

LANIOTURDUS

Newsletter of the SWA/Namibia Bird Club

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SWA/NAMIBIA VOGELKLUB
eine Zweigstelle der
SWA Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft
und der
Southern African
Ornithological Society

Beiträge bitte an den Redakteur p.A. SWA Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft, Postfach 67, Windhoek 9000, SWA senden.

Mitgliedsbeiträge für die S.A.O.S. und die Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für 1987 sind wie folgt:

| | |
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| Privatperson: S.A.O.S. + SWA Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft (mit Ostrich) | R 58.00 |
| Privatperson: S.A.O.S. +SWA Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft (ohne Ostrich) | R 50.00 |
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Bemerkungen an Mitarbeiter

Manuskripte sollten mit Schreibmaschine (oder in gut leserlicher Handschrift) geschrieben sein und zwar mit doppeltem Zeilenabstand auf A4 (30 x 21 cm) Format. Skizzen, Karten und Tabellen sollten auf weißem Qualitätspapier mit schwarzer Tinte gezeichnet werden. Klare Schwarz-weiss-Photographien (15 x 20 cm) können eingereicht werden, um die Arbeit zu illustrieren.

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Projects... Projekte

LOOK OUT FOR YELLOW WADERS THIS SPRING

An expedition from the University of Durham will be in the Middle East in August and September this year. Amongst other things they will be putting yellow(picric) plumage dyes on waders migrating southwards through the United Arab Emirates. Some of these waders may be en route to southern Africa. Please watch out for these birds. If you are lucky enough to see one, please contact Prof. L.G. Underhill, Department of Mathematical Statistics, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7700 (phone (021) 650-3227). Details required are place, date, species and where the dye was placed.

*****% % % % % % % % % % % %*****

BUSTARD ALERT

The three large bustards of southern Africa, Ludwig's Bustard (Ludwigse Pou), Stanley's Bustard(Veldpou) and Kori Bustard (Gompou), are threatened species, and are classified as vulnerable in the South African Red Data Book. These magnificent birds have decreased due to habitat alteration and direct persecution and the assistance of active birdwatchers is needed for a research project being launched to assess their current status.

Ludwig's Bustard is restricted to the karoo and associated desert areas of western South Africa, extending north through the western half of South West Africa/Namibia to the Angolan border. The Kori Bustard also inhabits these areas but, in addition, it is found in the northern and eastern Transvaal bushveld, Botswana and throughout South West Africa/Namibia. The distribution of Stanley's Bustard does not overlap with that of the other two bustards as it is restricted to the lowlying fynbos of the extreme southern Cape, for example, the Agulhas area, and the high rainfall, sour grasslands of the eastern half of South Africa.

Ludwig's Bustard and Stanley's Bustards are similar in size and coloration but they are unlikely to be confused because they inhabit different areas in southern Africa. Both are intermediate in size between the huge Kori Bustard and the smaller korhaans, for example, the Karoo Korhaan (Vaalkorhaan).

These bustards are subject to large-scale, but poorly understood, migratory movements within their ranges. Their general biology is similarly poorly-known.

The Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, in conjunction with the Endangered Wildlife Trust, has launched a research project to investigate the distribution, movements and biology of these bustards, including an assessment of the threats

to their continued survival. This project will initially concentrate on Ludwig's and Kori Bustards in the karoo and western parts of southern Africa. The assistance of birdwatchers in this task is essential, because of the vast area over which these birds roam. You can contribute to this important project by recording the following details whenever you see these birds:

- 1) The date and precise locality of the sighting (quarter-degree square, if possible, farm name and distance and direction to the nearest town).
- 2) The species and numbers of bustards seen.
- 3) The habitat where the birds were, e.g. karooveld, namib, grassland, thornveld, agricultural fields, etc.
- 4) Your name and address.

If you are familiar with these birds and have observed them in the same area for many years, we would especially appreciate information on when these bustards move into and out of your area/farm and whether they have decreased, remained stable or even increased in numbers. We also need bird club members to provide us with the addresses of farmers in outlying areas whom we could contact concerning bustard movements.

All information received will be acknowledged and, with your help, we hope to safeguard the future of these birds. Gathering information on bustards would be a useful activity while out bird atlassing. Anyone with information or requiring further details should please contact me at the following address:

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