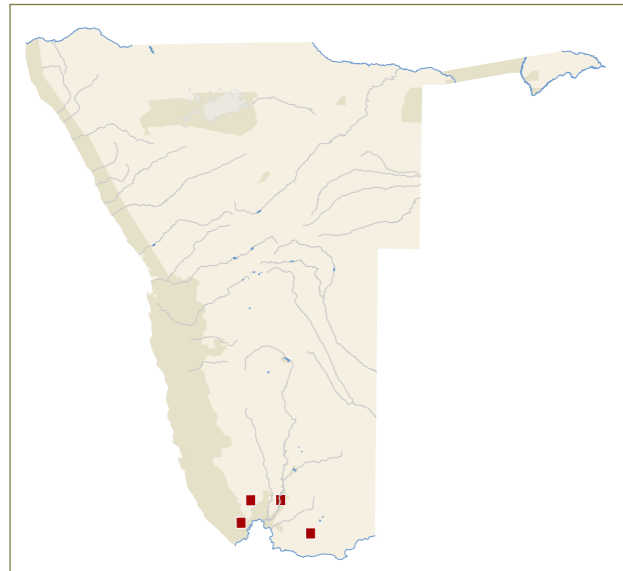


in a variety of broad-leaved woodland, it is almost certainly under-recorded in the north-east of Namibia. It occupies an area of 4,000 km², of which 38% occurs in the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park and the Mudumu National Park (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). This species is not a conservation priority in Namibia.

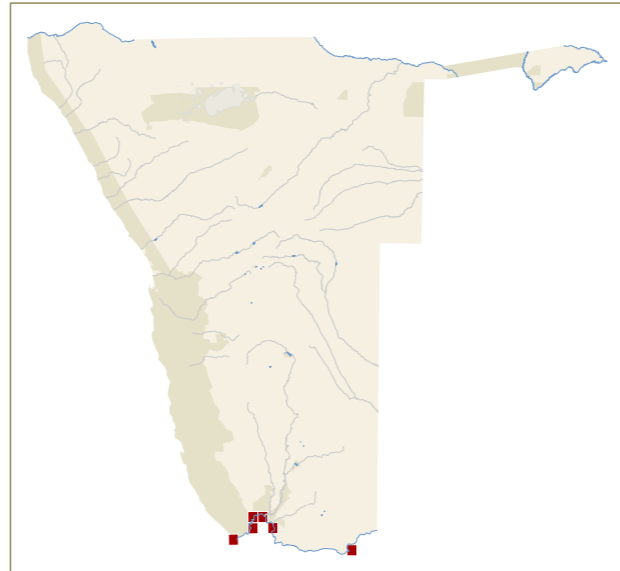
**Cape Clapper Lark |
*Mirafra apiata***



This southern African endemic enters the extreme south of Namibia from across the Orange River in South Africa. There are only a few scattered records from Namibia and, because of its close resemblance to the Eastern Clapper Lark *M. fasciolata*, the latter being common in Namibia, the possibility of misidentification cannot be ruled out. There is a small, seemingly semi-isolated population of Cape Clapper Larks in the area of Pofadder-Aggeney-Pella in the northern Cape, which extends north to the Orange River (Ryan & Dean 2005a), but as the Namibian side is largely inaccessible, it has not been surveyed. Nonetheless, the Cape Clapper Lark is likely to be more common in the far south of Namibia than current records suggest, and this region should be prioritised for future survey work.

