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 eine Zweigstelle der
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 und der
 Southern African
 Ornithological Society

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LANIOTURDUS

Newsletter of the SWA/Namibia Bird Club

Mitteilungen des SWA/Namibia Vogelklubs




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CONTENTS

INHALTSANGABE

EDITORIAL/REDAKTION	26
ARTICLES & REPORTS/ARTIKEL & BERICHTE:	
Birds at Wolf and Van Reenen Bays, Diamond Coast, SWA/Namibia	27
NOTES and NEWS/BEMERKUNGEN & MITTEILUNGEN:	
Beobachtung eines Graufischers <i>Ceryle Rudis</i>	44
Vogelbeobachtung in einem Walfischbuchter Garten	44
Whitetailed Shrike reacts to imitated call of Pearlspotted Owl	45
BIRD CLUB ACTIVITIES/AKTIWITÄTEN DES VOGELKLUBS:	
Bird Club Outing: Waterberg Plateau Park, 20 - 22 March 1987	46
PROJECTS ... REQUESTS/PROJEKTE ... Bitte um Mitarbeit	48

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Editorial... Redaktion

Several people who have submitted material for publication in LANIOTURDUS have been surprised at the amount of changes in their material requested by the editor. Some have suggested that the editors are trying to make this club newsletter too scientific.

Is it true that we are making the newsletter too scientific? Let me as scientific editor respond.

First the newsletter can only publish what it receives from contributors. If it receives mainly scientific material as is the case with LANIOTURDUS - then that is what it prints. More popular articles - like Coleen Mannheimer's comment on the problems of rarity forms - are very welcome.

Secondly LANIOTURDUS has an established function, taken over from its predecessor the Mitteilungen, of presenting data concerning birds in South West Africa/Namibia which is worthy of publication but is unsuitable for more scientific magazines etc. and especially is able to cope with local incidental observations or small scale research work. This material is of interest not only to local birdwatchers but to the international scientific community. This community is also important to the club as the libraries that supply it subscribe to LANIOTURDUS thus helping us meet the costs of producing LANIOTURDUS. We in our desert country with its small population should seek to encourage the interest of outsiders in our birds so that some will come as tourists to see our birds themselves and others will come to carry out research on our birds or will cite examples from our country in their work. It should then be a source of club and national pride that we try to maintain a relatively high standard of scientific writing in our more serious articles.

Editorial policy, established by my predecessor Joris Komen, is that longer scientific articles are sent to one or two experts either local or from outside the country for comment on the material and the way in which it is presented. Such outside refereeing is necessary to remove any local personality difficulties between editor and submitter and are especially necessary because in the case of work in a specialist field it is often the case that no club members are qualified to assess the validity of the material. Shorter serious articles are generally checked through by the editor and one other local referee. Most club members submitting articles are inexperienced in writing for publication. I think most if not all those who have had their work altered or substantially rewritten will agree that the final product is more clearly presented and far easier to comprehend than their original drafts.

Dr. A.J. Williams

Articles and Reports

Artikel & Berichte

BIRDS AT WOLF AND VAN REENEN BAYS, DIAMOND COAST, SWA/NAMIBIA

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(Received March 1987)

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Beobachtungen an 40 Vogelarten wurden bei Wolfsbucht, Van Reenen-Bucht und Umgebung an der Diamanten-Küste von Südwestafrika/Namibia, 20 km und 90 km südlich von Lüderitzbucht vorgenommen. Diese Gebiete werden selten von Ornithologen besucht. In den Buchten kommen häufig Seevögel und Strandläufer vor. Paläarktische Seevögel (Nördliche Riesensturm- vögel, Riesensturm- vögel und Sturmschwalben) werden ins Inland nach Wolfsbucht durch das Schlagen und die natürlichen Sterbefälle der Kaprobben angelockt. Dominikanermöwen, Hartlaubsmöwen, Kapkrähen und Kapstelzen halten die Kaprobbenkolonien rein. Vier paläarktische Strandläufer (Kiebitzregenpfeifer, Steinwälzer, Sichelstrandläufer und Sanderling) überwintern. Einige wenige Landvögel wurden in beiden Gebieten beobachtet, vor allem in der Nähe von der Van-Reenen-Bucht.

ABSTRACT

Observations of 40 species of birds are presented for Wolf Bay, Van Reenen Bay and their environs on the Diamond Coast of South West Africa/Namibia 20 and 90 km south of Lüderitz. These areas are rarely visited by ornithologists. Coastal seabirds and waders frequent these localities. Pelagic seabirds (Northern and Southern Giant Petrels, and European Storm Petrels) are attracted

inshore to Wolf Bay by harvests and by natural mortality of Cape Fur Seals. Kelp Gulls, Hartlaub's Gulls, Black Crows and Cape Wagtails scavenge in the fur seal colonies. Four Palearctic waders (Grey Plover, Turnstone, Curlew Sandpiper and Sanderling) overwinter. Small numbers of land birds were recorded at both localities, especially near Van Reenen Bay.

