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Editorial

The trials of the Namibia Bird Club continue with it mainly being a Windhoek orientated organization. The number of articles submitted to its journal the *Lanioturdus* has withered to almost unacceptable levels. In 2006 only one issue of the *Lanioturdus* was published and here we are half way through 2007 and finally the editor has enough articles to publish what probably will be the only issue of 2007.

There is obviously an interest in birding within Namibia since there are now many subgroups specializing in aspects of birds. There is Raptors Namibia who publish an on line newsletter once a month. The Crane Working Group, Raptor Road Counts, Rare and Endangered Species Trust working on vultures, and the Wetland Bird Counts which enumerate all the wetlands twice per year.

I know that there are birders observing birds because of the rare birds which have been reported to the magazine *Birds and Birding* from Namibia.

Once again I appeal to all members to help the Namibia Bird Club. If you want to keep the club viable you must also do your part and try and get new members to join. We are currently down to fewer than 100 members.

Fortunately there is good news and there has been a recent increase in the number of articles submitted and hopefully this trend will continue and we could see another issue published this year.

I hope readers will note the addition to the Namibia list of Ruppell's Vulture. There are probably more juvenile Ruppell's Vultures visiting Namibia than we realize. Observers should keep their eyes open when watching vultures at a kill, you may be able to add a new species to your list. If you do see one of these birds please try to photograph it.

Bird observations at farm Christirina in the Kalahari-bushveld region

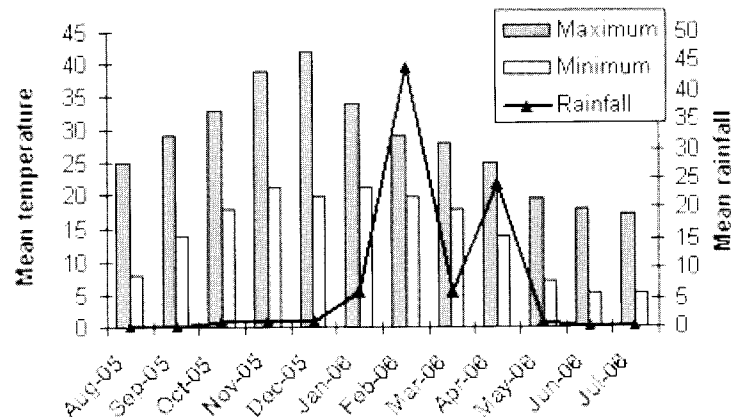
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A monthly record of all birds seen on farm Christirina was kept from August 2005 to July 2006. Farm Christirina is a 3,500 ha farm in the Kalahari-bushveld region of Namibia (23° 25'S, 18° 00'E). During the observation period mean monthly temperature was 21°C and total rainfall was 445 mm exceeding the normal annual rainfall (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Mean rainfall, minimum and maximum temperature at farm Christirina from August 2005 to July 2006.



Many hours were spent in the veld whilst collecting research data on Cape ground squirrels, and during these periods and generally, birds were observed *ad libitum* all days that researchers were present at the farm (287 days).

Results

A total of 125 species were seen (Table 1). Thirty-one species were common, being seen every month of the year, for example, mousebirds, titbabblers, sociable weavers, rock martins and red-eyed bulbuls. Twenty-two species were only seen once. These included some of the regions endemics, such as, Cape Vultures, greater striped swallows and the dusky sunbird. In total, 35 regional endemics were seen on the farm. Some were common and bred on the farm, like the great sparrow, black-chested prinia, marico flycatcher and violet-eared waxbill. White-backed and Lappet-faced Vultures roosted in trees on the eastern side of the farm and in December 2005 a mixed group of 62 vultures was seen over the farm. Cape Vultures were seen over the western end of the farm and the nearest rocky area where roosting may be possible is ~ 28 km away (23°17.024' S, 017°46.127' E) (J. Waterman *personal communication*). The ostrich and pearl-spotted owl were only heard, never seen.

The most species seen in any one month was 83 in February 2006. Although this was also the month with the highest level of rainfall there was no correlation between the number of birds seen each month and the mean minimum, or mean maximum temperatures or mean rainfall ($r^2 = -0.30, 0.12$ and 0.10 , respectively). The least number of birds seen was 58 in August and December 2005.

Acknowledgements

Mary Beth Manjerovic assisted with observations from August to October 2005. Thanks to Mr & Mrs Bartch and Mr & Mrs Beukes for permission to work at farm Christirina. Mr Aaron Nicholas produced the original bird list. Dr Waterman is the co-ordinator of Cape ground squirrel research at farm Christirina and we thank her for supporting this work.

