern Africa where it is found. It occurs extensively through Zimbabwe, in northern South Africa and along South Africa's east and south coasts (Allan 1997g). In Namibia, it occurs only in the north-east (at a reporting rate of about 2% to 14%), with two records from the Okavango River further west (Allan 1997g). It occupies an area of 5,300 km^2 (Jarvis *et al.* 2001), and although it is expected to breed in Namibia, there are no nesting records. It is not threatened globally or in South Africa, but may suffer from



riverine forest degradation along Namibia's northern rivers where human population density can exceed 100 people per km^2 (Mendelsohn & el Obeid 2004).

Black Sparrowhawk | *Accipiter melanoleucus*



Widespread throughout the well-wooded regions of sub-Saharan Africa, this bird is locally common and in addition to breeding in indigenous woodlands and riparian belts, it readily nests in alien pine plantations in former grassland areas (Brown *et al.* 1982, Curtis & Koeslag 2004, Tarboton & Allan 1984). Although it has expanded its range in southern Africa, this has not extended to Namibia, where it occurs sporadically (with a frequency of 2% to 8%) only in the north-east in the indigenous woodlands around the Okavango River, the Linyanti Swamps and the eastern floodplain of the Zambezi River (Allan 1997f). One recent sighting in the

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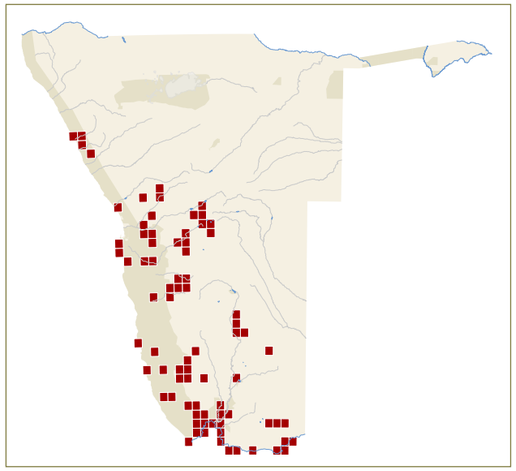
Otavi broad-leafed woodlands suggests that it extends its range in wet years (B Nebe pers. obs.). Its area of occupancy in Namibia is only 735 km^2, and there are no breeding records for the country (Jarvis *et al.* 2001).

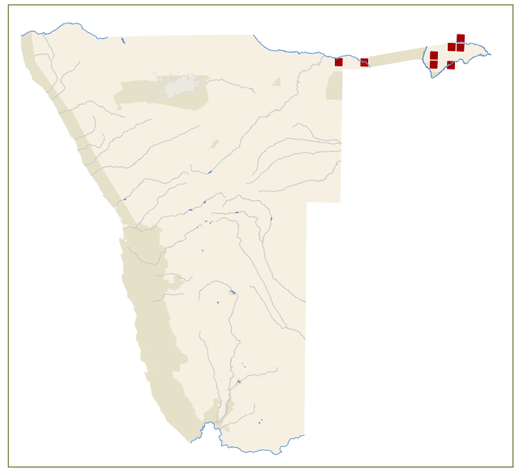
Jackal Buzzard | *Buteo rufofuscus*



Endemic to southern Africa, about 98% of the population occurs in South Africa, where it is abundant and widespread (Mendelsohn 1997a). The northern tail of the distribution spreads through the south-western mountainous regions of Namibia at a reporting rate rarely above 30% (Mendelsohn 1997a). Its area of occupancy is large at 45,800 km^2, but it is uncommon throughout much of that range. The only nest records are from the Uniab River, where a nest with two young was found in November 1978 (Jarvis *et al.* 2001) and from the Naukluft with eggs laid in November (Brown *et al*. 2015). This

species has a curious overlap with the Namibian form of the Augur Buzzard *B. augur*, and several cases of apparent hybridisation have been noted in the Namib-Naukluft Mountains (P Bridgeford pers. obs.) and in the Huab River valley (RE Simmons pers. obs.), and studies of its ecology and hybridisation with the Augur Buzzard are required.

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle (Ayres' Eagle) | *Aquila ayresii (Hieraaetus ayresii)*



This naturally rare, bird-eating species has a wide range over tropical African woodlands, but has a highly restricted range in southern Africa (Brown *et al.* 1982, Jenkins 1997d). It is widely scattered in Zimbabwe, and vagrant to South Africa and the Chobe woodlands of Botswana. In Namibia, it is found only in the Caprivi Strip in woodlands bordering the Zambezi, Chobe and Kwando rivers at a reporting rate of 2% (Jenkins 1997d), while young birds have been recorded from the Mahango region of Bwabwata National Park on the Okavango River. Its area of occupancy covers just 4,000 km^2 (Jarvis *et al.* 2001) and it is most likely to be seen in the summer months, suggesting it is not resident throughout the year. One breeding record for Namibia had an egg laid in May (Brown *et al*. 2015). Population size is unknown and reasons for its rarity are poorly understood, although breeding success is poor in many areas (Brown *et al.* 1982). It was classified as *Near Threatened* in South Africa (Barnes 2000) but a recent assessment (Taylor *et al*. in press) has down-listed it to *Least Concern*.

Long-crested Eagle | *Lophaetus occipitalis*

A rare resident of Namibia's north-eastern broad-leafed woodlands, this striking eagle prefers the riparian fringes of the Okavango, Kwando and Zambezi rivers (Jenkins

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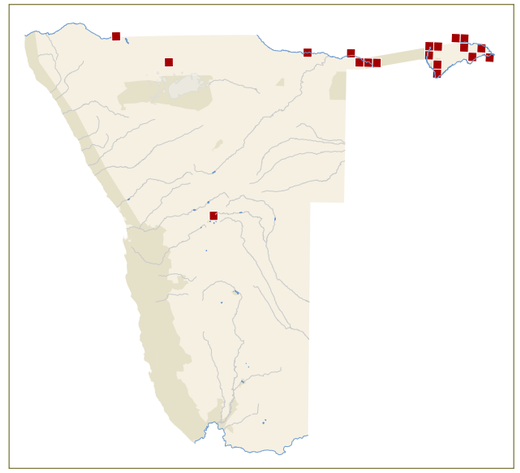

1997e). It occurs widely in sub-Saharan Africa's moist woodlands, especially those associated with wetlands, where it hunts mainly mammalian prey (Johnson 2005a). It occupies an area of 8,300 km^2 in Namibia, of which 25% occurs in protected areas such as the Mudumu and Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) national parks and the Mahango and adjacent areas of the Bwabwata National Park. Birds occasionally stray south and west to Windhoek (Thirion 2002) and Etosha National Park (Jenkins 1997e). Birds recorded in the Ruacana area extend down the Kunene River from Angola. Given that it occurs at densities of 2.3 pairs per 100 km^2 elsewhere (Tarboton & Allan 1984), Namibia could hold 191 pairs but this is unlikely, given reporting rates of 50% lower than those in South Africa. We therefore estimate Namibia's population at about 90 pairs (approximately 200 birds). Two nest records come from the Zambezi River, with eggs laid in September and October (Brown *et al*. 2015). It is not threatened anywhere, but its moist woodland habitat is under some pressure in Namibia from deforestation for crop fields and timber for housing and energy.