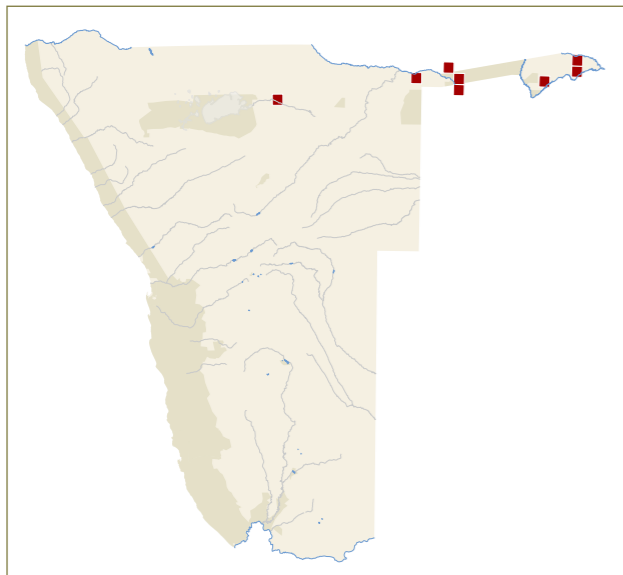


riverine forest degradation along Namibia's northern rivers where human population density can exceed 100 people per km<sup>2</sup> (Mendelsohn & el Obeid 2004).

**Black Sparrowhawk |  
*Accipiter melanoleucus***



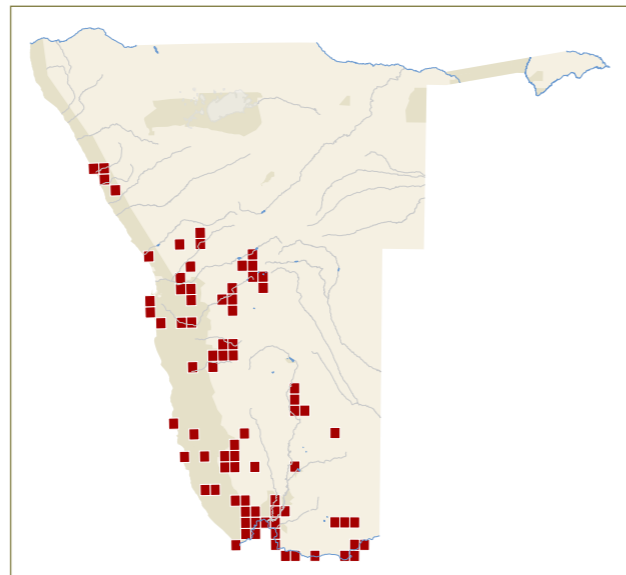
Widespread throughout the well-wooded regions of sub-Saharan Africa, this bird is locally common and in addition to breeding in indigenous woodlands and riparian belts, it readily nests in alien pine plantations in former grassland areas (Brown *et al.* 1982, Curtis & Koeslag 2004, Tarboton & Allan 1984). Although it has expanded its range in southern Africa, this has not extended to Namibia, where it occurs sporadically (with a frequency of 2% to 8%) only in the north-east in the indigenous woodlands around the Okavango River, the Linyanti Swamps and the eastern floodplain of the Zambezi River (Allan 1997f). One recent sighting in the



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Otavi broad-leaved woodlands suggests that it extends its range in wet years (B Nebe pers. obs.). Its area of occupancy in Namibia is only 735 km<sup>2</sup>, and there are no breeding records for the country (Jarvis *et al.* 2001).

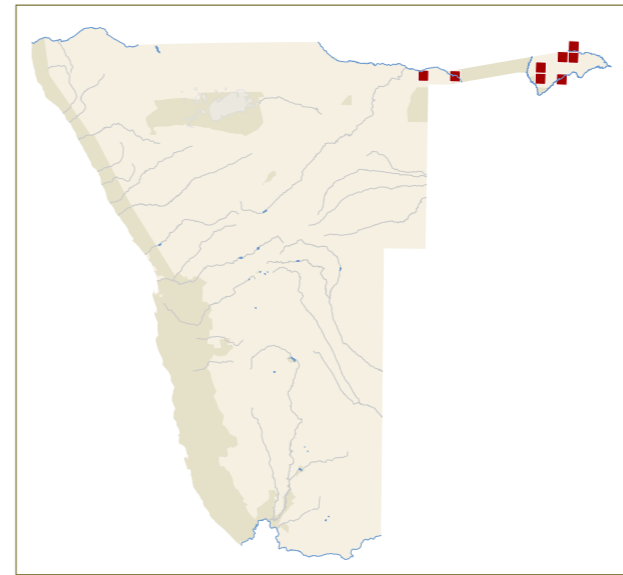
**Jackal Buzzard |  
*Buteo rufofuscus***



