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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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EDITORIAL... REDAKTION

Für die verspätete Herausgabe des LANIOTURDUS, Vol. 23, No. 1, der durch den Wechsel in der Redaktion hervorgerufen wurde, möchte ich mich bei Ihnen entschuldigen. Auch hoffe ich, dass diese Ausgabe Ihren Beifall finden wird, und dass wir Ihre Resonanz erwarten dürfen.

Es traten nicht nur Veränderungen innerhalb der Redaktion ein, sondern auch im Komitee des SWA/Namibia Vogelklubs. Die neuen Komiteemitglieder möchte ich alle herzlich willkommen heissen, und ihnen in ihrem neuen Amt Freude und Erfolg wünschen.

Coleen Mannheimer spreche ich meinen besonderen Dank für ihre wertvolle Mitarbeit im Foto-Archiv aus. Ich hoffe sehr, dass wir grosszügige Spender für noch fehlende Lichtbilder werben können. Herrn Walter Böttger, Direktor der Firma SWA Chemicals (Pty) Ltd., danken wir für seine grosszügige Spende, die es uns erlaubt, den LANIOTURDUS in Umschläge zu verpacken und somit ungeknickt zu verschicken.

Frau H. Dedig danke ich für die Schreibearbeit dieses Manuskriptes. Gleichzeitig bitte ich die deutschsprachigen Mitglieder oder Interessenten des SWA/Namibia Vogelklubs, uns Berichte auf Deutsch zu schicken, da momentan leider nur englische Artikel vorliegen, und mir die nötige Zeit fehlt, eigene Aufsätze zu verfassen.

Isgart Henrichsen

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« OHNE WÖRTE »

Articles and Reports

Artikel & Berichte

COASTAL BIRD COUNTS ALONG THE NAMIB COAST,
CAPE CROSS TO LÜDERITZ, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER
1985

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The numbers of seabirds, waders (Charadrii) and other birds which occur along the Namib Coast are, except for areas of major bird concentrations, little known. In particular there is scarcely any information on the numbers of birds which occur along the coast between the southern end of Sandwich Harbour (23°25'S) and Danger Rocks (26°32'S), north of Lüderitz (Siegfried & Johnson 1977, Clinning 1978). The lack of data from this stretch of coast is primarily due to physical difficulties of travel there. The hinterland is the Namib sand-sea and along much of the coast steep dunes or cliffs fall directly into the sea. For most of this century this entire section of coast has been part of the diamond concession area and access has been severely restricted.

In the period 15 November to 1 December 1985 a series of surveys was carried out to try to rectify the lack of information on coastal birds along this section of coast. This article presents the resulting data from an aerial survey of the entire coast between Cape Cross and Lüderitz, and from foot, car and boat counts in some accessible areas between Spencer Bay and Lüderitz.

AERIAL SURVEY

On 15 November an aerial reconnaissance was made from Cape Cross to the wreck of the "Bolen" at Conception Bay, and on 16 November this reconnaissance was continued south to Lüderitz. During the survey a two-seater plane was flown along the tideline or just off-shore at between 30 and 70 m above sea-level.

Breeding seabirds were seen only on the guano platforms at Swakopmund and on guano islands off the coast. No new colonies were found. No breeding was observed at either the Cape Cross or Bird Rock guano platforms. At the last count, in November 1978, the Cape Cross platforms held 30,600 pairs of Cape Cormorants *Phalacrocorax capensis* and 133 pairs of Kelp Gulls *Larus dominicanus*, and the Bird Rock Platform held 2,569 pairs of Cape Cormorants (Cooper et al. 1982, Crawford et al. 1982). Subsequent

ground observations in December (Cape Cross: R. Loutit pers. comm, Bird Rock: P. van der Westhuizen, pers. comm.) confirm the almost total absence of breeding seabirds at these platforms in late 1985. During the aerial survey some 5 000 - 10 000 Cape Cormorants were seen feeding in an immense flock in inshore waters about 5 km north of Swakopmund saltworks.

Flocks of terns were counted along the entire survey route except in Walvis Bay and Walvis lagoon and in Sandwich Harbour where regular ground counts are carried out. Species identification was impossible but ground observations suggest that almost all of the terns would be Common Terns *Sterna hirundo* or Sandwich Terns *Sterna sandvicensis* with the former commoner by a ratio of between 3:1 and 5:1. Counts were of flocks flushed by the low flying (30 m) plane. Numbers were rounded to the nearest 5 or 10 birds. A total of 9,755 terns was counted with the majority (84%) on the sandy shore between Cape Cross and Henties Bay and only 20 (0.2%) between Meob Bay and Lüderitz (Table 1).

