

## NAMIBIA BIRD CLUB

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If you are interested in more information please contact:

The Membership Secretary, African Bird Club, c/o Birdlife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, England, UK.

## BIRDS OF THE GAM RESETTLEMENT AREA

CHRIS HINES, P.O. Box 22527, Windhoek, Namibia

### Introduction

The Gam Resettlement Area lies in the South-eastern corner of the Otjozondjupa Region, on the boundary of former Bushmanland and Eastern Hereroland. The area was the focus of a baseline environmental study in late 1993 and early 1994. This was done before the start of a major resettlement programme involving several thousand Botswana Hereros and their livestock. I was resident in the area near Gam for about 7 weeks during this period and collected most of the data during this time.

The climate of the area is typical of North-east Namibia. Mean annual rainfall is around 400 mm annually and this is highly variable in both time and space. Rainfall is markedly seasonal with 90 % falling between October and April. Most rainfall is the result of convective thunderstorms. Exceptional rainfall events occurred in late January 1994 and these resulted in the extensive flooding of pans and omarimba in the area and large numbers of waterbirds were recorded. Temperatures are generally high in summer (>30 °C average daily maximum) and cool in winter (< 10 °C minimum daily temperature).

Two hundred and seventeen species of birds were identified of which 13 are Red Data Species. Most of the Red Data species were vagrants (7). Of the remaining Red Data Species 5 are raptors which can be expected to decline following the completion of the resettlement programme.

### Habitats and Vegetation

The Gam Area falls within the broadly defined "Forest savanna and woodland" of Giess (1971) and is transitional between the so-called "wet" and "dry" savannas. At the time of doing the survey few people had settled in the area and it was largely undisturbed. The distribution of the habitats and vegetation types is heavily influenced by the relative depth of the Kalahari Sands which are a major feature of the landscape in the area.

Habitats and vegetation types can be broadly divided into two groups

- Those habitats and vegetation types associated with heavier, shallower soils

and exposed rock usually occurring in interdune slacks, along omarimba, around pans and other depressions. These habitats and vegetation types are the richest bird habitats in the area.

- Those habitats and vegetation types occurring on deep Kalahari sands, such as dunes, sand plains and hummocks. Relatively few species of birds occur only on Kalahari sand habitats.

*Terminalia prunioides* woodland and thickets are widely distributed on shallow soils in the the area. Trees are usually 6-10 m high and can form very dense stands with sparse shrub understories. In areas with wetter soils and on the boundaries of pans *Acacia erubescens* and *Acacia mellifera* woodlands and thickets are characteristic. Pans are usually open water systems where there are calcrete bottoms or are grassy pans where soils are deeper. In certain areas there are large exposures of hardpan calcretes which are normally covered by extensive, dense stands of *Catophractes alexandrii*. Grasslands are extensive in the central part of the area around Gam.

The Kalahari Sand areas are dominated by a relatively small number of species of plants including *Terminalia sericea*, *Combretum collinum*, *Pterocarpus angolensis* and *Bauhinia petersiana*. The relative mix of the species changes with the depth of the sand and position on the dune slope but the species remain largely constant. Grasses occurring in the area are generally, hard woody species. Kalahari sand areas are generally nutrient poor systems and this is reflected in the relatively paucity of both bird species and numbers in the area.

### Methodology

The species list has been compiled from observations made during December 1993 (06-17) and February/March 1994 (02/02-04/03). Other information was obtained from the Namibian Bird Atlas Project (NBAP). Observations were made during the course of other field work and only generalised information regarding habitat preferences were made. Species nomenclature follows *Roberts' Birds of Southern Africa* (Macleane 1993). Species not recorded but expected to occur are given in parentheses. Species listed in the Namibian Red Data Book - Birds (Williams & Brown, in prep) are marked with an asterisk.

No records were kept of total numbers of birds except in the case of certain waterfowl and rare species (e.g. Wattled Crane). For this reason ratings of abundance are somewhat subjective and are defined as follows:

Common	- seen daily in right habitat, large numbers
Uncommon	- seen daily/weekly in small numbers
Scarce	- seen only a few times in a month

- Rare - seen only a few times in a year  
 Vagrant - accidental occurrence in the area; outside normal range

The status of the listed species is categorised as follows:

- Resident* - are those which are found in the study area throughout the year and are assumed to breed in the area.  
*Migrant* - are those with regular seasonal movements. These may be Palaearctic or intra-African, and usually leave the area according to season, even though specific habitat requirements are met (e.g. Lesser Moorhen *Gallinula angulata*). These species may or may not breed in the area.  
*Visitor/Nomadic* - are those without regular seasonal movements, tending to be opportunistic in their utilisation of available habitat (e.g. Redbilled Teal). These species may or may not breed in the area.

### Systematic list.

#### OSTRICH *Struthio camelus*

Common resident seen throughout the study area. Chicks seen in both 12/93 and 02/94.

#### \*BLACKNECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Uncommon wet season visitor. Several birds seen on small pans east of Gam, on the Daneib and in the Quarantine area in 02/94.

#### DABCHICK *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Uncommon wet season visitor. Seen on small pans in the Quarantine area and near Gam. 02/94.

#### \*WHITE PELICAN *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Rare wet season visitor. Three birds seen flying overhead near the Daneib, early 02/94.

#### GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Rare wet season visitor. Single bird seen near Hammansklip, late 02/94.

#### PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*

Unconfirmed sighting of a bird thought to be this species on a well vegetated pan in Daneib, near Hammansklip, 02/94.

#### GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba*

Scarce wet season visitor. Seen on a number of occasions on small pans east of Gam. 02/94.

#### LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Rare wet season visitor. Single bird seen on pan east of Gam. 02/94.

#### YELLOWBILLED EGRET *Egretta intermedia*

Uncommon wet season visitor. A small flock of 4 birds seen on a small pan east of Gam. 02/94.

#### CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

Seasonally common. A single bird recorded 12/93, with flocks of more than 20 birds regularly recorded around Gam in 02/94.

#### SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides*

Rare wet season visitor. Single bird seen at Hammansklip in 02/94.

#### BLACKCROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Rare wet season visitor. Single bird seen on a densely wooded stretch of water in the Daneib, near

Hammansklip, 02/94.

#### LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus*

Uncommon wet season visitor. Several birds seen on small pans east of Gam and in the Quarantine area, as well as in Daneib. Breeding (n=3) recorded in Daneib. 02/94.

#### HAMERKOP *Scopus umbretta*

Rare wet season visitor. Single bird seen on a pan in the central Quarantine area. 02/94.

#### WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

Rare palaeartic migrant. Single bird found dead in the Eiseb Omuramba near Theronsvallei. 02/94.

#### WHITEBELLED STORK *Ciconia abdimii*

Uncommon intra-African migrant. Small flocks were seen throughout the area during 02/94.

#### WOOLLYNECKED STORK *Ciconia episcopus*

Rare wet-season visitor. Three birds regularly seen on a small pan in the Daneib and two other birds seen on a pan near Gam. 02/94.

#### OPENBILLED STORK *Anastomus lamelligerus*

Rare wet-season visitor. Small numbers seen on large pan in the Daneib during early 02/94.

#### \*SADDLEBILLED STORK *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Rare wet-season visitor. Only immature birds recorded. Regularly seen along the Daneib in flooded grasslands. 02/94.

#### MARABOU STORK *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Uncommon visitor. Two groups of birds seen soaring over the Daneib, 02/94.

#### \*GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

Rare wet-season visitor. Recorded on pans east of Gam on several occasions. 02/94.

#### REDBILLED TEAL *Anas erythrorhyncha*

Common wet-season visitor. Recorded on virtually any open water throughout the area, during rains in early 02/94. Also recorded on pans in the Eiseb during 12/93.

#### KNOBBILLED DUCK *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Common wet-season visitor. Found on large pans in the Daneib, east of Gam and at Totlana during 02/94. Small numbers present on pans in the Eiseb during 12/93.

#### SECRETARY BIRD *Sagittarius serpentarius*

Uncommon resident. Single birds seen in grasslands throughout the study area, 12/93 and 02/94. Found breeding near the Bushmanland boundary 12/93.

#### WHITEBACKED VULTURE *Gyps africanus*

Common resident. Recorded throughout the Gam area. 12/93, 02/94.

#### \*LAPPETFACED VULTURE *Torgos tracheliotus*

Uncommon resident. Recorded mainly in the east of the study area. 12/93, 02/94.

#### \*WHITEHEADED VULTURE *Trigoneps occipitalis*

Scarce resident. Only recorded near Gam, Totlana and along the Bushmanland boundary. 02/94.

#### YELLOWBILLED KITE *Milvus migrans parasitus*

Common intra-African migrant. Small numbers recorded during 12/93 at termite emergences. Much larger numbers (> 100) recorded during rains in early 02/94.

#### BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans migrans*

Common intra-African migrant. Recorded in small numbers in 02/94.

#### BLACKSHOULDERED KITE *Elanus caeruleus*

Uncommon nomadic visitor. A single bird was recorded during 12/93. Numbers increased markedly during 02/94 with an influx of birds during early 02/94. Numbers declined rapidly by early 03/94.

#### \*TAWNY EAGLE *Aquila rapax*

Uncommon resident. Found throughout the study area. 12/93, 02/93.

#### STEPPE EAGLE *Aquila nipalensis*

Scarce palaeartic migrant. A single bird seen in the Eiseb in 12/93, with isolated birds seen during 02/94. None recorded at termite emergences.

#### LESSER SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila pomarina*

Scarce palaeartic migrant. Several birds recorded soaring in the Eiseb in 12/93. Single birds seen at termite emergences and soaring during 02/94.

#### WAHLBERG'S EAGLE *Aquila wahlbergi*

Scarce intra-African migrant. Only recorded in *Terminalia prunioides* woodland along the Bushmanland

border 12/93, 02/94. There is little suitable breeding habitat for this species.

**AFRICAN HAWK EAGLE** *Hieraaetus fasciatus*  
Scarce resident. Recorded on a number of occasions on the western boundary of the Quarantine area during 02/94.

\***MARTIAL EAGLE** *Polemaetus bellicosus*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded throughout the study area. 12/93, 02/94.

**BROWN SNAKE EAGLE** *Circaetus cinereus*  
Scarce resident. Only recorded once in 02/94. This species occurs commonly in Bushmanland and may have been overlooked during the current study.

