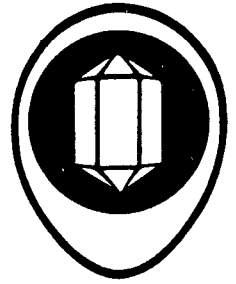


Lanioturdus torquatus
Drosselwürger

MITTEILUNGEN

ORNITHOLOGISCHE ARBEITSGRUPPE



SCHRIFTFLEITUNG: POSTFACH 67, WINDHOEK, S.W.A.

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ATLASSING IN THE WINDHOEK-OKAHANDJA HINTERLAND

There are two basic ways to carry out bird atlassing :

1) to work for a long time within a single atlas square trying to find all the species that occur there and 2) to move frequently from square to square obtaining records from each. The first method is most suitable for atlassing the square in which you live, the second is suitable for day or weekend trips into new country. Recently both methods have been used to atlas birds in the Windhoek-Okahandja area.

On Sunday 14 November a party of 15 people drove to Farm Frauenstein, east of Windhoek for a bird and braai day. In all, 70 species were seen, 30 in the late afternoon after many people had returned home. Highlights of this days birding were the pair of Giant Eagle Owls (R 369) seen roosting in the late afternoon. Attracted to them by a Chanting Goshawk (R 165) which appeared to mobbing them we were able to approach sufficiently closely to see the colour of their eyelids. At the farm itself a pair of Purple Rollers (R 415) was busy bringing large grasshoppers to a hole in a workshop wall where we presumed they had a brood of young. In the early afternoon a Wahlberg's Eagle (R 137), which has a nest in the garden of the farm, was watched attacking a young African Hawk-Eagle (R 141) which chanced to fly too close to the former's nest. Very late in the afternoon whilst stopped to observe Greybacked Finchlarks (R 485) and Anteating Chats (R 575) we were lucky to spot a Secretary Bird (R 105). There was some excitement at the very end of the day as we tried to get our species total for the atlas square up to a rounded 70. This was achieved by finding both Sabota Lark (R 460) and Fawncoloured Lark (R 459) in the same field - a nice opportunity for learning how to separate the two species.

On 27 and 28 November, with Ben Riekert, I made a round atlassing trip east from Windhoek then north through Kapps Farm-Neudamm road and finally circling west to Von Bach Dam and Gross-Barmen where we slept. The following day the circuit was completed by driving east from Gross-Barmen and then south along very hot, dry and dusty backroads to the Khomas Hochland road before returning to Windhoek. The strategy on this trip was mainly to drive until some bird was seen and then stop and identify it, and also to drive until we found a likely looking spot

and then to walk in separate directions recording birds for a period of 5-10 minutes. Longer stops were made at lunchtime, and at waterbodies, particularly Von Bach Dam and Gross-Barmen.

In all 134 species were recorded on these two days showing how potentially rich our area is for birding. The most seen in one square was 70 in the square containing Von Bach Dam and Gross-Barmen. As expected both birders and birds flagged rather in the heat of the day but in suitable shady areas, good numbers of birds could still be found.

Notably 10 more species were added to the 70 earlier found at the Frauenstein square. Several of these species were migrants - Lesser Grey Shrike (R 706), Redbacked Shrike (R 708) and Willow Warblers (R 599). Conceivably all three species had moved into the area since the earlier visit.

A particularly fine locality was the area immediately below the dam wall at Von Bach Dam. Here where water flows throughout the year, there was a pleasant, almost northern European glade where we found Damara Rockrunner (R 539), Lesser Honeyguide (R 442) and a good variety of bush birds. Gross Barmen is an excellent bird locality and there we found Little Bittern (R 67), Night Heron (R 69), Tottentot Teal (R 99), Whitebacked Duck (R 104) and Black Crake (R 203).

The second day was less exciting and considerably hotter and dustier. The best locality frequented was the Klein-Barmen hot springs, which form a fine oasis in the dry landscape and where we found a variety of waders and waterbirds. This trip showed how common some of our endemic birds can be with Monteiro's Hornbills (R 429) and Whitetailed Shrikeflycatchers (R 726) being seen in many squares. In all 134 species were seen in 17 atlas squares with a range per square of 13-70 species.

Comparing the two atlas methods it is clear that the second method, moving from square to square was most rewarding in terms of atlas coverage. This method is also by far the most stimulating since species already seen become new birds for each new atlas square surveyed. Also this method enables one to sample a greater variety of habitats and thus to see a greater variety of birds within the same time span.

A.J. Williams.

"Naturschutzgebiet Wangerooge-West 1982"

Zusammenfassender Abschlussbericht für die Zeit vom 27. April bis zum 28. Juli 1982 von Albert Hausmann.

Nach 6 Jahren Dienst im Naturschutzgebiet Wangerooge-Ost wurde mir in diesem Jahr das Naturschutzgebiet Wangerooge-West, das ich schon einmal, 1975 betreut hatte, zugewiesen.

Neben dem eigentlichen Naturschutzgebiet West-aussengroden und Westinnengroden wurde noch der gesamte Westinnengroden, die Südwest- und Nordwestdünen und das Gebiet zwischen Strasse und