INTRODUCTION

Wolf Bay (26°49'S, 15°07'E) and Van Reenen Bay (27°24'S, 15°21'E) on the coast of South West Africa/Namibia (SWA) are situated 20 and 90 km south of Lüderitz, respectively (Fig.1). They are rarely visited by ornithologists as they are within Diamond Area No.1, an area of extremely restricted access extending from the Orange River in the south to Lüderitz in the north. We visited Wolf Bay from Lüderitz on 42 days between January 1974 and February 1980, during the months of January, February, May and from July to December, primarily to study Cape Fur Seals *Arctocephalus pusillus*.

Van Reenen Bay is 10 km north-west of the former diamond-mining town of Bogenfels. The South African Sea Fisheries Research Institute commenced a long-term study of fur seals at Van Reenen Bay in December 1975. A field station was established 1 km inland from the fur seal colony. We made 10 visits to the area over 91 days between July 1974 and February 1980. Colleagues from the Sea Fisheries Research Institute made another four visits over 69 days in that period. Visits occurred in the months of May, July and, mostly, from October through February (which includes the fur seal breeding season).

Here we present records of birds in Wolf Bay, Van Reenen Bay and surrounding areas. They are from three environments: the sea, shore and coastal desert. Brief surveys of seabirds along the Diamond Coast were made by Frost and Johnson (1977) in December 1976 between Oranjemund and Lüderitz, and by Siegfried and Johnson (1977) in December 1977 between Oranjemund and Hottentots Bay. Surveys of waders and other birds on the central coastline of SWA have been made by Whitelaw *et al.* (1978), Cooper *et al.* (1980), Hockey (1982) and Ryan *et al.* (1984a). That by Cooper *et al.* (1980) includes some of our observations which are briefly repeated here for completeness. Ornithological surveys in the Namib Desert have been reported by Maclean (1965), Meinertzhagen (1950) and McDonald (1957), but none included the coastline between Oranjemund and Lüderitz. Species' names and the order in which they are presented follow Maclean (1985).

STUDY AREAS

Wolf Bay and nearby Atlas Bay (Fig.2) have stretches of both sandy and rocky shores, while the adjacent shoreline is rocky. Wolf Bay receives limited protection from the prevailing south-westerly weather from the Long Islands. The nearby inland area is dry and sandy with rocky outcrops and salt pans. There are three Cape Fur Seal colonies in the vicinity: one adjacent to and north of Wolf Bay, one immediately south of it (referred to as Atlas Bay), and a third on the Long Islands. Estimates from aerial surveys of the number of fur seal pups born in these colonies in 1976 are 15 000, 24 000 and 10 000 (Shaughnessy 1987). Pup numbers can be multiplied by a factor of between 3.5 and 4.5 to obtain an estimate of the total number of seals at the end of the pupping season. For the Wolf Bay area this leads to an estimate of approximately 200 000 seals.

At Wolf Bay observations were restricted to a total of 10 km of coastline which included Atlas Bay and the two adjacent seal colonies, and nearby waters to the Long Islands. The observations also extended inland along the 2-km long track joining the two bays, and along the road between Wolf Bay and Kolmanskop.

At Van Reenen Bay (Fig.3) there is a sandy beach 3 km long and up to 500 m wide backed by sandy slopes terminating in rock outcrops up to 30 m high. Many of the observations were made from Square Point at the northern end of the bay. The coast beyond Van Reenen Bay in each direction consists of rocky cliffs 40 m high interspersed with sandy bays. Inland the terrain is similar to that at Wolf Bay. Vegetation is sparse with the exception of a patch of shrubs 1 m high in a sandy area 100 m by 50 m situated 1 km south-east of the field station, referred to here as the patch of shrubs near Van Reenen Bay.

There is a colony of Cape Fur Seals on the beach at the northern end of Van Reenen Bay and in adjacent North Cove where 3 000 pups were estimated to have been born in 1976 (Shaughnessy 1987). Another seal colony 0.5 km offshore on Black Rock produced 200 pups that year. Application of the multiplier mentioned above to the number of pups leads to an estimate of approximately 14 000 fur seals in the Van Reenen Bay area. Fur seals were not harvested there.