Endemic to southern Africa, about 98% of the population occurs in South Africa, where it is abundant and widespread (Mendelsohn 1997a). The northern tail of the distribution spreads through the south-western mountainous regions of Namibia at a reporting rate rarely above 30% (Mendelsohn 1997a). Its area of occupancy is large at 45,800 km<sup>2</sup>, but it is uncommon throughout much of that range. The only nest records are from the Uniab River, where a nest with two young was found in November 1978 (Jarvis *et al.* 2001) and from the Naukluft with eggs laid in November (Brown *et al.* 2015). This

species has a curious overlap with the Namibian form of the Augur Buzzard *B. augur*, and several cases of apparent hybridisation have been noted in the Namib-Naukluft Mountains (P Bridgeford pers. obs.) and in the Huab River valley (RE Simmons pers. obs.), and studies of its ecology and hybridisation with the Augur Buzzard are required.

**Ayres's Hawk-Eagle (Ayres' Eagle) | *Aquila ayresii*  
(*Hieraaetus ayresii*)**



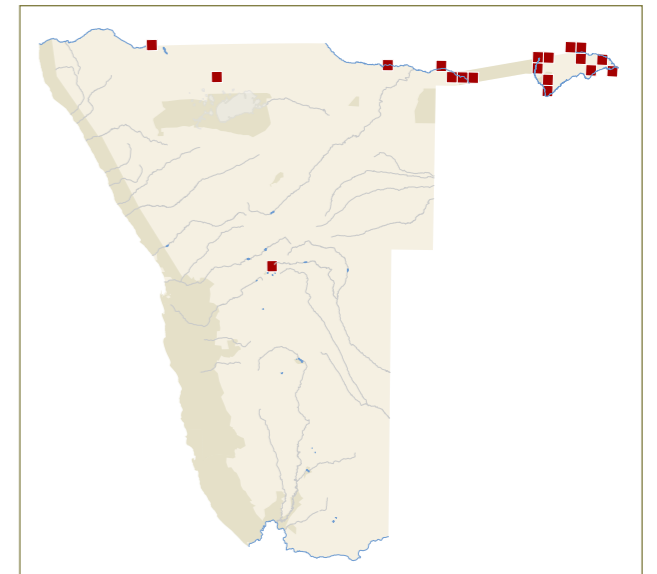
This naturally rare, bird-eating species has a wide range over tropical African woodlands, but has a highly restricted range in southern Africa (Brown *et al.* 1982, Jenkins 1997d). It is widely scattered in Zimbabwe, and vagrant to South Africa and the Chobe woodlands of Botswana. In Namibia, it is found only in the Caprivi Strip in woodlands bordering the Zambezi, Chobe and Kwando rivers at a reporting rate of 2% (Jenkins 1997d), while young birds have been recorded from the Mahango region of Bwabwata National Park on the Okavango River. Its area of occupancy covers just 4,000 km<sup>2</sup> (Jarvis *et al.* 2001) and it is most likely to be seen in the summer months, suggesting it is not resident throughout the year. One breeding record for Namibia had an egg laid in May (Brown *et al.* 2015). Population size is unknown and reasons for its rarity are poorly understood, although breeding success is poor in many areas (Brown *et al.* 1982). It was classified as *Near Threatened* in South Africa (Barnes 2000) but a recent assessment (Taylor *et al.* in press) has down-listed it to *Least Concern*.

**Long-crested Eagle |  
*Lophaetus occipitalis***

A rare resident of Namibia's north-eastern broad-leaved woodlands, this striking eagle prefers the riparian fringes of the Okavango, Kwando and Zambezi rivers (Jenkins



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1997e). It occurs widely in sub-Saharan Africa's moist woodlands, especially those associated with wetlands, where it hunts mainly mammalian prey (Johnson 2005a). It occupies an area of 8,300 km<sup>2</sup> in Namibia, of which 25% occurs in protected areas such as the Mudumu and Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) national parks and the Mahango and adjacent areas of the Bwabwata National Park. Birds occasionally stray south and west to Windhoek (Thirion 2002) and Etosha National Park (Jenkins 1997e). Birds recorded in the Ruacana area extend down the Kunene River from Angola. Given that it occurs at densities of 2.3 pairs per 100 km<sup>2</sup> elsewhere (Tarboton & Allan 1984), Namibia could hold 191 pairs but this is unlikely, given reporting rates of 50% lower than those in South Africa. We therefore estimate Namibia's population at about 90 pairs (approximately 200 birds). Two nest records come from the Zambezi River, with eggs laid in September and October (Brown *et al.* 2015). It is not threatened anywhere, but its moist woodland habitat is under some pressure in Namibia from deforestation for crop fields and timber for housing and energy.