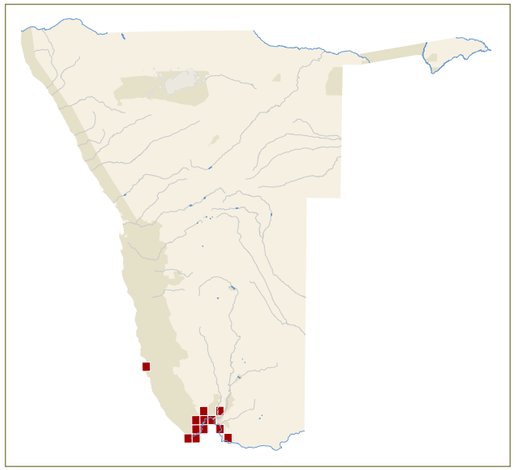
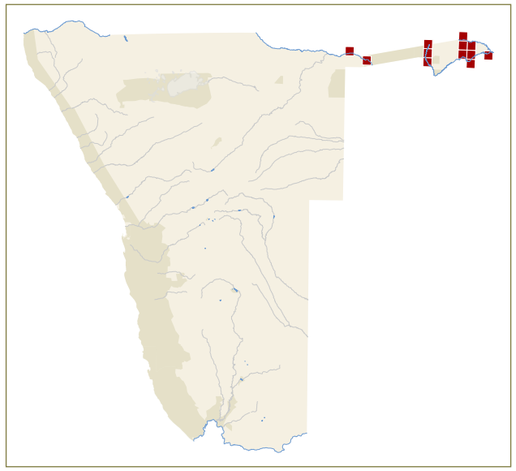
/Ai-/Ais and Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) national parks (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is attracted to flowering *Protea*, *Watsonia* and *Aloe* spp., where it can reach densities in excess of 350 birds per km^2 (Fraser 1997a). Populations are reduced where Rooikrans *Acacia cyclops* has invaded its preferred habitat, but not where gums *Eucalyptus* spp. have done so (Fraser & Crowe 1990). This may have influenced its distribution along the Orange River but population size is not known. It is not of conservation priority in Namibia because it is so common elsewhere.

Southern Double-collared Sunbird (Lesser Double-collared Sunbird) | *Cinnyris chalybeus (Nectarinia chalybea)*



One of the smallest of the sunbird tribe, this species is virtually endemic to South Africa, with a tiny distribution extending into Namibia across the Orange River (Fraser 1997b). It prefers fynbos vegetation, but is also found in the semi-arid Karoo and along rivers, explaining its presence along the length of the Orange River in Namibia (Fraser 1997b). Small numbers are also seen occasionally in gardens in Lüderitz (J Kemper pers. obs.). It occurs at densities of 150 to 200 birds per km^2 in South Africa, but densities and total population size is unknown in Namibia. It occupies an area of 4,800 km^2, of which 17% occurs within the protected areas of the /Ai-/Ais and Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) national parks (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Reporting rates were higher than for the Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa*; several quarter-degree squares along the Orange River had reporting rates of 40%. It seems to adapt well to infestations of alien trees (Fraser & Crowe 1990), which may explain it presence along most of the Orange River. Its common occurrence in South Africa and adaptation to alien vegetation precludes it from conservation concern in Namibia.

Copper Sunbird (Coppery Sunbird) | *Cinnyris cupreus (Nectarinia cuprea)*



Across the Zimbabwean Mashonaland Highveld, westwards through the north-east of Namibia, including along the Okavango River, the Copper Sunbird has a virtually identical pattern of occurrence to the Purple-banded Sunbird *Cinnyris bifasciatus* (*Nectarinia bifasciata*) (Tree 1997e). Its area of occupancy in Namibia is 2,700 km^2, smaller than that of the Purple-banded Sunbird, of which 3% occurs within protected areas; reporting rate was 4% (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Copper Sunbirds inhabit riverine woodland, forest edge and clearings, similar but more diverse habitat to that occupied by Purple-banded Sunbirds. There are two breeding records from Namibia, from the Kwando River bridge near Susuwe, where a nest with three eggs was found in January 1996 and from Katima Mulilo, also with eggs in January (Brown *et al.* 2015). Both species may suffer local degradation of habitat as riparian woodland, particularly on the Okavango River, is heavily utilised by the dense populations of local people