In the Van Reenen Bay area observations were made for 5 km north and south along the coast and inland from the field station for 3 km. These areas were all covered on foot. Observations made during the drive between Kolmanskop and the field station have been included, as well as observations made at Bogenfels Arch, 10 km south of Van Reenen Bay.

A weather recording station near these localities is at Alexander Bay, 80 km southeast of Van Reenen Bay. It receives

an annual rainfall of 40 mm (Central Statistics Services 1982). Both Wolf Bay and Van Reenen Bay are typical of the coastal region of the Namib Desert, which is similar to vegetation type 31(a), Succulent Karoo of the Namaqualand Coast Belt, of Acocks (1975). No surface water was apparent at any of the land sites where observations were made.

OBSERVATIONS

Jackass Penguin Spheniscus demersus

In January of 1974, 1976 and 1979 single juvenile penguins were moulting in the Wolf Bay fur seal colony, and in January 1979 an adult penguin was moulting in the Atlas Bay colony. Six days after the first sighting, five Black-backed Jackals Canis mesomelas were feeding on a dead penguin 0,5 km inland from the fur seal colony.

Penguins were not seen on the coast near Van Reenen Bay. The head of one was found 200 m west of the field station on 15 May 1976. It had presumably been carried there by a Black-backed Jackal or a Brown Hyaena Hyaena brunnea, both of which frequent the area. A headless penguin body was found 300 m farther west three days later. From these observations of dead penguins it is concluded that their coming ashore on the mainland coast is risky because of predation. Feathers and bones of Jackass Penguins have been reported from scats of Brown hyaenas on the Namib coast, but were not found in scats of Black-backed Jackals by Siegfried (1984) or Stuart and Shaughnessy (1984).

Giant petrels Macronectes giganteus and M. halli

Giant petrels commonly occurred during spring and summer in Wolf Bay and on the eastern side of northern Long Islands, with an average of 83 birds on 26 occasions, and a maximum of 250. The majority was Northern Giant Petrels M. halli. Giant petrels scavenged on fur seal carcasses dumped into the sea after harvests in August, September and December, and on fur seal pups washed into the sea in December and January (Shaughnessy and Voisin 1981). They were observed diving in Wolf Bay to avoid capture by a hoop net (Voisin and Shaughnessy 1980).

Single giant petrels were seen 500 m off Van Reenen Bay twice, on 17 January 1976 and 10 November 1978. Both were immatures, with a dark body and pale bill.

Pintado Petrel Daption capense

Small numbers of Pintado Petrels were seen in the Wolf Bay area on 26, 28 and 29 September 1977. On the last occasion three were feeding on floating fur seal carcasses a few metres

off the Atlas Bay seal colony.

Whitechinned Petrel Procellaria aequinoctialis

A single bird was seen between Long Islands and the mainland at Wolf Bay on 29 September 1977. It was not observed to feed on fur seal carcasses referred to immediately above.

Sooty Shearwater Puffinus griseus

A Sooty Shearwater was seen flying between Long Islands and Wolf Bay on 26 September 1977.

European Storm Petrel Hydrobates pelagicus

Several hundred European Storm Petrels were observed flying between Long Islands and Wolf Bay on 28 September 1977. On the following day a similar number was seen feeding at the surface on floating seal carcasses a few metres off the Atlas Bay fur seal colony.

Cape Gannet Morus capensis

Cape Gannets were occasionally seen flying past the Wolf Bay fur seal colony and Long Islands. On 18 January 1974 one was diving and then feeding at the surface in Atlas Bay.

Gannets were frequently seen off Van Reenen Bay flying along the coast in a northerly or southerly direction. On 19 November 1978 a group of 50 was diving 1 km offshore.

Whitebreasted Cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo

Small numbers of these cormorants were resting on rocks along the shore of Wolf Bay in January 1974 and October 1976.

Cape Cormorant Phalacrocorax capensis

This species was frequently observed flying past Wolf Bay and Van Reenen Bay, or resting on rocks in nearby bays in small numbers (up to eight).

Bank Cormorant Phalacrocorax neglectus

None was recorded at Wolf Bay or Van Reenen Bay. On Long Islands we observed 15 empty nests with ten birds and freshly broken eggs nearby on 16 January 1977, and on 3 February 1980 we observed about 25 occupied nests on each of the northern and middle islands. Cooper (1981) recorded the species breeding there in December 1978.

Crowned Cormorant Phalacrocorax coronatus

These cormorants nest on ledges of rocky outcrops and on cliffs in both Wolf Bay and Atlas Bay fur seal colonies. At Van

Reenen Bay they were seen feeding inshore, and resting on the beach in the fur seal colony and on rock stacks off Square Point in January 1976 (Shaughnessy and Shaughnessy 1978). In the summer of 1978-79 they were breeding at Square Point (Shaughnessy 1979), but no nesting was observed in the following summer. We have noted previously (ibid 1978) that this species does not show fidelity to nesting sites.