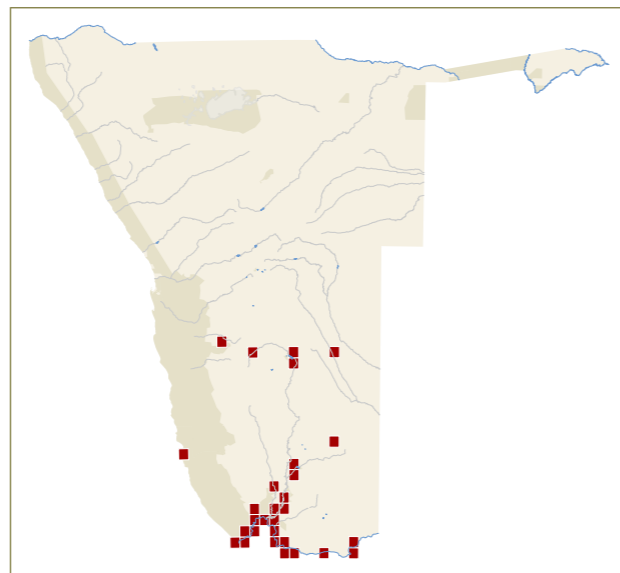
**Large-billed Lark (Thick-billed Lark) |
*Galerida magnirostris***

A southern African endemic species, this bird is found almost exclusively within South Africa and Lesotho, just crossing the Orange River into the extreme south of Namibia. It occurs along almost the full length of the south bank of the Orange River on Namibia's southern border, but surprisingly, there are only a handful of records of this relatively distinctive lark from southern Namibia. It is undoubtedly under-recorded. It favours



semi-arid grassland, dwarf shrubland and succulent Karoo, fallow crop-fields, degraded rangelands and shrub-lined watercourses (Dean 2005f). It is one of the few species that has benefited from poor range management. The extreme southern regions of Namibia have received relatively little ornithological attention and survey work would be beneficial to elucidate the status of this and a number of other poorly known species in Namibia.

**Karoo Thrush |
*Turdus smithi***



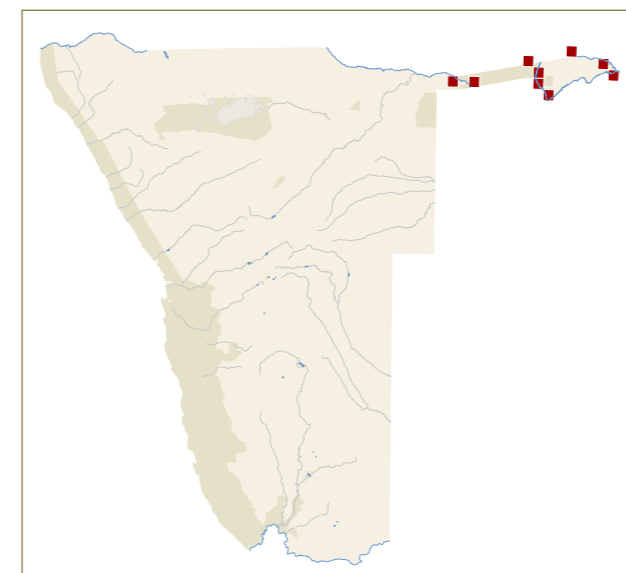
A widespread and common southern African species endemic to the Karoo, it is found along the Orange and Fish rivers in Namibia and occurs over an area of about 14,000 km² (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It favours riverine vegetation and gardens (Johnson 2005b). Scattered records occur farther north in the Naukluft rivers, the Mariental-Stamriet area (Johnson 2005b) and Lüderitz (J



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Kemper pers. obs.), which may be related to the irrigation and/or urban development in some of these areas. It is partially protected in 1,800 km² of protected area along the Orange River, and also within the previous mining area around Oranjemund, which falls into the Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park. Despite its abundance along the Orange River, there are only two nest records, both from the Mariental region (Brown *et al.* 2015). Breeding in Lüderitz is suspected but has not been confirmed (J Kemper pers. obs.).