The total number of resident large (and so countable) coastal birds between the southern end of Sandwich Harbour and Danger Rocks was 2,284. The species composition in these two count areas was: Kelp Gull 613, Hartlaub's Gull *Larus hartlaubii* 230, and cormorants *Phalacrocorax* sp. (mainly Cape Cormorants and Bank Cormorants *P. neglectus* 1,009 (Table 1). The plane was at maximum elevation over the rocky areas which are the favoured roosting areas of cormorants and it was impossible to distinguish which species of cormorants were present in the roosting flocks. Kelp Gulls were present along almost the entire coastline but Hartlaub's Gulls were almost all in discrete flocks of 30 to 100 birds. Waders were flushed from open sandy beaches where the plane could fly low but were seldom observed where steep dunes or rocks formed the coastline and the plane was forced to fly higher or farther offshore. Because of this bias in recording no data on waders are presented here.

SHORE PATROLS

Counts were made from the Lüderitz crayfish factory (26°37'S 15°9'E) north to a point (26°34'S 15°8'E) southeast of Danger Rocks on 18 November, and in the Hottentot Bay area between Auros (26°7'S 14°58'E) to Wreck Point (26°17'S) opposite Ichaboe Island on 19 and 20 November. On the first of December a brief landing was made on Flamingo Island at high tide (this island is joined to the mainland at low tide) from the fisheries inspection vessel Nautilus II. In addition a reconnaissance of the shore of Spencer Bay, between Dolphin and North Heads, was made from close inshore on an inflatable boat on 29 November. Data obtained in these four counts are presented in Table 2.

A total of 1,074 birds was counted during these four surveys, mostly resident species. The 143 African Black Oystercatchers *Haematopus moquini* counted represent 4.9% of the estimated world population (Hockey 1982). No landing was made at Spencer Bay but the boat kept close in along the entire shore of the bay. All birds the size of Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* or larger could be seen although smaller waders might have been missed. A breeding colony of Cape Cormorants (c.40 nests) was found on North Head.

In Hottentot Bay a colony of Whitebreasted Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo* was found breeding on derelict piers (12 nests on the west pier, one on the east pier). During an 18 km walk to get help for a sand bogged vehicle two groups each of six Damara Terns *Sterna balaenarum* were flushed from the dried out sandflats south of Hottentot Bay where breeding was proven in 1977 (Siegfried and Johnson 1977). Six species of passerine birds were seen during the Hottentot Bay-Wreck Point survey: European Swallow *Hirundo rustica*, Familiar Chat *Cercomela familiaris*, Tractrac Chat *Cercomela tractrac*, Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapula striata*, Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis* and Redbacked Shrike *Lanius collurio*. The two chats and the wagtail are probably resident. Of the three Palaearctic migrant species the swallow is probably an irregular visitor. The occurrence of the flycatcher and the shrike, both migrants which normally pass their interbreeding period in thornbush savanna inland in SWA/Namibia, was unexpected. Observations of birds in several visits to the municipal sewage works in Lüderitz over the period 16 November to 1 December indicated arrival of Palaearctic migrants throughout the second half of November. It seems likely that the birds observed along the desert coast were newly arrived migrants which had over-flown their normal interbreeding quarters.

CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

Though superficial, in the case of the aerial survey, the surveys reported here provide some useful conservation information.

The total failure of Cape Cormorants to breed at either the Cape Cross or Bird Rock guano platforms in November-December 1985 implies the failure to breed, emmigration, or death of 33, 166 pairs or 12% of the world breeding population at the time of the 1978 census (Cooper et al. 1982). Numbers are also greatly reduced on guano islands off the Namib Coast (Directorate of Nature Conservation, unpublished data) suggesting a massive shortage of appropriate food - small shoaling pelagic fish - along the Namib Coast. This is probably in part due to recent overexploitation of anchovy stocks.

A ground survey is still needed of the wader and possible

Damara Tern populations along the coast between Sandwich Harbour and the southern end of Meob Bay which the aerial survey showed to be the only areas capable of supporting sizeable populations of these species. Further surveys of the rocky coastal areas south of Meob Bay are needed to check whether there are any further small colonies of cormorants there and to assess the population of African Black Oystercatchers (of which this coast may support between 5% and 8% of the world population).

The relatively small length of coast, and the small area of suitable terrain inland from this coast, suitable for breeding by the Damara Tern suggests that past estimates for the population of this tern between Sandwich Harbour and Lüderitz have been exaggerated. The world population is therefore likely to be less than has been estimated. This emphasises the importance of the main established breeding area of this species which lies between Swakopmund and Terrace Bay and means that conservation of this species, of which SWAfrica/Namibia supports an estimated 90% of the world breeding population, and which is listed as "Rare" and thus at risk in the ICBP/IUCN Red Data Book for African birds (Collar & Stuart 1985), is an even more urgent task for national conservation bodies.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mr. Truman, General Manager of Consolidated Diamond Mines, SWA (Pty) Ltd., Oranjemund is thanked for permission to enter the diamond concession area between Lüderitz and Hottentot Bay. It is a pleasure to thank Mr. G. Noli for his skill and patience in piloting the plane during the aerial survey along an extremely hostile coast where even a small accident could have been fatal. Thanks are due too to Mr. R. Brettschneider of Lüderitz and Ms. I. Henrichsen for assistance during the counts at Hottentot Bay and near Lüderitz, and not least to Mr. M. Griffin for having a winch with which to extricate the bogged down vehicle which would otherwise have been lost when the tide came in. It is also a pleasure to thank Captain D. Lensley and the crew of the Nautilus II for the landing at Flamingo Island and Captain Lensley for the inflatable boat inspection of Spencer Bay. Thanks too go to Mr. R. Loutit and Mr. P. van der Westhuizen for their December observations at the guano platforms.