**BLACKBREASTED SNAKE EAGLE** *Circaetus gallicus*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area. 12/93, 02/94.

\***BATELEUR** *Terathopius ecaudatus*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded throughout the study area with a marked increase in numbers in the north near the Bushmanland boundary. 12/93, 02/94.

\***AFRICAN FISH EAGLE** *Haliaeetus vocifer*  
Vagrant? A single juvenile bird was seen at a pan near Hammansklip. 02/94

**STEPPE BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo*  
Uncommon palaeartic migrant. Recorded in most wooded habitats throughout the study area. Numbers were higher in 12/93 compared with 02/94.

**OVAMBO SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter ovampensis*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded in woodland on Bushmanland boundary and near Totlana in 02/94.

**LITTLE SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter minullus*  
Scarce resident. Recorded once in a dense stand of *Terminalia prunoides* on the Bushmanland boundary.

**LITTLE BANDED GOSHAWK** *Accipiter badius*  
Common resident. The commonest accipiter in the area. Recorded in all wooded habitats, 12/93, 02/94. Juveniles recorded 12/93.

**GABAR GOSHAWK** *Micronisus gabar*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded most often in *Acacia* woodlands and often near water, 12/93, 02/94.

**PALE CHANTING GOSHAWK** *Melierax canorus*  
Common resident. The commonest raptor in the study area. Recorded throughout the area, 12/93, 02/94. Large numbers of very young birds were recorded during the last week of 02/94.

**LANNER FALCON** *Falco biarmicus*  
Scarce resident/nomad? A single bird seen hunting along the Eiseb 12/93.

**HOBBY FALCON** *Falco subbuteo*  
Common palaeartic migrant. Particularly abundant during early rains in 12/93, with up to 12 being recorded at termite emergences. Single birds recorded during 02/94.

**WESTERN REDFOOTED KESTREL** *Falco vespertinus*  
Common palaeartic migrant. Large flocks on passage and at termite emergences during 12/93. One small flock of about 8 birds recorded at Gam during 02/94.

**EASTERN REDFOOTED KESTREL** *Falco amurensis*  
Scarce palaeartic migrant. Several females and one male recorded in a large flock of Western Redfooted Kestrels at a termite emergence on the Bushmanland boundary during 12/93.

**ROCK KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*  
Uncommon/scarce resident. Recorded near rocky outcrops in the Eiseb omuramba 12/93. A single bird seen hunting over grasslands near the Bushmanland boundary in 02/94.

**GREATER KESTREL** *Falco rupicoloides*  
Uncommon resident. A pair was recorded in the Eiseb during 12/93 and again in 02/93. Not recorded in the Daneib or over grasslands further North.

(**CRESTED FRANCOLIN** *Francolinus sephaena*)  
Not recorded during this study. This species is common in Bushmanland and is expected to occur along the omarimba.

**ORANGE RIVER FRANCOLIN** *Francolinus levaillantoides*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded from the Daneib and a variety of shrub and grassland habitats throughout the area. 12/93, 02/94.

**REDBILLED FRANCOLIN** *Francolinus adspersus*  
Common resident. This species seems to be restricted to shrub habitats along the Daneib, and *Acacia* and

*Terminalia prunoides* woodlands. 12/93, 02/94. Very small chicks recorded early 02/94.

(**COMMON QUAIL** *Coturnix coturnix*)  
Not recorded. This species is common further north in grassland and pan margin habitats very similar to those occurring in the Gam area.

**HARLEQUIN QUAIL** *Coturnix delegorguei*  
Common summer visitor. Large numbers recorded in the Eiseb, Daneib and areas of short grass, 02/94. Recorded breeding 02/94 (n=2).

**HELMETED GUINEAFOWL** *Numida meleagris*  
Common resident. Found throughout the study area, generally favouring areas of heavier soils associated with *Acacia*. Young chicks present early 02/94.

**KURRICHANE BUTTONQUAIL** *Turnix sylvatica*  
Common summer visitor. Found in all grassland habitats, but scarce in *Terminalia sericea* shrubland, 12/93, 02/94. Breeding recorded 02/93 (n=4).

**BAILLON'S CRAKE** *Porzana pusilla*  
Scarce wet-season visitor. A single bird flushed from rank grass on the edge of the Daneib, 02/94.

**PURPLE GALLINULE** *Porphyrio porphyrio*  
Scarce wet-season visitor. Two birds recorded on a single pan south of Gam, 02/94.

**LESSER GALLINULE** *Porphyryla alleni*  
Scarce wet-season visitor. Several birds recorded on a single pan south of Gam, 02/94. Recorded breeding (n=1).

**MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*  
Uncommon wet-season visitor. This species was abundant on the Daneib near Hammansklip for a short period during early 02/94.

**LESSER MOORHEN** *Gallinula angulata*  
Uncommon wet-season visitor. Abundant for a short period during early 02/94. Several birds still present late 02/94. Recorded breeding (n=1).

**REDKNOBBED COOT** *Fulica cristata*  
Scarce wet-season visitor. Two birds recorded on large pan east of Gam, 02/94.

\***KORI BUSTARD** *Ardeotis kori*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded throughout the study area in grasslands and areas of open ground (e.g. omuramba bottoms and pans), 12/93, 02/94. A very young chick recorded at Totlana, 02/94.