Little Egret Egretta garzetta

One bird was seen in the shallows at Wolf Bay on 31 July 1974, feeding from a wave-washed rock.

Greater Flamingo Phoenicopterus ruber

Between 18 and 26 January 1974, Greater Flamingos were seen at Wolf Bay on four occasions and at Atlas Bay twice. Up to 30 adults and one immature were at the former locality, and one immature at the latter. They were all standing in the shallows. On 23 January 1977 and 6 September 1979, 25 and 14 flamingos were seen at Wolf Bay from afar; their specific identity could not be ascertained. Flamingos were not seen at Van Reenen Bay.

Cape Teal Anas capensis

On 19 October 1976 nine Cape Teal were sitting in a tight group in Wolf Bay on calm water among Hartlaub's Gulls. The same number of teal was there the following day riding the waves in a south-westerly storm. On neither occasion were the birds observed to feed.

Rock Kestrel Falco tinnunculus

One or two Rock Kestrels (adult male and female) were sighted in the Van Reenen Bay area on 11 occasions, most frequently at the field station, but also above the beach, at the top of the rocky slope behind the beach, and at the patch of shrubs near Van Reenen Bay.

Ludwig's Bustard Neotis ludwigii

A single bird was seen in the desert 5 km inland from Wolf Bay on 29 September 1977. The local Afrikaans name for this species is duinpou (= dune bustard).

Single birds were sighted at the Van Reenen Bay field station in October 1975. Three birds were at the field station on 11 November 1978. White markings were clearly visible on their wings in flight. On 21 October 1976 two birds were at Bogenfels Arch and 20 minutes later another sighting of two birds was made on the main road in the Diamond Area, 10 km inland from Bogenfels Arch. Clancey (1972) notes that Ludwig's Bustard is most common

in Great Namaqualand; his map of their distribution (p.77) does not include the coastal strip, although that of Maclean (1985) does.

African Black Oystercatcher Haematopus moquini

African Black Oystercatchers were commonly seen in small numbers (about five) in both Wolf Bay and Atlas Bay, with a maximum of seven in the former on 24 January 1976 (Cooper et al. 1980). They frequented nearby fur seal colonies also, including the Long Islands.

Oystercatchers were seen in small numbers in Van Reenen Bay and in bays to the north and south in each month that visits were made, with the exception of July. Maximum numbers sighted were 10 in Van Reenen Bay on 19 November 1978 and 25 on 7 km of coast between Square Point and the northern end of Elisensal on 30 January 1977 (Summers and Cooper 1977, Hockey 1983).

Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula

Two Ringed Plovers were at Wolf Bay on 19 January 1974.

Whitefronted Plover Charadrius marginatus

Several pairs frequented the beaches of Wolf Bay and Atlas Bay. Most individuals had buff-coloured breasts which is consistent with the cline described by Maclean and Liversidge (1978). Small numbers (up to three) were often seen at the southern end of Van Reenen Bay on the beach near a salt water lagoon, or on nearby Torbogenbucht beach.

Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola

Grey Plovers were occasionally seen in Wolf Bay and Atlas Bay in all months that observations were made. They were seen at Van Reenen Bay once (30 January 1976) when eight flew along the beach and once in nearby Torbogenbucht (one on 17 January 1976).

Turnstone Arenaria interpres

Turnstones were common in both Wolf Bay and Atlas Bay, the maximum number recorded being 28 in Wolf Bay on 24 January 1976 (Cooper et al. 1980). Some were present during the winter of 1974. Turnstones were usually feeding among wave-washed rocks or stranded kelp in shallow water. They were not seen at Van Reenen Bay.

Common Sandpiper Tringa hypoleucos

A single bird was seen in Wolf Bay and in Atlas Bay on one occasion each in January 1974.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Curlew Sandpipers were frequently feeding near the water's edge in groups of up to 50 in Wolf Bay and in smaller groups at Atlas Bay. They were more common in summer than winter. They were not recorded at Van Reenen Bay.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Small numbers of Sanderling were seen in Wolf Bay and Atlas Bay, in both January and July.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

One or two Whimbrels were occasionally seen in Wolf Bay and Atlas Bay in October and January.

