

LANIOTURDUS

Volume 49 No 1

March 2016

Namibia Bird Club



since 1962

Journal of the Namibia Bird Club
www.namibiabirdclub.org

About the Namibia Bird Club

The Namibia Bird Club was founded in 1962 and has been active since then. The club's mission is to contribute to Namibian ornithology by, amongst other things, arranging regular birding outings, conducting bird ringing and atlasing excursions and educating the public about the value of birds. To achieve this, we organize monthly visits to interesting birding sites around Windhoek as well as regular visits to Avis Dam and the Gammams Sewage Works and occasional weekend trips further afield. Bird club members also participate in the African Waterbird Census twice a year.

Experienced birders are more than happy to help beginners and novices on these outings. If you have a transport problem or would like to share transport please contact a committee member. Depending on the availability of speakers and suitable material we present occasional lecture or video evenings at the Namibia Scientific Society premises. Members receive a digital newsletter, *Namibia Bird News*, which includes a programme of forthcoming events and the Bird Club journal, *Lanioturdus*.

The Namibia Bird Club is not affiliated to any global or regional organization and relies entirely on members' subscriptions and donations to fund its activities.

The opinions expressed in this journal are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Namibia Bird Club or its committee.

Instructions to Authors

Lanioturdus is a journal dedicated to birds and birding. Although the journal's primary focus is on Namibia, articles from other geographical parts of the globe will also be considered for publication. Authors should use common and scientific names of southern African birds as published in *Roberts' VII*. For other regions, English and scientific names following BirdLife International's species list (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species>) should be used. Text should be submitted as a MS Word document. Photos, maps and figures should be sent as separate jpeg images, graphs as MS Excel charts or jpeg images and tables as MS Word or Excel documents. Please indicate in the article text where these should be placed.



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Vol. 49 (1) 2016

March 2016

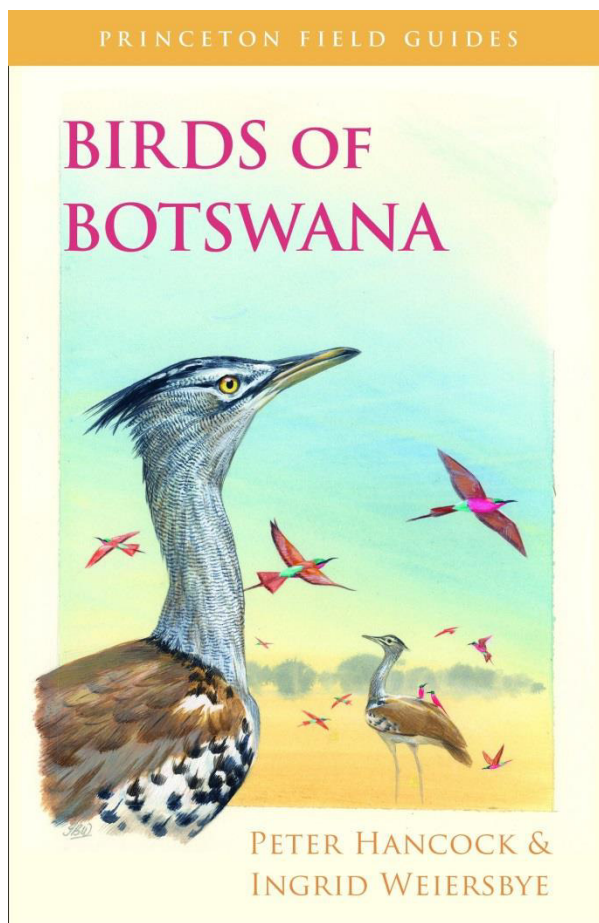
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**Book Review: *Birds of Botswana*
by Peter Hancock and Ingrid Weiersbye,
Princeton University Press**

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“Birds of Botswana” by Peter Hancock and Ingrid Weiersbye is a 398 page field guide on the avifauna of Botswana. The book covers the 595 species known to occur in Botswana (by November 2014) in well-illustrated, detailed species accounts.

The introductory chapter gives the user a good background to the country of Botswana and it also includes a handy section on “Where to see birds in Botswana” which will no doubt be very useful to visitors who do not know the country but

want to experience its birdlife to the fullest.

The species accounts are very detailed, doubtlessly benefitting from Peter’s intimate and long-term knowledge of Botswana’s birds. The range maps give one an immediate indication of where the bird occurs and the breeding bars give one an idea of when to expect the bird and when it breeds. These will prove handy when identifying e.g. migratory birds.

The excellent illustrations show the birds in their local race and where sexes and ages differ, these are also illustrated. Perhaps one shortcoming of the illustrations is, that diagnostic features e.g. the yellow eye-ring of the Red-billed Spurfowl, are not pointed out as is the custom in many other field guides.

The author uses the IOC bird names, which is the accepted norm but perhaps the addition of alternate names in the species accounts will help dispel confusion to users that are not up to date with the current IOC names.

During a brief field test I found the alphabetical quick index inside the front cover invaluable because it allows one to quickly find the page of the species in question.

This book is definitely an excellent addition to the ornithological literature of southern Africa