**Red-capped Robin-Chat
(Natal Robin) |
*Cossypha natalensis***



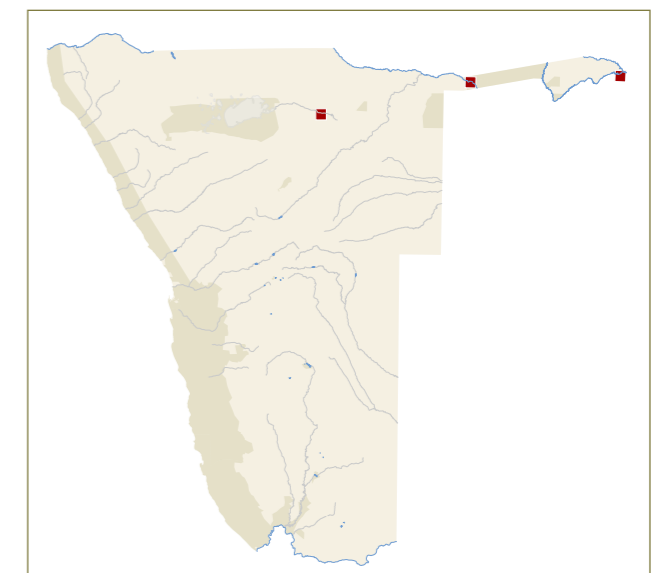
This is a very widespread species of the underbrush of evergreen coastal and riverine forest across Africa (Oatley 1997e). However, it is a very rare species in Namibia with a reporting rate of 4%, and is distributed sparsely along the Zambezi, Kwando and Okavango rivers. It occupies an area of 4,000 km², of which 37% occurs in the protected area of Nkasa Rupara (Mamili)



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National Park and the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park in West Caprivi (Oatley 1997e, Jarvis *et al.* 2001). It is more likely to be heard than seen and this may account for all the records clustering around November and January in Namibia, when birds may be breeding and singing (Oatley & Arnott 1998). However, it is also a migrant, seeking evergreen habitats in the dry season and moving to more open scrub habitat in the wet season (Oatley & Arnott 1998). This may equally explain the seasonal sighting records for Namibia. It is not threatened in Africa because of its wide distribution, but human subsistence pressure on riverine forest in Namibia is often intense (Mendelsohn & el Obeid 2004) and this may locally reduce some populations.

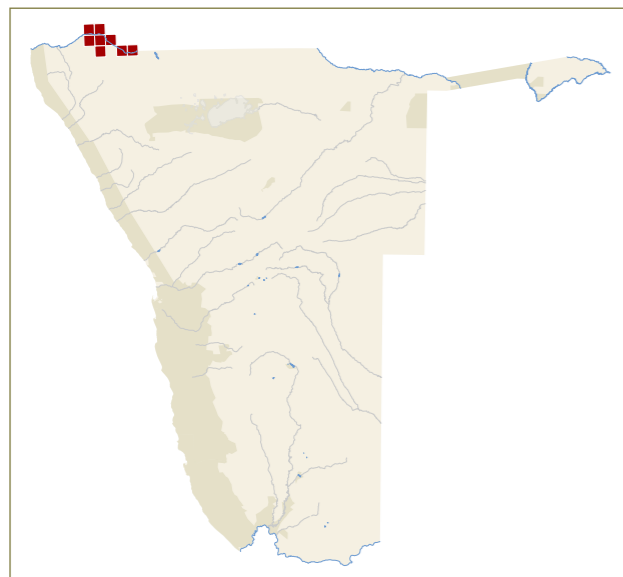
**Collared Palm-Thrush |
*Cichladusa arquata***



This species just enters southern Africa along the Zambezi River in Zimbabwe from the north-east to Kasane on Namibia's eastern-most border. It depends upon *Hyphaene* and *Borassus* palms but is highly localised and does not

occur in the Okavango Delta where this habitat is abundant (Pollard & Herremans 1997). Although it was not recorded during the 24-year SABAP1 atlas period in Namibia, isolated populations have been found on Impaliila Island and near Kwetche in the Mahango area of the Bwabwata National Park (C Hines, C Boix-Hinzen unpubl. data), where at least one pair and possibly up to five pairs may occur in *Hyphaene* palm habitat (Paxton 2010, C Boix-Hinzen pers. obs.). No formal surveys have been undertaken. It is not a conservation priority, given its relative abundance in East Africa and its location within a conservation area in Namibia. Surveys of its population are, however, required to determine its full status.