Spotted Dikkop *Burhinus capensis*

Two sightings of Spotted Dikkops were made in the patch of shrubs near Van Reenen Bay. One bird was seen on 12 November 1978 and three on 27 January 1980.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

Up to 200 Kelp Gulls rested on the southern side of Wolf Bay. The nearest breeding areas are at Ladys Rocks, 6 km to the south and at Halifax and Penguin Islands, 20 km to the north (Shaughnessy 1980a, Crawford *et al.* 1982). Kelp Gulls at Wolf Bay and Atlas Bay scavenge in the fur seal colonies, especially during harvests.

At Van Reenen Bay and along the nearby coastline Kelp Gulls were present in all months that we visited. They were most common at the fur seal colony where they were either scavenging (especially on fur seals and their placentae), resting on the beach, or gliding along the cliff edge above the seal colony.

Kelp Gulls nested at Square Point (up to six nests), in the bay immediately north of Square Point (three nests in January 1976 and two in December 1978) and 200 m south of Torbogenbucht (one nest in January 1980). Of the six nests at Square Point on 3 January 1976, two were empty and the other four contained: four eggs; one egg; three chicks; and an egg and a chick. In the breeding seasons of 1976/77 and 1977/78, chicks fledged at the end of January. Food items found at Kelp Gull nests at Square Point included remains of Cape Fur Seal, rock lobster, fish, squid and a bivalve mollusc (Shaughnessy 1980b).

Siegfried and Johnson (1977) suggested that Kelp Gulls may have been nesting on Black Rock in December 1977. We saw no evidence of nesting there during our visits to Van Reenen Bay.

Hartlaub's Gull *Larus hartlaubii*

These gulls occurred in small numbers (up to ten) in Wolf Bay and Van Reenen Bay and on the adjacent coastlines. They attended fur seal harvests and scavenged in the seal colonies. The nearest nesting colonies of Hartlaub's Gulls are at Possession Island, Halifax Island and at Shark Island, Lüderitz (Cooper *et al.* 1977, Williams 1984).

The species was breeding at Long Islands in early February 1980, when 100 birds were at nests on the northern island. As the observation was made from a fishing vessel, nest contents could not be determined. No nesting was observed at the Long Islands during two earlier visits in mid-January 1977.

Common/Arctic Tern *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

One bird was gliding along the cliff edge at Van Reenen Bay on 22 December 1975. On the following day one was lying near the cliff edge with one wing outstretched. It flew away when we approached.

Many (hundreds) of these terns were seen from a boat off Wolf Bay on two days at the end of September 1977. They were flying south a few metres above the sea within 1 km of the shore.

European Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

European Swallows flew back and forth along the northern end of Van Reenen Bay on two occasions: on 31 January 1978 (one bird for two hours) and 19 November 1978 (four birds for one hour). Ryan *et al.* (1984b) have reported them as common in the Skeleton Coast Park during summer.

Black Crow *Corvus capensis*

On 24 January 1976 three Black Crows were seen 2 km east of Wolf Bay on the road to Kolmanskop. On the same day four were seen at Wolf Bay. Three days later two were at Atlas Bay fur seal colony. Other sightings were of a single bird at Wolf Bay on 7 February 1976, and two birds between Wolf Bay and Kolmanskop on 29 September 1977.

On 16 July 1974 and 16 December 1975 several occupied Black Crow nests were seen on cross-arms of telegraph poles alongside the road that traverses north-south through Diamond Area No.1, 20 km east of Wolf Bay.

At Van Reenen Bay Black Crows were frequent visitors to the fur seal colony and the field station. From December 1975 to May 1976 up to four were sighted together. The maximum number seen was six on 6 December 1979. At the field station they perched on the roof on the water tanks. At the fur seal colony they often fed on recently dead pups and on remains of seals

(mostly dried flesh attached to bones, and fur) that jackals had left on the beach in small piles.

Interactions between Black Crows and a jackal were witnessed once. On 4 January 1976 a jackal interrupted four crows feeding on seal remains. The crows flew up and mobbed the jackal, which then walked away. On the same occasion one of the crows was feeding another which was making no attempt to feed itself.

Tractrac Chat Cercomela tractrac

Two Tractrac Chats were seen at the inland margin of the Atlas Bay fur seal colony on 27 January 1976 one in a gully, the other on bare rocks. Two separate individuals were seen 2 km east of Atlas Bay on 18 October 1976, and two other sightings were made on the two following days in October 1976, each of a single bird, between Atlas Bay and Kolmanskop.

At Van Reenen Bay these birds were seen on 14 separate days, usually alone, but with a maximum of three birds. They were in the fur seal colony, between Square Point and the field station, at the field station and in the nearby patch of shrubs. One was perched on shrubs at the field station on 18 May 1976 and catching insects. Ryan et al. (1984b) noted that Tractrac Chats were common and widespread in the Skeleton Coast Park.