**REDCRESTED KORHAAN** *Eupodotis ruficrista*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area 12/93, 02/94. Recorded breeding 12/93 (n=2) and chicks recorded 02/94.

**BLACK KORHAAN** *Eupodotis afra*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, but particularly common in grasslands north of Gam 12/93, 02/94. Chicks recorded 02/94.

**AFRICAN JACANA** *Actophilornis africanus*  
Scarce wet-season visitor. Single birds recorded on pans in the Daneib 02/94.

**PAINTED SNIPE** *Rostratula benghalensis*  
Uncommon wet-season visitor. Recorded on pans and flooded grasslands in the Daneib and on pans in the Quarantine area, 02/94.

**THREEBANDED PLOVER** *Charadrius tricollaris*  
Scarce wet-season visitor. Single birds recorded on a pan near Hammansklip and on a pan near Gam, 02/94.

**CROWNED PLOVER** *Vanellus coronatus*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded along the Eiseb and Daneib omarimba, at Totlana and around Gam in areas of bare ground. Recorded breeding 12/93 (n=3) and 02/94 (n=1).

**BLACKSMITH PLOVER** *Vanellus armatus*  
Common wet-season visitor. Small groups recorded on virtually all pans and areas of open water 02/94.

**WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola*  
Common palaeartic migrant. Small numbers recorded at pans along the Eiseb and at Gam, 12/93. The commonest small wader on pans and flooded grasslands in 02/94.

**GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*  
Scarce palaeartic migrant. Single birds recorded at a number of different sites in the Daneib, Eiseb and on pans in the Quarantine area 02/94.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*  
Scarce palaeartic migrant. A group of birds recorded on a pan in Quarantine area, 02/94.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*  
Scarce palaeartic migrant. Small groups of birds recorded in the Eiseb near Hammansklip and on a pan in the Quarantine area, 02/94.

ETHIOPIAN SNIPE *Gallinago nigripennis*  
Scarce wet-season visitor. A single bird recorded in the Daneib, 02/94.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*  
Scarce intra-African migrant. A small flock of birds recorded at a pan in the Quarantine area on one occasion, 02/94.

BLACKWINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*  
Uncommon wet-season visitor. Small numbers recorded on pans and in flooded grasslands in the Daneib and near Gam, 02/94.

SPOTTED DIKKOP *Burhinus capensis*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded throughout the area on areas of heavier soils (i.e. absent from areas of Kalahari sands), 12/93, 02/94.

DOUBLEBANDED COURSER *Rhinoptilus africanus*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded in areas of open calcrete at Totlana, along the Karakapi and in the Eiseb, 12/93, 02/94.

BRONZEWINGED COURSER *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*  
Scarce summer visitor? A single bird recorded in a *Catophractes* thicket near Gam, 02/94.

\*WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybridus*  
Scarce wet-season visitor. Several birds in full breeding plumage were recorded on large pans in the Daneib and in the Quarantine area east of Gam, 02/94.

WHITEWINGED TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*  
Scarce palaeartic migrant. Only recorded over a large pan in the Daneib in early 02/94.

BURCHELL'S SANDGROUSE *Pterocles burchelli*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

DOUBLEBANDED SANDGROUSE *Pterocles bicinctus*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

CAPE TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia capicola*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

LAUGHING DOVE *Streptopelia senegalensis*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, but seemingly more common in *Acacia* belts, 12/93, 02/94.

NAMAQUA DOVE *Oena capensis*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

GREENSPOTTED DOVE *Turtur chalcospilos*  
Rare/Scarce? Only recorded once on the Bushmanland boundary, 02/94. This species is common in Bushmanland.

MEYER'S PARROT *Poicephalus meyeri*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded in woody habitats throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

GREY LOURIE *Corythaixoides concolor*  
Common resident. Recorded in *Acacia* belts and *Terminalia prunioides* woodlands, 12/93, 02/94.

(EUROPEAN CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*)  
Unrecorded. This species is common throughout Bushmanland and Kavango during the summer.

AFRICAN CUCKOO *Cuculus gularis*  
Common intra-African migrant. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

BLACK CUCKOO *Cuculus clamosus*  
Common intra-African migrant. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94. Less vocal during 02/94.

GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO *Cuculus glandarius*  
Common intra-African migrant. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

STRIPED CUCKOO *Cuculus leuallanti*  
Uncommon intra-African migrant. Recorded throughout the study area in *Acacia* belts, 02/94.

JACOBIN CUCKOO *Clamator jacobinus*  
Uncommon intra-African migrant. Recorded throughout the study area, 02/94.

KLAAS'S CUCKOO *Chrysococcyx klaas*  
Common intra-African migrant. Recorded largely in woodland areas and in *Acacia* belts, 12/93, 02/94.

DIEDERIK CUCKOO *Chrysococcyx caprius*  
Common intra-African migrant. Recorded throughout the study area, particularly in association with large Masked Weaver colonies, 12/93, 02/94.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded at Hammansklip, Gam and in Quarantine area, 02/94.

MARSH OWL *Asio capensis*  
Common resident. 22 recorded in a 18 km stretch of road north of Gam in 12/93. Fewer birds recorded in 02/94.

SCOPS OWL *Otus senegalensis*  
Scarce resident. Only recorded in *Terminalia prunioides* woodland in the Quarantine area, 02/94.