Rufous-tailed Palm-Thrush | *Cichladusa ruficauda*



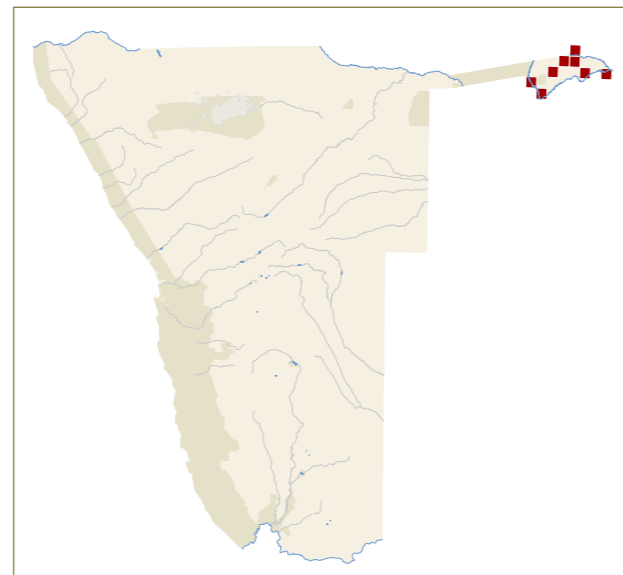
This is a relatively common species outside southern Africa, from Gabon southwards, that is always associated with *Hyphaene* and *Borassus* palms (Underhill & Brown 1997a). It is confined in Namibia to just seven quarter-degree squares between Epupa Falls and Ruacana on the Kunene River, an area of 2,300 km² (Jarvis *et al.* 2001), but has also been noted on the Ombuku River (W Swanepoel pers. obs.). It is a relatively conspicuous species with a reporting rate of 23% and may be more common than believed (Underhill & Brown 1997a). In a 10-day survey of this region in March 1997, it was found on seven of the 10 days, with 25 birds recorded at a density of 8.7 birds per 10 km of suitable riverine vegetation. Most sightings occurred around Epupa Falls and the luxuriant palm vegetation associated with Epupa Falls and rapids (Simmons 1997p). None occurred in the Baynes Mountains, where palm-fringed river banks are rarer. It breeds in *Hyphaene* palms in a narrow strip near the Epupa Falls, laying in December (two), February (two) and March (three) (Simmons 1997p, Brown *et al.* 2015). While this is



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an Important Bird Area (Simmons *et al.* 2001b) it has no formal protection, and these palms will be submerged if a hydro-electric dam is built at Epupa (see Cinderella Waxbill *Estrilda thomensis* for further details). Since this represents a tiny proportion of the African range of this species, it will not unduly influence the conservation status of the species. Nonetheless, every effort should be made to conserve this population in Namibia.

Bearded Scrub-Robin (Bearded Robin) | *Erythropgia quadrivirgata*



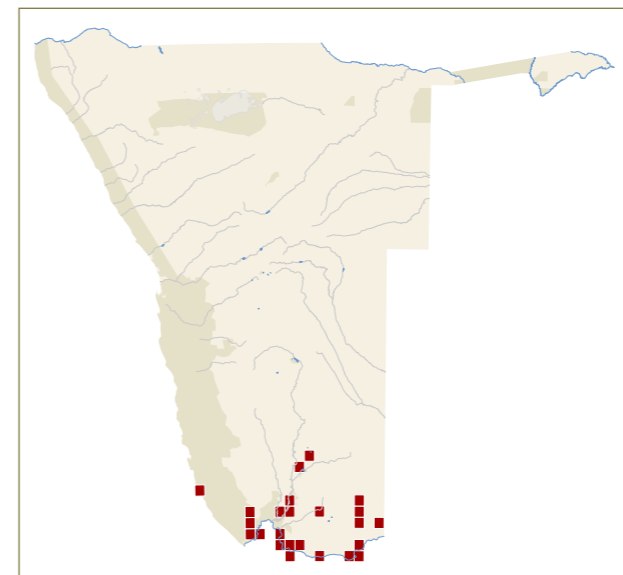
This is a rare species in Namibia, but with a widespread distribution from Somalia to South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal coast. It favours closed sandveld woodland associated with rivers or thickets around termite mounds (Oatley & Arnott 1998). In Namibia, it is only recorded from the Zambezi region, including from the Kwando, Chobe, and Zambezi rivers and intervening woodland (Oatley 1997f). Like other birds of woodland thickets, it may



