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

Mitgliedsbeiträge für die S.A.O.S. und die Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für 1986 sind wie folgt:

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Als ein Ordentliches Mitglied von sowohl der S.A.O.S. als auch der SWA Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft, erhalten Sie die populärwissenschaftliche Zeitschrift BOKMAKIERIE, das wissenschaftlich ausgerichtete Journal OSTRICH und ebenfalls die lokalen Mitteilungen LANIOTURDUS, weiteres Informationsmaterial und die allgemeinen Publikationen der SWA Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft.

Als Ortsgruppen-Mitglied des SWA/Namibianischen Vogelklubs stehen Ihnen der LANIOTURDUS, sowie die Mitteilungen und zusätzliche Informationen der SWA Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft zu.

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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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DAMARA TERNS: NONBREEDING POPULATION AND POST-FLEDGING
FEEDING IN THE LÜDERITZ AREA OF SWA/NAMIBIA.

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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Ein Schwarm von 45 Damara Seeschwalben *Sterna balaenarum* wurde im July 1986 in Lüderitzbucht beobachtet. Dieser Schwarm nichtbrütender Vögel kam wahrscheinlich aus Südafrika, von der Küste des Indischen Ozean. Am 7. Juli 1986 beobachteten wir einen erwachsenen Vogel, der ein einzelnes Junges fütterte und wir nehmen daher an, dass die Fütterungsperiode nach dem Flüggeworden mindestens drei Monate beträgt.

The Damara Tern *Sterna balaenarum* is endemic to Africa where breeding occurs between Algoa Bay in South Africa and Möwe Bay in the Skeleton Coast Park of SWA/Namibia, and possibly into arid southwestern Angola (Collar & Stuart 1985). There are no acceptable records of Damara Terns east of East London in the Cape Province of South Africa (Feare & Bourne 1977). The total world population is small, probably comprising fewer than 2 000 pairs. Of these, all but about 250 pairs occur along the Namib coast between the Cunene and Orange Rivers (Collar & Stuart 1985).

Nonbreeding populations

Damara Terns spend the nonbreeding period (generally April to September) in inshore waters along the Atlantic coast of Africa, from Namibia to as far north as the Gulf of Guinea (Collar & Stuart 1985). During this period Damara Terns are infrequently seen along the Namib coast and numbers are small, usually comprising less than ten birds at a locality (R. Loutit pers. comm. and AJW personal observations).

The population of Damara Terns breeding in the Lüderitz area is small, with a maximum count of 35 birds during the breeding season (Cooper et al. 1980 and AJW personal observations). In July 1986 a flock of 45 Damara Terns was seen on a sand spit separating a lagoon from the sea, near Lüderitz.

Since Damara Terns have not been reported along the southern coast of South Africa during the nonbreeding period, it is likely that these birds probably move westwards towards the Cape of Good Hope and then northwards along the Atlantic coast. Since it is unlikely that the local breeding population remains in the area through the nonbreeding period, a possible explanation for this substantial population near Lüderitz in July is that these birds originated from the breeding populations along the Indian Ocean coast of South Africa. Damara Terns from Algoa Bay would have to travel 1 700 km to reach Lüderitz. Birds from SWA/Namibia travel 2 800 km to reach Nigeria.

Post-fledging feeding

Terns feed by plunge-diving for food. Catching prey by this method requires considerable skill and experience. In many species of terns the fledged birds are fed by one parent for periods up to several months after their first flight from the breeding area. Such post-fledging feeding may continue during migration to the nonbreeding quarters, which may be thousands of kilometers from the breeding locality (Burger 1981). Since Damara Terns are seldom observed in their nonbreeding quarters, there have been few documented records of prolonged post-fledging feeding in this species. These records indicate that post-fledging feeding continues for at least two and a half months (Clinning 1978).

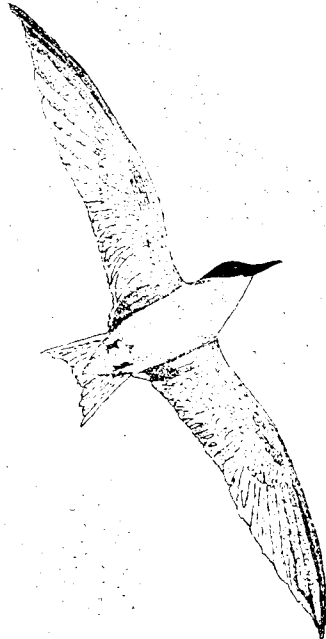
On 7 July 1986 six Damara Terns rested on the mudflats exposed at low tide at Second Lagoon in Lüderitzbucht. There were five adults and one bird in juvenile plumage, as indicated by its brownly tinged crown. After we flushed these birds, one adult flew low over the mudflats and swooped down (without alighting) to take an unidentified food item from the mud. The juvenile tern called, and the adult flew to, and fed, the juvenile.

Damara Terns lay eggs between mid November and late February, with a peak in egg-laying during December. Chicks hatch between early December and mid March, and fledge between late December and early April (Clinning 1978). Based on this timetable, the observed feeding at Lüderitz represents a post-fledging feeding period of at least three months. Alternatively, the Lüderitz juvenile may have been bred very late in the season, and not yet departed to its nonbreeding quarters. There is a single record of a feathered pre-fledging juvenile which was caught and ringed in the Skeleton Coast Park in mid June (R. Loutit pers. comm.).

Further observations are needed in the Lüderitzbucht to determine whether this species does, in fact, breed in this area. If so, observations of the timing of local breeding and the monthly occurrence and population size of Damara Terns in this area during the nonbreeding period will greatly enhance our understanding of seasonal movements of this species.

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Notes and News Bemerkungen & Mitteilungen

DISORIENTATED : A BROADBILLED ROLLER AT POSSESSION ISLAND

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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Ein Zimtroller Eurystomus glaucurus wurde kürzlich von einem Busch auf Possession Island, vor der Namib Küste, südlich von Lüderitzbucht aufgescheucht. Er wurde nur an einem Tag gesehen und war wahrscheinlich desorientiert. Possession Island liegt mehr als 1 000 km von den nächsten Brutplätzen dieser Art entfernt.

Broadbilled Rollers Eurystomus glaucurus are endemic to sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar. They range from the "Sudan" zone of Senegambia to Ethiopia, southwards to Angola, northern Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. They are usually found in areas of riverine or moist woodland (Snow 1978, Irwin 1981, Maclean 1985). Broadbilled Rollers nest in holes in trees and obtain their food by aerial hawking for insects above the tree canopy. Within SWA/Namibia these rollers are confined to the Caprivi and to riverine woods along the Kavango River, and are not numerous (unpublished data, SWA/Namibia Bird Atlas).

Possession Island lies off the Namib Coast south of Lüderitz, and is more than 1 000 km from the nearest Broadbilled Roller breeding locality. On this long rocky island the only vegetation is a scatter of low bushes, no more than a metre high at most. Regular strong winds and poor food supply combine to reduce the number of insects on the island. Few places could be less suitable for a Broadbilled Roller to find food or shelter. Almost all the birds recorded on this island have been seabirds or other species which occur regularly along the Namib Coast.

On 14 April 1986 a Broadbilled Roller was flushed from a bush during a seabird census of Possession Island. Good views were obtained of the bird, and some distant photographs were taken. The most conspicuous field characters were the bright yellow beak and turquoise rump patches. Although searched for the following day, the roller had disappeared.