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Table 1: Number of birds counted during an aerial survey of the coast between Cape Cross and Lüderitz, November 15-16, 1985.

English and scientific names	Count areas				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Terns <u>Sterna</u> spp.	8,190	955	590	20	9,755
Cormorants <u>Phalacrocorax</u> spp.	-	-	139	870	1,099
Kelp Gull <u>Larus dominicanus</u>	-	-	265	348	613
Hartlaub's Gull <u>Larus hartlaubii</u>	-	-	2	228	230
Total	-	-	966	1,466	11,697

Count areas: 1) Cape Cross to Henties Bay; 2) Henties Bay to the southern end of Sandvis; 3) Sandvis to the southern end of Meob coastal flats; 4) Meob to Danger Rocks.

Table 2: Coastal bird counts along the southern Namib Coast, 1985.

English and scientific names	Count areas				Total
	1	2	3	4	
	Resident species				
Whitebreasted Cormorant <u>Phalacrocorax carbo</u>	10	0	32	0	42

English and scientific names	Count areas				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Bank Cormorant <u>Phalacrocorax neglectus</u>	5	4	137	0	146
Cape Cormorant <u>Phalacrocorax capensis</u>	1	2	20	0	23
Crowned Cormorant <u>Phalacrocorax coronatus</u>	17	0	53	0	70
Grey Heron <u>Ardea cinereus</u>	1	0	1	0	2
Black Oystercatcher <u>Haematopus moquini</u>	96	68	74	5	243
Whitefronted Plover <u>Charadrius marginatus</u>	26	14	23	0	63
Kelp Gull <u>Larus dominicanus</u>	18	0	48	63	129
Hartlaub's Gull <u>Larus hartlaubii</u>	0	0	4	0	4
Swift Tern <u>Sterna bergii</u>	0	5	64	0	69
Damara Tern <u>Sterna balaenarum</u>	0	0	6+	0	6+
Total: resident species	174	93	462	68	797

Table 2(II)

Palaeartic migrant species

Grey Plover <u>Pluvialis squatarola</u>	10	0	38	2	50
Turnstone <u>Arenaria interpres</u>	41	9	117	0	167
Common Sandpiper <u>Tringa hypoleucos</u>	1	0	2	0	3
Curlew Sandpiper <u>Calidris ferruginea</u>	7	0	4	0	11
Sanderling <u>Calidris alba</u>	4	0	26	0	30
Ruff <u>Philomachus pugnax</u>	1	0	0	0	1
Bartailed Godwit <u>Limosa lapponica</u>	1	0	0	0	1
Whimbrel <u>Numenius phaeopus</u>	5	0	4	0	9
Common Tern <u>Sterna hirundo</u>	0	0	4	0	4
Sandwich Tern <u>Sterna sandvicensis</u>	0	1	0	0	1
Total : Palaeartic migrants	70	10	195	2	277
Grand total number of birds	244	103	657	70	1,074

Count areas are: 1) Lüderitz - near Danger Rocks; 2) Flamingo Island; 3) Aurus to Wreck Point; and 4) Spencer Bay.

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Notes and News

Bemerkungen & Mitteilungen

THE FEEDING PATTERN OF SOME BIRDS IN A SUIDERHOF GARDEN

During November and December 1986 I established that some of the common Windhoek birds (mostly seed-eaters) followed a fairly consistent pattern of arrival and feeding at the feeding site in my garden in Suiderhof. Food is set out once-daily, usually in the afternoon.

Very little activity takes place until about 17h30, when the first birds to arrive are the Blackthroated Canaries Serinus atrogularis. Within a few minutes the first Laughing Doves Streptopelia senegalensis arrive, but continue to come and go throughout the feeding 'session'. The doves are usually followed closely by small numbers of Paradise and Shafttailed Whydas Vidua paradisaea and V. regia. Minutes later House Sparrows Passer domesticus (in varying numbers) and the first few Chestnut Weavers Ploceus rubiginosus arrive. By 17h45 the main group of Chestnut Weavers arrives, at which stage the Blackthroated Canaries leave. Lastly, a few Redbilled Queleas Quelea quelea arrive. Two or three White-backed Mousebirds Colius colius usually arrive during the feeding session, but avoid the 'rabble' and feed on the 'dubbeltjie' (Morgensstern) plants in the garden.

Although the timing of arrival varies from day to day, there is usually very little variation in the sequence of species arriving to feed.

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By Dik Browne