WHITEFACED OWL *Otus leucotis*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded in wooded habitat throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

PEARLSPOTTED OWL *Glaucidium perlatum*  
Uncommon resident. Only recorded in *Acacia* belts south of Gam, along the Daneib and in the Quarantine area, 12/93, 02/94.

SPOTTED EAGLE OWL *Bubo africanus*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded at several locations throughout the study area, but nowhere abundant, 12/93, 02/94. Downy young recorded on western boundary of quarantine area, 02/94.

GIANT EAGLE OWL *Bubo lacteus*  
Scarce resident. Only recorded at a camp near the western boundary of the Quarantine area, 02/94.

EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*  
Rare palaeartic migrant. A single roadkill north of Gam on the Tsumkwe road, 02/94.

RUFOUSCHEEKED NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus rufigena*  
Common intra-African migrant. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

EUROPEAN SWIFT *Apus apus*  
Common palaeartic migrant. Found throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94. Very large flocks recorded following storm fronts. Still present in the area after rains in early 03/94.

REDFACED MOUSEBIRD *Cohus indicus*  
Uncommon resident. Small flocks were recorded throughout the study area, commoner in *Acacia* belts, 12/93, 02/94.

GREYHOODED KINGFISHER *Halcyon leucocephala*  
Scarce summer visitor? A single bird was seen in the Daneib near the Botswana border, 02/94.

STRIPED KINGFISHER *Halcyon chelicuti*  
Uncommon resident. Single birds recorded in tall woodland habitats along Bushmanland boundary and in tall *Terminalia sericea* shrubland near the Otjisonjoi, 12/93, 02/94.

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*  
Common palaeartic migrant. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

BLUECHEEKED BEE-EATER *Merops persicus*  
Uncommon intra-African migrant. Generally found in association with water, particularly common along the Daneib, 12/93, 02/94.

\*CARMINE BEE-EATER *Merops nubicoides*  
Common intra-African migrant. Found throughout the study area usually in grassland and *Acacia* belts, 12/93, 02/94.

SWALLOWTAILED BEE-EATER *Merops hirundineus*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

EUROPEAN ROLLER *Coracias garrulus*  
Uncommon palaeartic migrant. Present in small numbers in taller woodland habitats throughout the study area, 02/94.

LILACBREASTED ROLLER *Coracias caudata*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

PURPLE ROLLER *Coracias naevia*

Uncommon resident. Recorded throughout the study area where tall *Acacia* and *Terminalia prunioides* provided nesting habitat, 12/93, 02/94. Absent in shrubland.

**HOOPOE** *Upupa epops*  
Uncommon summer visitor. Recorded only in areas of short grassland and bare ground (e.g Totlana, pan margins, omuramba bottoms). 12/93, 02/94

**SCIMITARBILLED WOODHOOPOE** *Phoeniculus cyanomelas*  
Uncommon resident. Restricted to *Acacia* and *Terminalia prunioides* woodland habitats, 12/93, 02/94.

**GREY HORNBILL** *Tockus nasutus*  
Common resident. Found throughout the study area, often in large loosely formed flocks. Especially abundant in stands of flowering *Terminalia prunioides*. 12/93, 02/94.

**REDBILLED HORNBILL** *Tockus erythrorhynchus*  
Uncommon resident. Only recorded in *Acacia erubescens* and *Terminalia prunioides* woodland, 12/93, 02/94.

**YELLOWBILLED HORNBILL** *Tockus flavirostris*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area in *Acacia* woodland, 12/93, 02/94.

**BRADFELD'S HORNBILL** *Tockus bradfieldi*  
Scarce resident. A single bird was recorded in tall *Acacia erubescens* *Terminalia prunioides* woodland on the Bushmanland boundary, 02/94.

**PIED BARBET** *Lybius leucomelas*  
Common resident. Recorded in *Acacia* and *Terminalia prunioides* woodland throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

**BENNETT'S WOODPECKER** *Campethera bennetti*  
Scarce resident. Only recorded once in *Acacia* woodland south of Gam, 02/94.

**GOLDENTAILED WOODPECKER** *Campethera abingoni*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded in tall woodland in the north of the study area along the Bushmanland boundary, 12/93, 02/94.

**CARDINAL WOODPECKER** *Dendropicos fuscescens*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded in tall woodland habitats throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

**BEARDED WOODPECKER** *Thripas namaquus*  
Scarce resident. Recorded in *Terminalia prunioides* woodlands in the central part of the Quarantine area and along the Bushmanland boundary, 02/94.

**MONOTONOUS LARK** *Mirafra passerina*  
Uncommon resident? Surprisingly few birds recorded in the study area. This species is on occasion very common in grasslands in Bushmanland, 12/93, 02/94.

**RUFOUNAPED LARK** *Mirafra africana*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area in grasslands and areas of sparse shrubland, 12/93, 02/94.

**CLAPPER LARK** *Mirafra apiata*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area particularly in areas of sparse shrubs on heavier soils and in grasslands, 12/93, 02/94.

**FAWNCOLOURED LARK** *Mirafra africanoides*  
Common resident. Found in all habitats except dense woodlands, 12/93, 02/94.

**SABOTA LARK** *Mirafra sabota*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded most often on the margins of omarimba and other areas where calcrete is exposed. Particularly common in *Catophractes* thickets on omuramba margins, 12/93, 02/94.