Sicklewinged Chat Cercomela sinuata

A chat which we identified as this species was seen at Van Reenen Bay field station on three occasions in January 1976. Its plumage coloration was more like a Familiar Chat C.familiaris than a Tractrac Chat, but its call was loud, high-pitched and disyllabic, unlike the monosyllabic call of the Familiar Chat (C. F. Clinning pers. comm.).

Karoo Eremomela Eremomela gregalis

Six Karoo Eremomelas were seen in the patch of shrubs near Van Reenen Bay on 12 November and again on 18 November 1978. They were also sighted on Possession Island in November and December (J.Cooper pers. comm.)

Cape Wagtail Motacilla capensis

Cape Wagtails were common in fur seal colonies at Wolf Bay, Atlas Bay and Van Reenen Bay. They fed on insects and larvae in rotting seal carcasses, and also on fresh seal placenta. In the Skeleton Coast Park, Ryan et al. (1984b) found them to be common in several habitats, including the coast.

Blackthroated Canary Serinus atrogularis

A single bird was seen in the patch of shrubs near Van Reenen Bay on 31 December 1975. They are uncommon in Skeleton Coast Park (Ryan et al. 1984b).

Yellow Canary Serinus flaviventris

Yellow Canaries were sighted on two occasions at the patch of shrubs near Van Reenen Bay: a group of four, including one male on 31 December 1975 and eight on 18 November 1978. They are vagrants in Skeleton Coast Park (Ryan et al. 1984b).

Larklike Bunting Emberiza impetuanii

One bird was at the Van Reenen Bay field station on 15 May 1976 and on the following morning. The bird searched under the eaves and called repeatedly from the roof-edge. This species occurs irregularly in the Skeleton Coast Park (Ryan et al. 1984b).

DISCUSSION

Land birds frequently attracted to the fur seal colonies in the vicinity of both Wolf Bay and Van Reenen Bay were Black Crows and Cape Wagtails. There they scavenged on remains of fur seals, as did Kelp Gulls and Hartlaub's Gulls.

Four species of Palaearctic wader were recorded as overwintering in these areas in small numbers, namely Grey Plover, Turnstone, Curlew Sandpiper and Sanderling. The first two were also found overwintering on coastal islands and at Lüderitz Bay by Cooper et al. (1980).

More species of seabirds were sighted in the vicinity of Wolf Bay than Van Reenen Bay, both coastal birds (cormorants) and pelagic seabirds (petrels). An attraction to seabirds at Wolf Bay is food provided by the fur seal colonies, especially in spring when fur seals are harvested and in summer when many pups die. Furthermore, upwelling on the coast of SWA is greatest in the vicinity of Lüderitz (Shannon et al. 1984). Concentrations of seabirds and Cape Fur Seals are both likely to find the marine environment near Wolf Bay attractive as a result of enhanced productivity associated with upwelling. Similarly, few of the pelagic seabirds were recorded inshore in the Skeleton Coast Park (Ryan et al. 1984b).

Land birds were recorded as more prevalent in the vicinity of Van Reenen Bay than Wolf Bay. This is partly attributed to the fact that we spent more time farther inland near Van Reenen Bay, because the field station was 1 km from the coast. Another important factor was the favourable habitat for insectivorous birds

provided by the patch of shrubs 1 km south-east of the field station.

Of the 40 species included here for Wolf Bay and Van Reenen Bay, all but four were also reported from the Skeleton Coast Park by Ryan et al. (1984b). These are Bank Cormorants, Crowned Cormorants, Sicklewinged Chat and Karoo Eremomela. A fifth species, Hartlaub's Gull, was reported but considered doubtful.