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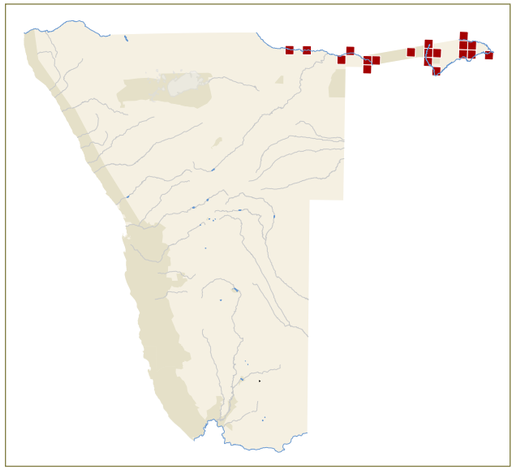
and is damaged by elephants (Mendelsohn & el Obeid 2004). Both species occur widely outside Namibia and the Namibian range of both is less than 1% of their African range. Both species also appear to have increased their range in north-east Namibia, because neither species was recorded by Skead (1967).

Purple-banded Sunbird | *Cinnyris bifasciatus (Nectarinia bifasciata)*



This species occurs mainly in East Africa, south to the eastern coastal regions of Mozambique and into Swaziland and Durban in South Africa. It is rare inland, but it is found in the northern and eastern highveld of Zimbabwe, and continues westward through north-east Namibia as far as 19°E on the Okavango River (Tree 1997i). There, it occurs in riparian broad-leafed woodland wherever nectar-bearing flowers occur. Records indicate it is a very rare visitor (5% reporting rate), occurring only between November and June and disappearing in winter (Tree 1997i). Its area of occupancy covers 7,100 km^2, of which 28% falls within the protected areas of the Nkasa Rupara (Mamili) National Park and the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is not considered threatened, although it may be locally impacted by wood clearing activities (Tree 1997i).

Cape Weaver | *Ploceus capensis*

This well-known species is virtually endemic to South Africa and an uncommon resident in Namibia, found only along the Orange River. In Oranjemund, it occurs regularly in some gardens and breeds at the Oranjemund Golf Club (Anderson 2006); females with brood patches have

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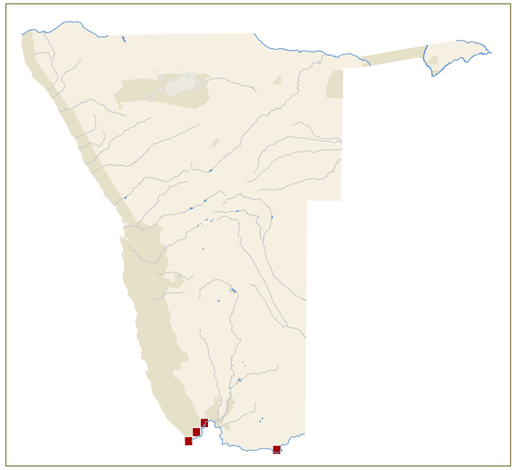

been ringed next to the golf course (HD Oschadleus pers. comm.). Birds have been recorded at Vellorsdrif, 250 km east of Oranjemund. It also roosts and nests in reeds that are frequent along the river, but Simmons & Allan (2002) did not find it in 50 km surveys east of Noordoewer. The population along the lower Orange River is disjunct from that found in Little Namaqualand, South Africa (Anderson 2006). It occupies an area of 1,800 km^2, of which 8% occurs within the protected areas of the /Ai-/Ais and Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) national parks (Jarvis *et al.* 2001, Frazee *et al.* 2005). It seems likely that the bird is more common than the small distribution suggests, given its propensity for agricultural areas in South Africa and the increase in farming along the Orange River. Its commonness elsewhere precludes it from being a conservation priority in Namibia.