**REDCAPPED LARK** *Calandrella cinerea*  
Uncommon nomad/resident. Recorded in areas of bare ground at Gam and in short grass habitats at Totlana and along the side of the Daneib, 12/93, 02/94.

**CHESTNUTBACKED FINCHLARK** *Eremopterix leucotis*  
Common nomad/resident. Fairly large flocks (> 20) recorded in areas of short grass and rocky exposures throughout the area, 02/94. Breeding in 02/94 (n=2).

**GREYBACKED FINCHLARK** *Eremopterix verticalis*  
Uncommon/Scarce resident. Only recorded on calcrete exposures along the Daneib, Karakapi and at Totlana, 02/94. Breeding in 02/94 (n=1).

**EUROPEAN SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*  
Common palaeartic migrant. Recorded throughout the area, 12/93, 02/94.

**BANDED MARTIN** *Riparia cincta*  
Scarce intra-African migrant. Only recorded in grasslands in north of study area, 02/94.

**BLACK CUCKOOSHRIKE** *Campephaga flava*  
Rare/Scarce visitor. A single female recorded in *Terminalia prunioides* woodland east of Gam, 02/94.

**FORKTAILED DRONGO** *Dicrurus adsimilis*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

**AFRICAN GOLDEN ORIOLE** *Oriolus auratus*  
Scarce intra-African migrant. Only recorded in tall *Ricinodendron* woodland in south of the study area, 02/94.

**ASHY TIT** *Parus cinerascens*  
Uncommon resident. Only recorded in woodlands dominated by *Acacia* and *Terminalia prunioides*, 12/93, 02/94.

**CAPE PENDULINE TIT** *Anthoscopus minutus*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded in *Catophractes* shrubland and in dense stands of *Acacia*, 02/94.

**PIED BABBLER** *Turdoides bicolor*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded throughout the study area in *Acacia* and *Terminalia prunioides* woodlands, 12/93, 02/94.

**REDEYED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus nigricans*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

**KURRICHANE THRUSH** *Turdus libonyana*  
Scarce resident. A single bird recorded in dense *Acacia erubescens*/*Terminalia prunioides* woodland on the Bushmanland boundary, 02/94.

**GROUNDSCRAPER THRUSH** *Turdus litsitsirupa*  
Uncommon resident. Only recorded around cattle kraals at Gam, 12/93, 02/94.

**CAPPED WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe pileata*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded from the Daneib, Karakapi and Eiseb omarimba and short grasslands at Totlana, 12/93, 02/94.

**ANTEATING CHAT** *Myrmecocichla formicivora*  
Common resident. Found in grassy areas throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

**THRUSH NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia luscinia*  
Rare palaeartic migrant. A single bird found in thick bush at Hammansklip, 02/94.

**KALAHARI ROBIN** *Erythropgyia paena*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, generally in *Acacia* dominated habitats, 12/93, 02/94.

**GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin*  
Uncommon palaeartic migrant. Only recorded in *Acacia* thickets and *Terminalia prunioides* woodland, 02/94.

**WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*  
Common palaeartic migrant. Recorded throughout the study area in all wooded habitats, 12/93, 02/94.

**TITBABBLER** *Parisoma subcaeruleum*  
Common resident. Generally associated with *Acacia* belts, 12/93, 02/94.

**ICTERINE WARBLER** *Hippolais icterina*  
Common palaeartic migrant. Found in any wooded habitat throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

**EUROPEAN SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*  
Scarce palaeartic migrant. A small number of birds recorded in the Daneib, 02/94.

**WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus*  
Common palaeartic migrant. Found throughout the study area in wooded habitats, 12/93, 02/94.

**LONGBILLED CROMBEC** *Sylvietta rufescens*  
Common resident. Seemingly restricted to *Acacia* and *Terminalia prunioides* woodland habitats, 12/93, 02/94.

**YELLOWBELLIED EREMOMELA** *Eremomela icteropygialis*  
Uncommon resident. Only recorded in *Acacia* and *Terminalia prunioides* woodland habitats, 12/93, 02/94.

**(BURNTNECKED EREMOMELA** *Eremomela usticollis*)  
Unrecorded. This species is well known from Bushmanland in habitats similar to those in the study area.

BLEATING WARBLER *Camaroptera brachyura brevicaudata*  
Common resident. Found throughout the study area in any dense wooded habitats with the exception of *Terminalia sericea* habitats, 12/93, 02/94.

BARRED WARBLER *Camaroptera fasciolata*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area in *Acacia* and *Terminalia prunioides* habitats, 12/93, 02/94.

DESERT CISTICOLA *Cisticola aridula*  
Common resident. Recorded in grassland and shrubland habitats throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

TINKLING CISTICOLA *Cisticola rufilata*  
Common resident. Most often recorded in *Terminalia sericea* shrubland and associated grasslands, 12/93, 02/94.

RATTLING CISTICOLA *Cisticola chiniana*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the area in *Acacia* dominated habitats, 12/93, 02/94.

BLACKCHESTED PRINIA *Prinia flavicans*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*  
Common palaeartic migrant. Recorded throughout the study area in *Acacia* belts and *Terminalia prunioides* woodlands, 12/93, 02/94.