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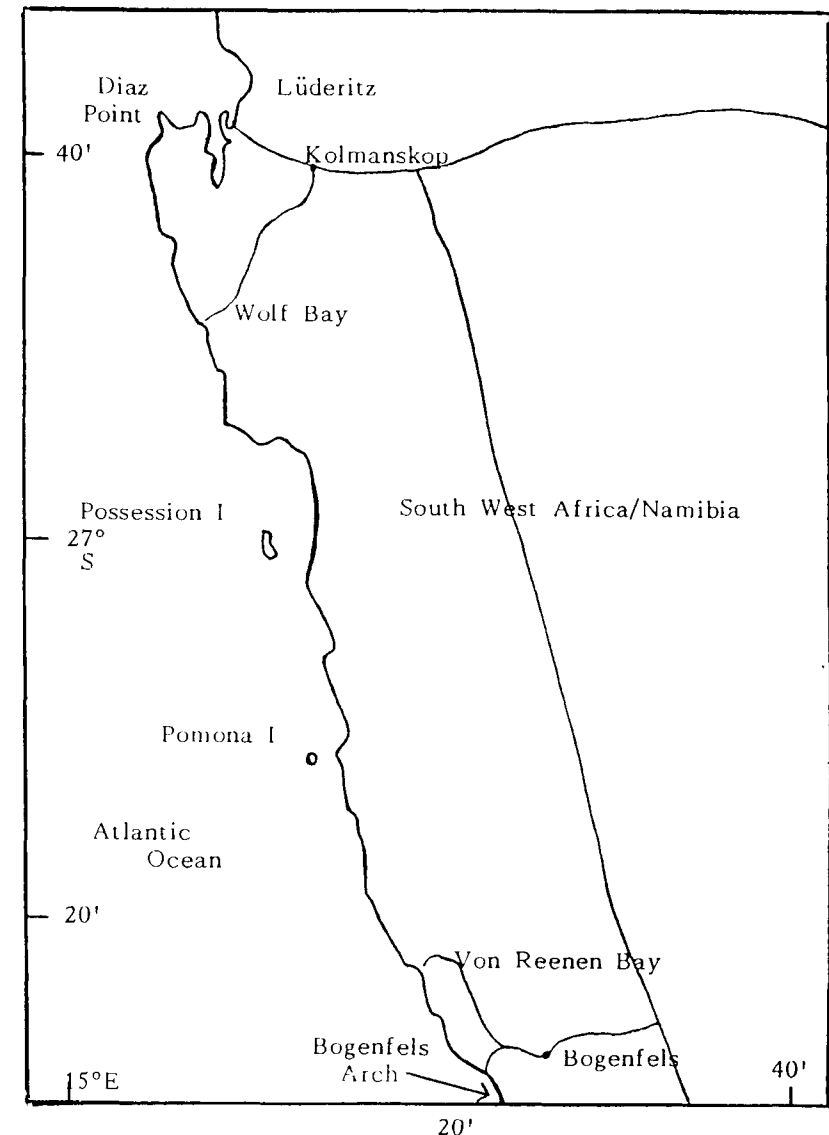