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be overlooked and is possibly more common than the 3,300 km² area of occupancy and low reporting rate of 6% suggest (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Surveys of singing males during the breeding season between September and December may be the best way to survey this resident species (Oatley & Arnott 1998). It is most easily confused with the White-Browed Scrub-Robin (White-Browed Robin) *E. leucophrys*, but the two can be distinguished by the harsher, simpler song of the latter species (Oatley & Arnott 1998).

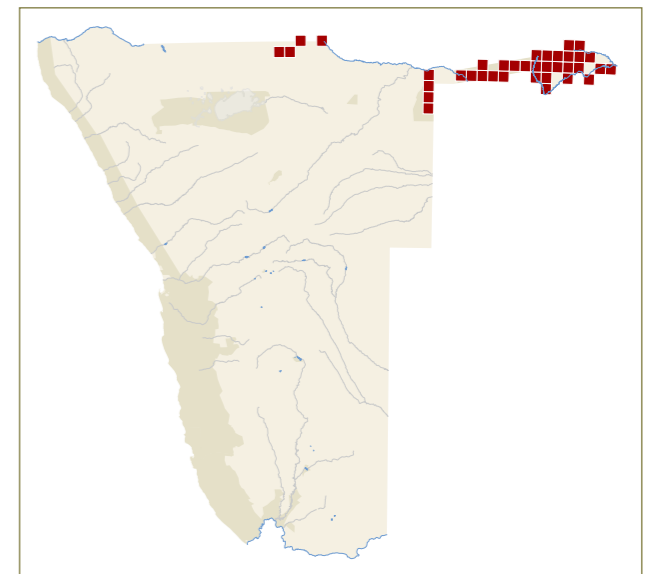
Sickle-winged Chat | *Emarginata sinuata* (*Cercomela sinuata*)



Easily confused with the larger, more robust Familiar Chat *Cercomela familiaris*, this southern African endemic just touches the southern edge of Namibia along the Orange River and the open scrub and overgrazed grasslands at about 28°S (Harrison 1997). Its reporting rate here is below 10%. It is a summer breeder in the southern part of the Western Cape,

South Africa (Harrison 1997), with most records from October and November, but it has never been recorded breeding in Namibia (Jarvis *et al.* 2001). Given that its range covers 10,400 km² in Namibia (6% of which is in protected areas), and densities of 10 to 28 birds per km² are known from the highest reporting rate areas of Lesotho (Brown & Barnes 1984), Namibia's population is unlikely to exceed about 20,000 birds. The species appears to benefit from the sparsely covered, over-grazed sections of the Karoo in both Namibia and South Africa (Harrison 1997).

Arnot's Chat | *Thamnoleaea arnoti*



This striking black and white chat is found in the broad-leaved woodlands of the southern African tropics where it is confined to north-east Namibia, northern Botswana, northern South Africa and north-west Zimbabwe. In Namibia, it occurs in well-developed woodland in the north-east Ohangwena, and northern Kavango regions, and in Mopane woodland throughout the Zambezi region (Herremans 1997d). Density estimates of 833 birds per 10 km² have been recorded along rivers in Botswana (Herremans 1997d), but population sizes are much lower in the Salambala woodlands bordering the Chobe River, where only two birds were recorded in 7 km² of blocks in Mopane-dominated woodland (Ward & Robertson 2002). In a survey of Mopane woodland some 40 km south-west of Katima Mulilo, a population density of about 22 birds per 10 km² was estimated (Brown 2012b). There are some indications that populations have declined in both Zimbabwe and Botswana where miombo and Mopane woodlands have been extensively cleared for agriculture, and where use of pesticides has had a negative effect on these insectivorous birds (Herremans 1997d). Their unusually low numbers in parts of their range in Namibia