MARICO FLYCATCHER *Melaenornis mariquensis*  
Common resident. Restricted to the margins of omarimba, *Acacia* belts and *Terminalia prunioides* woodlands, 12/93, 02/94.

CHAT FLYCATCHER *Melaenornis infuscatus*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded in *Catophractes* thickets along the Eiseb and similar habitat along the Karakapi, 12/93, 02/94.

CHINSPOT BATIS *Batis molitor*  
Scarce resident. Only recorded in *Acacia erubescens* *Terminalia prunioides* woodlands along the Bushmanland boundary. Not recorded further south, 02/94.

PRIRIT BATIS *Batis pririt*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded throughout the southern part of the study area in *Acacia* and *Terminalia prunioides* woodlands, 12/93, 02/94.

CAPE WAGTAIL *Motacilla capensis*  
Scarce wet-season visitor. A single bird recorded at Gam, 02/94.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*  
Common resident? Found in short grassland habitats and areas of calcrete exposure throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

PLAINBACKED PIPIT *Anthus leucophrys*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded in grassland habitats in the north of the study area only, 02/94.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*  
Uncommon palaeartic migrant. Recorded throughout the study area in grasslands and open shrubland habitats, 12/93, 02/94.

REDBACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*  
Common palaeartic migrant. Recorded in woody habitats throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

LONGTAILED SHRIKE *Corvinella melanoleuca*  
Scarce resident. Recorded once in *Acacia* woodland in the north of the study area, 02/94.

CRIMSONBREASTED SHRIKE *Laniarius atrococcineus*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area in *Acacia* and *Terminalia prunioides* woodlands, 12/93, 02/94.

PUFFBACK *Dryoscopus cubla*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded only in *Terminalia prunioides* woodlands in the north of the study area, 02/94.

BRUBRU *Nilaus afer*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded in *Acacia* and *Terminalia prunioides* woodlands, 02/94.

THREESTREAKED TCHAGRA *Tchagra australis*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area in *Acacia* belts and on the margins of grasslands, 12/93, 02/94.

BLACKCROWNED TCHAGRA *Tchagra senegala*

Uncommon resident. Recorded mainly in broadleaved woodland habitats (e.g. *Terminalia sericea* woodland), 12/93, 02/94.

(WHITE HELMET SHRIKE *Prionops cristatus*)  
Unrecorded. This species is common in Bushmanland and should have been recorded as plenty of suitable habitat exists in the study area.

WHITECROWNED SHRIKE *Eurocephalus anguitimens*  
Uncommon resident. Widely distributed throughout the study area, generally on the margin of woodlands, 12/93, 02/94.

WATTLED STARLING *Creatophora cinerea*  
Uncommon resident. Small flocks recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

PLUMCOLOURED STARLING *Cimmyricinclus leucogaster*  
Common intra-African migrant. Found throughout the area in *Acacia* and *Terminalia prunioides* woodlands, 12/93, 02/94.

BURCHELL'S STARLING *Lamprotornis australis*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded in woodland habitats throughout the study area, but with a very patchy distribution, 12/93, 02/94.

GLOSSY STARLING *Lamprotornis nitens*  
Common resident. Only recorded 02/94, seemingly absent during 12/93.

GREATER BLUE-EARED STARLING *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*  
Common resident. The commonest starling in the area during the study period. Recorded in all wooded habitats, 12/93, 02/94.

MARICO SUNBIRD *Nectarinia mariquensis*  
Uncommon resident. Only recorded in *Acacia* woodland habitats, 12/93, 02/94.

WHITEBELLED SUNBIRD *Nectarinia talatala*  
Scarce resident. Only recorded on a few occasions in *Acacia* woodlands in the north of the study area, 02/94.

SCARLETCHESTED SUNBIRD *Nectarinia senegalensis*  
Scarce resident. Recorded once feeding on tree parasites in an *Acacia erubescens* thicket on the Bushmanland boundary, 02/94.

REDBILLED BUFFALO WEAVER *Bubalornis niger*  
Uncommon resident. Restricted to the edge of omarimba and pans where *Combretum imberbe* are common, 12/93, 02/94.

WHITEBROWED SPARROWWEAVER *Ploceopasser mahali*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the area in *Acacia* and *Terminalia prunioides* woodlands, 12/93, 02/94.

GREAT SPARROW *Passer mottensis*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded throughout the area, usually in *Acacia* thickets and grasslands, 12/93, 02/94.

GREYHEADED SPARROW *Passer griseus*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

SCALYFEATHERED FINCH *Sporopipes squamifrons*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

SPOTTEDBACKED WEAVER *Ploceus cucullatus*  
Uncommon wet-season visitor. Recorded in the Daneib and at several small pans east of Gam, 02/94.

CHESTNUT WEAVER *Ploceus rubiginosus*  
Scarce wet-season visitor. A small flock (< 15) recorded near Gam, 02/94.

MASKED WEAVER *Ploceus velatus*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the area 12/93, 02/94. Breeding recorded 12/93, 02/94.

REDBILLED QUELEA *Quelea quelea*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, but particularly common in grassland/*Acacia* shrubland in north of study area, 12/93, 02/94.

GOLDEN BISHOP *Euplectes afer*  
Scarce wet-season visitor. A few birds recorded on a well vegetated pan in the Daneib, 02/94.

