

NAMIBIA BIRD CLUB

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All disks and photographs will be returned to authors - manuscripts will not be returned. A single copy of the Volume issue in which your article appeared will be sent to the senior author.

All contributions for *LANIOTURDUS* should be sent to:

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15 Oktober: Vormittags gleitet der Jungvogel am Felsen entlang, ruht kurz auf dem Horst und fliegt ein kurzes Stück weiter; gerät leider außer Sicht (Beide Altvögel nicht zu sehen).

23 Oktober: Beobachte von der Asphaltstraße aus, daß der Jungvogel im Horst steht: ein Altvogel ist auch im Horst.

Also : ein flügge gewordener Felsenadler! Dieses ist der erste Bruterfolg in diesem Jahrzehnt. Ich möchte hier nur kurz die flügge gewordenen Adler dieses Horstes der letzten 25 Jahre angeben:

1971 bis 1980: Drei Vögel (1973, 1975 und 1979).

1981 bis 1990: Ein Vogel (1987).

1991 bis 1995: Ein Vogel (1995).

Im letzten Jahr (1994) besteht der starke Verdacht, daß das etwa 4 Wochen alte Küken von einem unbefugten Menschen entfernt wurde. In Europa werden gefährdete Adlerhorste bewacht, und es wäre sicherlich gut, nach dieser Erfahrung auch hier in der Brutzeit zumindest diesen leicht zu erreichenden Horst unweit von Windhoek zu bewachen. Wie steht es mit Freiwilligen?

Summary of breeding records of *Aquila verreauxii* near Windhoek

1971 to 1980: Three fledglings (1973, 1975 and 1979).

1981 to 1990: One fledgling (1987).

1991: No breeding.

1992: No breeding.

1993: Attempted breeding, unsuccessful (infertile egg ?).

1994: Breeding, chick disappears before fledging.

1995: Breeding, chick fledges in August, ie the first successful breeding attempt of this decade!

It is suspected that the chick hatched in 1994 was illegally removed by unknown persons. This experience indicates that it probably may in future be necessary to guard the nesting site until such time as the chick fledges. Any volunteers ?

COURTSHIP AND MATING OF CHESTNUTBANDED SANDPLOVERS

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Chestnutbanded Sandplovers *Charadrius marginatus* seem to prefer uneven ground bordering salt lakes for their reproductive activities. Winter is their main breeding time, but I have found active nests in all months of the year.

The male bird is distinctive: the chestband and frontal rufous band are accentuated by a narrow black line. He struts, corwn, back and tail one horizontal line, throat puffed out, near a female, who seems to be totally disinterested. She has a breastband too, but no frontal rufous mark and no black at all.

He picks up small stones and throws them sideways, to the left and to the right. Then he has found a suitable spot, a flat hollow, rests his chest on the ground while deepening it with swift, scraping movements of both legs. Now he sits still, does some more stone-throwing. She comes in a hurry, stops at the edge of the "nest". They change places. He stands at the rim of the scrape, head bent towards her as if enquiring "Are we together?" She gets up, runs some distance. He follows her and starts all over again: stone-throwing, nest building, sitting and waiting - this goes on for a while. Finally she leaves a scrape, after having "improved" it by some scraping of her own, but only moves some four to five paces away from it, stands and waits. Now he walks toward her from behind, goose-stepping, as if estimating her height. He jumps onto her back and after much balancing and back peddling movements, the copulate. This act has an amusing final climax, because both topple over backwards, bellies upwards, legs waving, until they have regained their footing. They fly away or just stand and smoothe their bridal nightgowns. In the German article on Chestnutbanded Sandplover's love life in *Lanioturdus* 28:44-45 I had speculated that a gull, flying nearby, had caused this behaviour. This is not the case. They always fall on their backs at the end of copulation.