Table 1. Species seen at farm Christirina from August 2005 to July 2006

(in order of common name).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Aug 05	Sep 05	Oct 05	Nov 05	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	TOTAL spp/ mo*
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>													1
Anteater Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>													12
Ashy tit	<i>Parus cinerascens</i>													12
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>					h	h		h					6
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Thripias namaquus</i>													3
Bennett's Woodpecker	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>													1
Black Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis afra</i>	h				h		h	h					12
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>													1
Blackbreasted Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>													1
Blackcheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotus</i>													10
Blackchested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>								f					12
Blackthroated Canary	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>													2
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>													1
Bronzewinged Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus chalcopterus</i>													1
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>													1
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>								h					12
Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>													4
Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>													7
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>						f							12
Cape Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>													12
Cape Vulture	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>													6
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>													1
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicops fuscescens</i>						h	h		h		h		8
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>													1
Crimsonbreasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>													12

Common Name	Scientific Name	Aug 05	Sep 05	Oct 05		Nov 05	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	TOTAL spp/ mo*
Crowned Lapwing (plover)	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>														11
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>														1
Doublebanded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>	h													2
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia fusca</i>														1
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegytiacus</i>														2
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>														1
European Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>										?				1
European Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>														5
Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>														4
Fawncoloured Lark	<i>Mirafra africanoides</i>														8
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>														3
Fiscal Shrike	<i>Lanius collaris</i>														6
Forktailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>														12
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Microniscus gabar</i>													h	9
Giant Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>														2
Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>														12
Goldenbreasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>														1
Goldtailed Woodpecker	<i>Capmetheria abingoni</i>														12
Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>								f						6
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>														2
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Hirundo cucullata</i>														1
Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasatus</i>					h	h								7
Grey Lourie	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>														2
Greybacked Finchlark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>														3
Greyheaded Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>														11
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>														12

Common Name	Scientific Name	Aug 05	Sep 05	Oct 05	Nov 05	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	TOTAL spp/ mo*
Helmetted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	h												9
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>													12
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>													8
Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>													1
Kalahari Robin	<i>Erythropygia paena</i>													11
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>													7
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	?												3
Lappetfaced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>													10
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>													12
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>													8
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>													6
Lilacbreasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudata</i>													12
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>													2
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>													1
Longbilled Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>													5
Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwiggii</i>													4
Marico Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>								f					12
Marico Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia mariquensis</i>													3
Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>								f					12
Melba Finch	<i>Pytilia melba</i>													6
Milvus Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>													3
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>													12
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>											h		11
Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	h	h											2
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>													10
Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>													9

Common Name	Scientific Name	Aug 05	Sep 05	Oct 05		Nov 05	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	TOTAL spp/ mo*
Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>														1
Pearlbreasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>														8
Pearlspotted Owl	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	h	h						h						3
Pied Barbet	<i>Lybius leucomelas</i>														12
Pririt Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>									h					12
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevia</i>														4
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polyhierax semitorquatus</i>														11
Redbacked Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>														3
Redbilled Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>									f					6
Redbilled Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>														7
Redcrested Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>														1
Redeyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>														12
Redfaced Mousebird	<i>Colius indicus</i>						f								5
Redheaded Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>														10
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>														1
Rock Martin	<i>Hirundo fuligula</i>														12
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>								h						5
Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>														1
Rufouscheeked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>			h				h							5
Rufouseared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>														2
Rufousnaped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>														4
Sabota Lark	<i>Mirafra sabota</i>														12
Scalyfeathered Finch	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>														12
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia senegalensis</i>														1
Scimitar-billed Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus cyanomelas</i>														12
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>														5

Common Name	Scientific Name	Aug 05	Sep 05	Oct 05	Nov 05	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	TOTAL spp/ mo*
Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola breviceps</i>													5
Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetarius socius</i>													12
Spikeheeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>													2
Spotted Dikkop	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>													7
Spotted Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>						h		h			h	h	8
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>													3
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>													2
Swallowtailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>													11
Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>													3
Three-streaked Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>													4
Titbabbler	<i>Parisoma subcaeruleum</i>													12
Violet Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus damarensis</i>													2
Violeteared Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus granatinus</i>									f				10
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>													7
Whitebacked Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>													12
Whitebacked Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>													12
Whitebrowed Sparrow Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>													12
Whitecrowned Plover	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>													0
Yellow Canary	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>								f					12
Yellowbellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>													11
(Southern) Yellowbilled Hornbill	<i>Tockus flavirostris</i>								h	h				9
Yellowbilled Kite	<i>Milvus migrans parasitus</i>													2
	TOTAL	58	65	59	60	58	80	83	77	71	64	65	64	
	Total days of observation	25	25	25	24	20	29	19	23	28	23	23	23	287

= seen, ♀ = female seen, ♂ = male seen, h = heard, ? = unsure identification,

f = fledglings seen, spp/mo* = total number of months species seen