MELBA FINCH *Pytilia melba*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the area, 12/93, 02/94. Breeding 02/94 (n=1).

BLUE WAXBILL *Uraeginthus angolensis*  
Uncommon resident. Only recorded in *Acacia* woodland habitat in the northern part of the study area, 02/94.

VIOLETEARED WAXBILL *Uraeginthus granatinus*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

BLACKCHEEKED WAXBILL *Estrilda erythronotus*  
Scarce resident. Recorded only once in *Acacia erubescens* woodland near the Bushmanland boundary, 02/94.

QUAIL FINCH *Ortygospiza atricollis*  
Common wet-season visitor. Recorded throughout the study area on pans and flooded grasslands, 02/94.

REDHEADED FINCH *Amadina erythrocephala*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

SHAFTTAILED WHYDAH *Vidua regia*  
Uncommon resident. Seemingly restricted to *Acacia* woodlands and along omarimba in the north of the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

PARADISE WHYDAH *Vidua paradisaea*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded throughout the study area, usually on the margins of grasslands, 12/93, 02/94.

BLACKTHROATED CANARY *Serinus atrogularis*  
Common resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

YELLOW CANARY *Serinus flaviventris*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded in short *Acacia* shrub and *Catophractes* thickets along the edge of omarimba, 02/94.

GOLDENBREASTED BUNTING *Emberiza flaviventris*  
Uncommon resident. Recorded throughout the study area, 12/93, 02/94.

ROCK BUNTING *Emberiza tahapisi*  
Scarce resident. Recorded in areas of extensive surficial calcretes at Theronsvallei in the Eiseb and at Hammansklip in the Daneib, 02/94.

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## DIE WEIßSTIRNREGENPFEIFER.

Dr. G. FRIEDE, P.O. Box 3910, Swakopmund, Namibia

Das Brutgeschäft eines Weißstirnregenpfeiferpaares (*Charadrius marginatus*) am südwestlichen Rande der Gossow'schen Salzfelder, nördlich von Swakopmund wurde mit 23 Besuchen zwischen dem 1.2. und 4.4.93 begleitet. Ein Ei war im Nest, als es am 1.2.93 entdeckt wurde. Am 3.2. war ein zweites Ei vorhanden. Im Ganzen fand ich zwischen dem 23.12.92 und dem 1.2.93 vier Gelege von je zwei Eiern in diesem Gebiet von etwa 200 m Uferlänge. -- Beide Küken schlüpften am 2.3.93 aus dem Ei (Brutzeit: 28-30 Tage). Das überlebende Küken flog zum ersten Mal, als es 33 Tage alt war (4.4.93). Das andere war am 9.3. nicht mehr da.

Die Eltern wechseln sich ab beim Brutgeschäft, was 1x direkt beobachtet wurde. Der brütende Vogel verleitet während der Brutzeit selten, läuft vielmehr schweigend weg und versteckt sich, beobachtet den Störenfried und wiederholt dieses Manöver, wenn man in seine Richtung geht. (Verleiten: lahmendes Fortbewegen mit gespreiztem Flügel und Schwanz: wurde in diesem Fall nur ein einziges Mal vor dem Schlüpfen der Küken beobachtet.) Daß der Regenpfeifer seine Eier bei Störungen mit Sand bedeckt, wie in Vogelbüchern angegeben, konnte hier nicht bestätigt werden.

Die Nest-Wasser Distanz betrug 30m; bei den anderen Nestern hielt sie sich zwischen 20 und 60m. Vor dem Schlüpfen ist der Partner selten in der Nähe, nachher fast immer. Nach dem Schlüpfen verleitet ein Elternteil oder gar beide Eltern fast immer, wenn man sich naht. Ein Elternavogel übernimmt die Wache und warnt bei Gefahr. Es gibt spezifische Warn- und Entwarnungsrufe.

Die Aufzucht des Küken fand im dazugehörigen begrenzten Gebiet am Wasser des Salzsees statt. In einem Bereich von 50m auf- und abwärts von diesem Gebiet befanden sich zu dieser Zeit keine anderen brütenden Regenpfeifer; daher waren die drei Vögel immer wiederzufinden.

Eigensinnige Küken, die sich nicht sofort, beim Ertönen des Warnrufes an das nächste Objekt kauern, sondern laufen, werden manchmal vom Elternavogel im Tiefflug umgeworfen und zum Niederkauern "bewogen" (2x beobachtet).

Die Ablenkungsmanöver der Elternavögel sind eindrucksvoll, koordiniert, intensiv und geduldig. Das Küken ist stets phantastisch getarnt, regungslos, bis zum Entwarnungsruf, zum Überleben programmiert. Sucht man nach ihm, weil es beim Warnruf sofort "unsichtbar" wurde, so fliegen die Elternavögel, oder sie rennen, weit weg. Ist die Suche ergebnislos, so führt geduldiges, regungsloses Warten - am besten sitzend - schließlich doch zum Erfolg, oft erst nach 30-40 Minuten. Die Eltern kommen, mit vielen Umwegen zurück und bleiben schließlich in 3-5m Entfernung vom Küken stationär, ständig Warnrufe gebend. Dort findet man dann das Küken immer. Die ungefähre Sicherheitsdistanz beim Warten beträgt 30m.