



# LANIOTURDUS

**VOL. 46 (2) 2013**

May 2013

**[www.namibiabirdclub.org](http://www.namibiabirdclub.org)**

## CONTENTS

THOMSON N	Editorial	<b>1</b>
DEMASIUS E	An Early Morning Hunting Episode	<b>3</b>
MIDDENDORFF G	Chairperson's Report	<b>5</b>
THOMSON N	Cattle Egrets in Namibia	<b>6</b>
DEMASIUS E	A Different Kind of Birding: Birds on the Stamps of Namibia : Additions to Namibia's 5 <sup>th</sup> Definitive Series	<b>7</b>
FRIEDERICH G	A Zambian Birding Experience – Part 2	<b>9</b>
SWANEPOEL W	Red-eyed Dove <i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i> in Namibia : New Records and Range Extensions	<b>16</b>
DEMASIUS E	An Interesting Nest Site	<b>18</b>
THOMSON N	Short Notes and Interesting Observations	<b>19</b>
NIDDRIE R	Red-chested Cuckoo in Windhoek	<b>26</b>
KOLBERG H	Trends in Namibian Waterbird Populations 9 : Waders and Shorebirds – Part 2	<b>26</b>

DEMASIUS E	Rufous-cheeked Nightjars at the Coast	<b>31</b>
	ATLAS UPDATE	<b>32</b>
	RARITIES AND INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS	<b>33</b>

## Editorial

The Namibia Bird Club is often accused of being the “Windhoek Bird Club” as most of our activities are centred around Windhoek. With this in mind the chairperson organized a camping long weekend at Farm Eileen to the west of Omaruru. This outing was attended by ten people including two of our Swakopmund members, Mark Boorman and Sandra Dantu. The weekend was used to atlas three pentads and to do a bit of ringing. The morning walks in Omaruru were widely publicized on various radio stations in the hope of attracting some local residents to join us and perhaps to become members of the bird club. This turned out to be wishful thinking as there was absolutely no response from Omaruru residents and nobody at all turned up at the publicized meeting points. No one can now say that we have not tried to involve others from outside of Windhoek.

After many above average rainy seasons it looks as if drought conditions have returned to central Namibia. I have been measuring

## A Different Kind of Birding

### Birds on the Stamps of Namibia

#### Additions to Namibia's 5<sup>th</sup> Definitive Series

Eckart Demasius  
[e-b.de@iway.na](mailto:e-b.de@iway.na)



My last contribution with regard to this topic was published in *Lanioturdus* 45(3) and it ended with the following prayer:

“But what about our remaining near-endemic birds that do not feature on this series?”

Well, let's hope they still have a chance. It is not uncommon for additional values to be added to a definitive series and instead of overprinting existing stamps which do not sell on account of their face values not being in demand. Monteiro's Hornbill, Barlow's Lark, Gray's Lark, Benguela Long-billed Lark and Rosy-faced Lovebird are all lined up to feature on any additional stamps.

I believe all bird club members have a duty to lobby for this. How nice would it be to have all of our endemics on this set of Namibian stamps?”

Well, the very good news is that this prayer has been answered and on 1 March 2013 five

additional stamps were released and with that we have one set of stamps depicting all the endemic and near-endemic birds in Namibia.

The additional values start off with the Benguela Long-billed Lark being perched in what seems to be the area west of the Brandberg singing its long drawn out song. Even for only 90 cents not many will come to hear the enchanting song.



Far in the south of the country and only for only an additional 10 cents Barlow's Lark awaits us in the euphorbia landscape on the way to Lüderitz.



The Rosy-faced Lovebird is depicted at Epupa Falls where there is enough water for it throughout the year, regardless of the endless debate as to whether the Rosy-faced Lovebird is or is not a Namibian near-endemic.

And the N\$ 3-00 face value will not change anything of that either, although to use these stamps for standard postage you will have to add a Hartlaub's Spurfowl (10c) as the going rate is N\$ 3-10!!

N\$ 10-00 for a sight of Gray's Lark is what many a birder would be prepared to pay to have such a great view of this so often elusive lark of the Namib Desert.



Finally, Monteiro's Hornbill greets us from somewhere in the north-west of Namibia. If N\$ 12-00 is too much for you, try an outing to the Daan Viljoen Game Reserve just west of Windhoek; you might just have a splendid view of it there at a hugely discounted rate.