Fig. 1 - Map of Diamond Area No.1

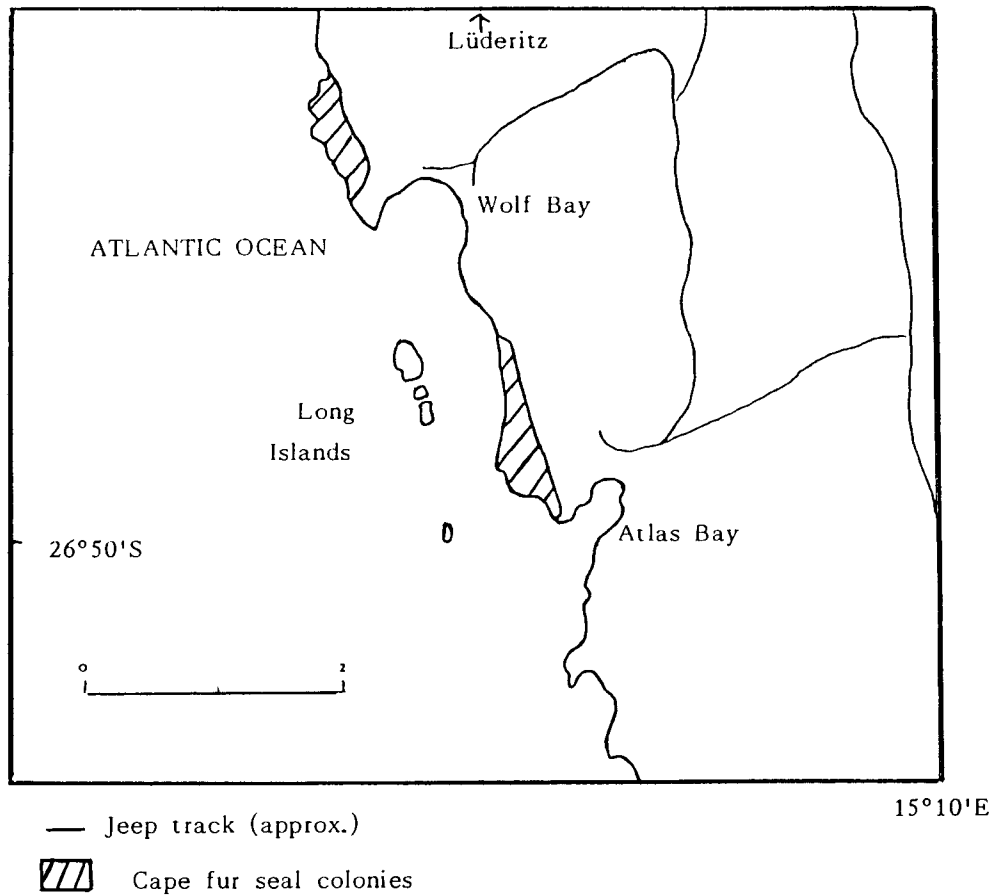


Fig. 2. - Map of Wolf Bay and vicinity

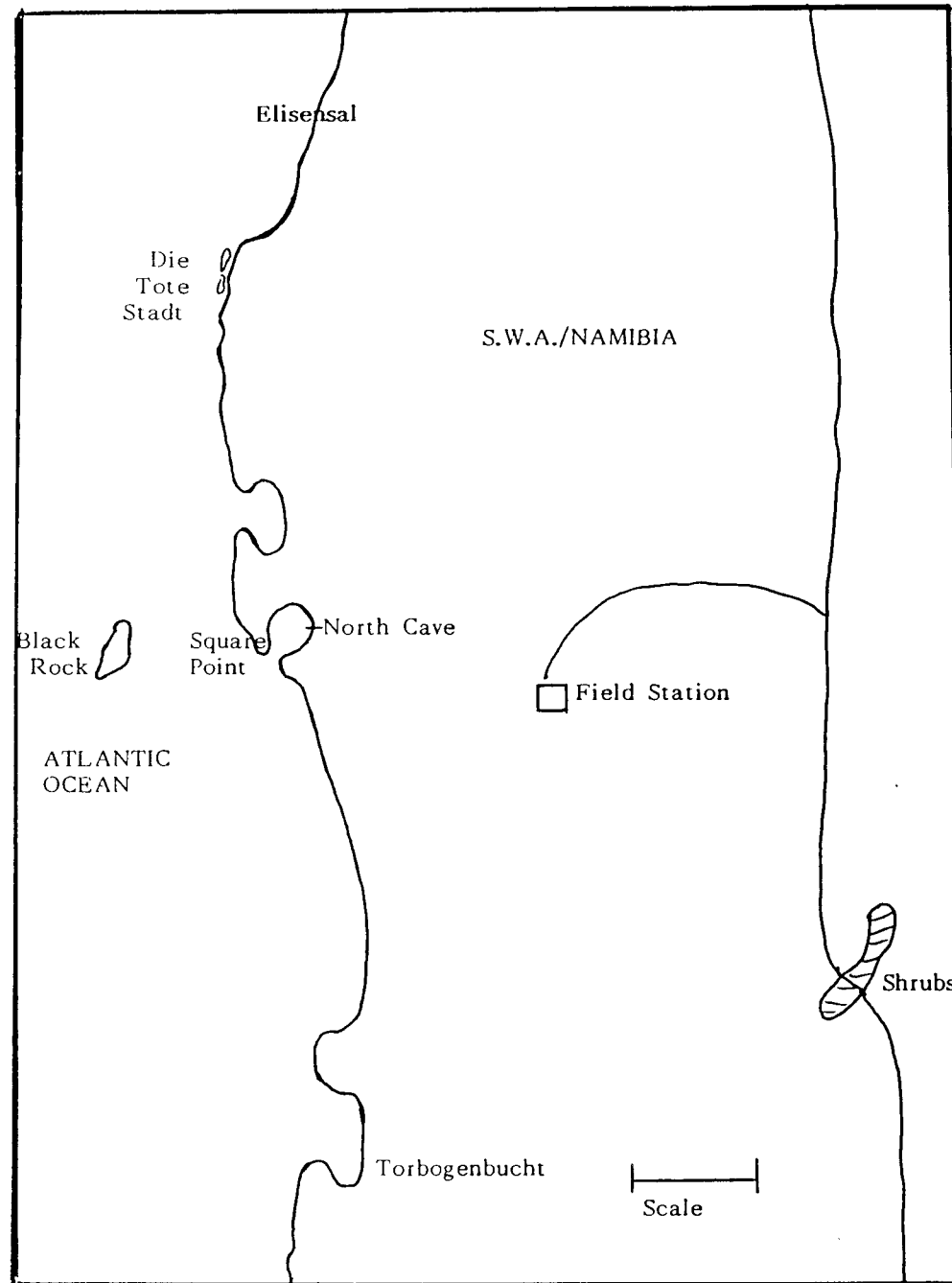


Fig. 3. - Sketch map of Van Reenen Bay and vicinity (German place names from Kaiser 1926).